

THE MONTHLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

JUNE 2016 | VOLUME 33, NUMBER 6 | GRADUATION ISSUE

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GRADUATE INFORMATION SESSION

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5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06825

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- Sports Communication
- Big Data Analytics
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Synod: The Next Step

So, how are we doing?

By PATRICK TURNER

Have you ever wished, as a person in the pews, that there was a comprehensive way for you to give feedback to your pastor on how the parish is strengthening your faith life, or exactly why you come to Mass?

Have you ever wished, as parish leadership of clergy, staff and laity, that there were ways you could receive constructive, quantitative feedback from your parishioners?

For 29 of our parishes and faith communities within the Diocese of Bridgeport, the time period around the beginning of Lent brought just such an opportunity. Thanks to two generous benefactors, those communities had the opportunity to participate in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey put forward by the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI). More than 6,100 responses were received across the diocese. CLI has been an invaluable partner with the Office of Strategic and Pastoral Planning as we have launched the pastoral planning process and leadership formation initiatives.

The DMI survey, one component of the process currently underway in the diocese, is intended to provide insights into the attitudes and beliefs of parishioners, the frequency of their participation in parish activities, as well as their relationship and satisfaction with their parish life and the pace of their spiritual growth. These types of questions can help parishes identify meaningful opportunities for ministry.

Over the last month, planning task force members from participating parishes gathered for two

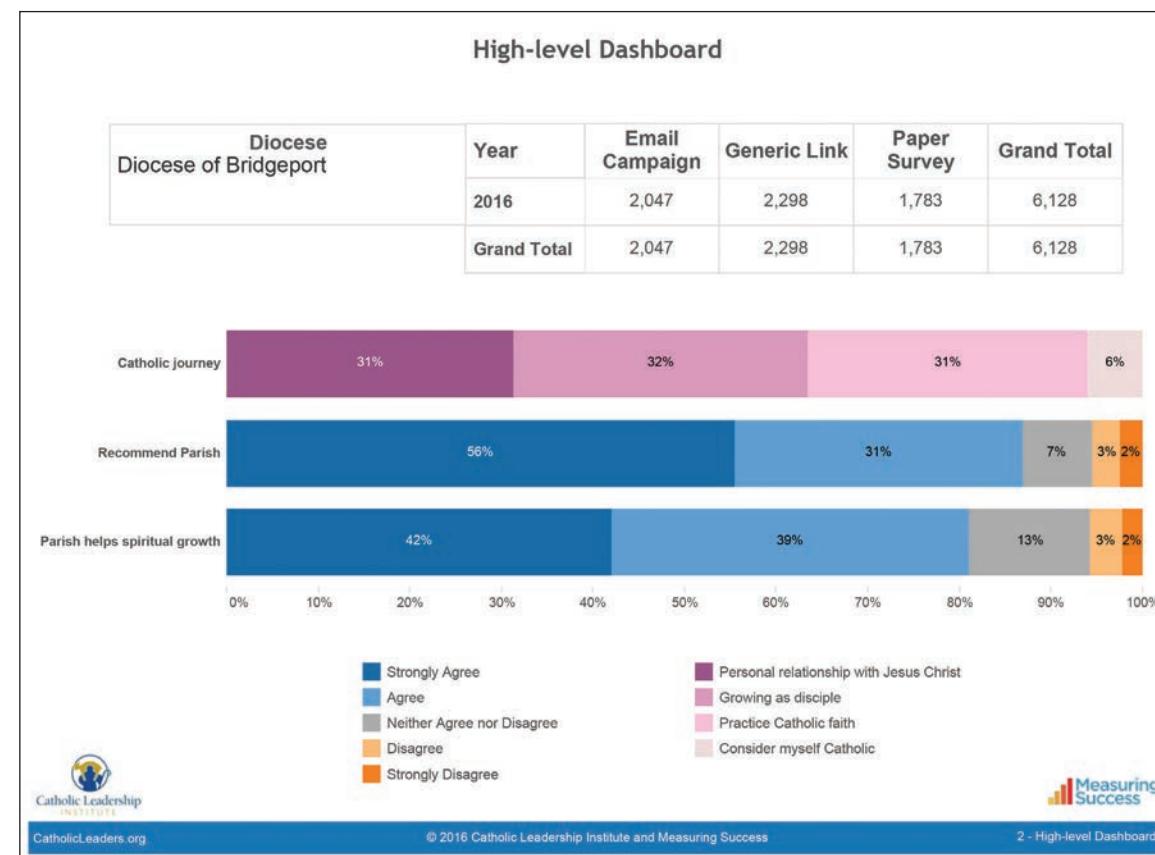


Chart #1

evening sessions to receive their individual parish responses and examine ways to integrate those responses with the challenges identified by the synod, the trends identified by the parish sacramental and financial statistical snapshots, and the recently completed Parish Self-Assessment. Utilizing these materials, the planning task forces will now turn their attention to identifying priorities and articulating a vision for the next two years. These parish pastoral plans will be submitted to Bishop Frank J. Caggiano by September 30.

Overall Numbers

The DMI results provide a high-level view of the diocese in Chart #1. (above)

People responded to the survey through an email campaign, a generic web link or by submitting a paper survey. Ninety-six percent of the respondents are regular Mass attendees—attending at least once a month or more frequently. It is important to recognize that this survey was completed overwhelmingly by those already in the pews; we know there is still work to do to reach those who have “drifted away, fallen away or bored away.”

The first bar in Chart 1 shows that within our diocese our parishioners are fairly evenly divided among four different stages of their spiritual journey. Six percent of the respondents consider themselves Catholic, although

faith is not a significant part of their life. Thirty-one percent practice their Catholic faith, but do not know Jesus personally as a friend. Thirty-two percent have personally encountered Jesus Christ in their lives and consider themselves growing as a disciple. Another 31 percent consider their relationship with Jesus to be the most important relationship in their life.

For us as a diocese, and for our parishes, having a good understanding of where parishioners are in their faith journey can help focus efforts to ensure that all have a personal relationship with Jesus. Recall that the focus of the synod mission statement was: “Our common mission is to

foster personal conversion and deepen each disciple’s relationship with the Lord Jesus in the community of the Catholic Church.”

Fully 56 percent of respondents “strongly agree” that they would recommend their parish to a friend, as shown on the second bar. These are the individuals who are likely to encourage others to join them at Mass or for a parish activity. If we are to grow in our faith, as parishes, and as a diocese, this statistic is important. National studies show that the top factors that influence an individual’s likelihood to recommend their parish include: 1) recommendation of the pastor, 2) the parish offers a vibrant and engaging Sunday Mass, 3) they feel welcome and accepted, 4) preaching connects the readings to everyday life, 5) information about the activities of the parish are readily available, and 6) the parish helps them recognize how God is working in their lives. While our cumulative numbers are in line with the overall numbers from dioceses across the country, the responses to individual questions and from individual parishes contain a lot of variances that provide solid opportunities for growth.

The third bar in Chart 1 shows that 42 percent of respondents “strongly agree” that their parish helps them grow spiritually as a Catholic. It is here that we see one wonderful opportunity for growth. The overall numbers are in line with the cumulative average of all the dioceses that participated, but fall substantially short of the top three dioceses who registered numbers such as 59 percent “strongly agree,” 53 percent “strongly agree” and 48 percent

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



ON THE COVER

CLASS OF 2016—Alexandria D’Aurio, named Notre Dame’s Most Outstanding Senior, was one of hundreds of young people who graduated from Catholic high schools this month in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Bishop Caggiano, who celebrated Baccalaureate Masses at the schools, said it was “a wonderful opportunity to pray for our seniors as they prepare to begin their collegiate careers and step into the world as young adults.”

PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN

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Latest News

Strategic plan for Stamford schools

STAMFORD—The Diocese of Bridgeport has hired Partners in Mission, a full service-consulting firm focused exclusively on Catholic schools, to guide the strategic planning for Catholic elementary schools in Stamford.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano made the announcement on May 18 at Trinity Catholic High School in a meeting to update parents about the strategic planning process for Stamford's four Catholic elementary schools. The final plan is expected to be completed in March 2017.

More than 75 parents and educators turned out to learn more about the effort to plan for the future growth and vitality of the schools.

"Now, at this moment, I am asking you to get involved," the bishop told parents as he began his presentation. "We don't want you to be spectators in the process; we want you to be collaborators. No one knows what's better for your children than you do."

During his half-hour presentation the bishop told parents that they will have many opportuni-



PARENTS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING PROCESS—At his recent update on the Strategic Planning Process for Catholic elementary schools in Stamford, Bishop Caggiano told parents they will play a key role. "Now is the moment I'm asking you to get involved," he said to parents... "No one knows what's better for their children than you do." The meeting was held at Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford.

ties to get involved in the work of the strategic plan, by participating in focus groups and responding to surveys, as well as serving on working groups and board committees that will draw on their professional expertise.

His talk was followed by a lengthy question and answer session in which the bishop urged

parents to visit the schools' websites after the meeting and to sign up for a committee.

The bishop told parents that the Boston-based Partners in Mission, nationally known for their work in Catholic school leadership, advancement, enrollment management and strategic planning. They were the unani-

mous selection of the Stamford Catholic Schools working group that has been leading the process of change.

He said the consultants were brought in because all those who have been involved in the study process realized they needed professional help to move forward. He said that in addition to their experience in working on school strategic plans, Partners in Mission has an excellent track record of involving parents in decision-making and engaging community support.

A team from the firm led the recently-completed strategic plan for Greenwich Catholic School and was successful in creating a high level of parent participation.

Bishop Caggiano had first met with parents in early March to announce an 18-month strategic planning process for Holy Spirit School, Our Lady Star of the Sea School, St. Cecilia School and Trinity Catholic Middle School.

Retaining and building enrollment remains a major challenge, the bishop said, noting that the schools have budgeted for 620 students next year. At present,

520 have re-registered for next year with 37 more pending and 73 current students yet to enroll.

He added that the new Tuition Assistance Committee in Stamford will help identify families who need financial assistance

► *CONTINUED ON PAGE 7*

Congrats Grads!



Congratulations to all graduates.

As part of our June schools coverage, we highlight the top scholars of diocesan and private Catholic high schools from this area. See the Vals & Sals feature beginning on page 18.

New wing rising at Queen of Clergy

STAMFORD—The long-awaited new wing of the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence in Stamford is taking shape and is expected to be completed in September.

"This is a very exciting time for the diocese and for our retired priests who are looking forward to moving into their new home at Queen of the Clergy Residence," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. "It's a beautiful residence and a place of great dignity where our retired priests can live in prayer and continued service."

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the commitment of our donors to retired clergy of the diocese. The priests in turn recognize the wonderful generosity of people in our diocese, and they continue to serve in our parishes, schools, nursing homes and other settings."

Construction of the 16-suite addition began in January of this year. Dedication of the new wing

is scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 9.

According to William McLean, chief development officer of the diocese, the capital campaign for the residence has raised over \$3,350,000 in gifts and pledges to date, and another \$400,000 is needed to complete the expanded scope of the project.

Msgr. William Scheyd, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, who serves as episcopal vicar of senior priests, said that, "last fall, as a result of a property condition assessment and planning process, the decision was made to continue our capital campaign in order to fund a number of important repairs in the current building."

Needed improvements to the current structure include replacement of the existing roof; expansion of the kitchen to accommodate service for additional residents, with new refrigeration and appliances; new carpeting and furnishings in



RESIDENCE FOR RETIRED PRIESTS—Bishop Caggiano, Andrew Schulz, director of real estate for the diocese, and Msgr. William Scheyd, episcopal vicar for retired priests, look over drawings for the Queen of Clergy expansion on Strawberry Hill Avenue in Stamford. The new 16-suite wing is expected to be completed this Fall. There are 80 priests in the diocese over the age of 75.

the common area; interior and exterior painting; and upgraded fire alarm, HVAC and electrical.

Msgr. Scheyd said there are 80 priests in the diocese over the age of 75. Some retired priests continue to live in parish settings, while

others live on their own or with family. The current residence provides 17 suites for independent living for retired priests.

Michael O'Rourke, a member of the diocesan Finance Council who also sits on the capital cam-

paign committee for the residence, says that he has great admiration for what priests do on a daily basis, and he hopes that people across the diocese will make a contribution to complete the campaign.

"There are so many great priests that do so many great things for us, even when they don't have to. They truly go out of the way to serve the diocese," O'Rourke said. "Now we have an opportunity to do a great thing for them in expanding the Queen of the Clergy Residence for retired priests, serving them after they've spent their lives dedicated to the diocese. The priests are always saying yes to the needs of the diocese, so now we are saying yes to their needs."

(The Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence is located at 274 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford. For more information, phone 203.358.9906. To make a gift online, go to www.bridgeportdiocese.org/queen-clergy/home.) ■

Annual Catholic Appeal

ACA over \$10 million

BRIDGEPORT—June has always been a key month for the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) as it pushes toward its yearly goal to support the major programs and ministries of the diocese.

"June is traditionally the end of the public phase of the Appeal," said William McLean, chief development officer of the diocese. "While people are welcome to make pledges throughout the end of the year, the June tally is crucial in helping the diocese budget and plan for the new year."

McLean said the Appeal is over \$10 million, and this is the first year since the recession that the ACA could conceivably reach the \$12 million level.

"We need everyone on board to do that," he said. "If we broaden the base of giving, we can affirm the bishop's vision for renewal and support the work of hundreds of volunteers who are

working on strategic planning and other synod initiatives."

McLean said that the number of gifts is up by more than 2,700 donors from last year. "We are seeing a trend from donors who are increasing their gifts over last year, some making additional gifts."

McLean said that in addition to gifts made to the Appeal this year, Catholics have also been generous in their support of renovation and expansion plans for St. John Fisher Seminary and the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence for retired priests in Stamford.

"People throughout the diocese have been tremendously generous and we're very grateful," said McLean.

Pam Rittman, director of the ACA, said that she senses greater enthusiasm this year when she visits parishes throughout the diocese. "Parishioners tell us

they are inspired by the work and strategy of Bishop Frank Caggiano and his team in reconnecting parishioners to programs in our diocese," Rittman said.

She also believes the leadership of the Appeal chair-couple, vice chairs and those who hosted receptions has made a significant difference in the level of enthusiasm and giving around the diocese. "When people viewed the video at the receptions, listened to the chair-couple and benefitted from the bishop's reflections, they had a newfound understanding of the importance of the Appeal and its role in the life of faith," she said.

Rittman said that if the ACA goes over goal this year, the funds will be a boost to many diocesan programs, including schools and Catholic Charities. "With an extra \$1 million dollars we could provide over 600 scholarships, or with \$100,000, an additional 75



THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH—the youngest Catholics learn from their parents the importance of supporting the works of the Church. Families throughout the diocese have increased their donations to the Appeal this year.

scholarships," she said.

Al Barber, president/CEO of Catholic Charities, said additional funding would immediately touch the lives of more people in need in the diocese. "If we had an additional funding, we could reach out with incremental services for the elderly, and we could also provide more emergency services for those struggling with rent, housing and other basic needs."

Rittman said she is grateful "for each and every gift, large and small. We look to Christ who

provides, and together we can do great things for the mission of our Church and the lives that are touched. If you have not made a gift, please make it today and help us reach many more."

**Make your gift
by June 30.
Gifts accepted
through
December 31, 2016.**



NOW IS THE TIME TO GIVE!

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL: \$11 MILLION
RAISED TO DATE: OVER \$10 MILLION**

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

Your gift, as with every sacrificial gift,
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It ensures that the faith of the Church is lived out in our homes,
our parishes and our communities every day.
St. John Paul II once wrote: *Charity does not hesitate,
for it is the expression of our faith.*

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Parish News

Corpus Christi proclaims the presence of Jesus

TRUMBULL—"The Eucharist is not merely a symbol of Jesus. The Eucharist is not just a reminder of Jesus. The Eucharist is not blessed bread," Father Joseph Marcello told his congregation at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. "The Eucharist is Jesus Christ himself: body, blood, soul, and divinity."

To bring alive to his parishioners the full meaning of the Eucharist, "a gift beyond our reckoning," Father Marcello, St. Catherine's pastor, arranged for an outdoor parish procession to honor the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. On one of the most beautiful feast days of the year, the noon Mass at St. Catherine's was filled with music, ablaze with candles, rich with

incense. The notes of a trumpet announced the opening hymn, and the outstanding choir sang the Corpus Christi sequence a cappella.

The procession following Mass drew parishioners into the warmth of the May afternoon. Led by the choir, the procession with triumphant cross, candle-bearers, incense and the brilliant monstrance overshadowed by a golden canopy circled the park-like grounds of St. Catherine's campus. At the close of the observance, parishioners gave emotional thanks to Father Marcello for providing them with such a heart-filling proclamation of their faith.

Father Marcello, in his second year as pastor of St. Catherine's, chose to hold the Corpus Christi



LEADING PEOPLE TO CHRIST—Father Marcello carries the monstrance with the Holy Eucharist as a part of a Corpus Christi procession at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. Altar servers follow with incense and an *ombrellino*, an umbrella-like canopy, to honor the Eucharist.

procession "to publicly manifest our belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist." As a young priest, he had participated

in processions during his first assignment at St. Joseph Parish in Shelton, and later at Hispanic parishes in the diocese when he

was priest-secretary to then-Bishop William E. Lori.

"We live in such a visual culture," he noted. "So a procession, with its candles, incense, and servers—with Our Lord in the monstrance, and so many of our parishioners and friends of all ages taking part—this helps to bring home to all of us that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith."

All that he does as pastor, Father Marcello said, has that same goal. "My hope is to lead people to Christ in the Eucharist," he said, "so that as many as possible can encounter his peace, his healing, his mercy, and his love. Bringing people to Jesus and bringing Jesus to people—that's what it means to be a priest."

Diocesan Choir for Youth fulfills bishop's vision

By REBECCA VODOLA

In the last year, the bishop's vision of a youth choir has come alive in C4Y, the diocesan Choir for Youth.

During the Synod of 2014, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano expressed his idea for a youth choir in accord with one of the synod goals to empower young people in their faith. C4Y's official debut was before more than 8,000 people at the Closing Celebration Mass of Synod 2014 in September, a fitting venue for the choir born of the synod. The Mass launched C4Y into its successful first year.

The choir held its inaugural Arise and Shine Christmas Concert in December at Norwalk Concert Hall. C4Y performed a challenging program of Christmas songs with instrumental accompaniment. Liam Kurosaki, C4Y member and 2016 graduate of Bethel High School, said of the Christmas concert that "we encouraged everyone to sing along with us, and it was a great show of Christmas spirit before Christmas Day."

In March, the choir sang for the closing Mass of Convivio, a statewide high school congress that drew hundreds of participants. C4Y member Liam Drury, 2016 eighth-grade graduate of St. Mary School in Bethel said, "I felt

as if I was reaching out to them to spread a message of faith because they were all young, too."

April and May heard the choir in its first Lift Every Voice Spring

music, this common expression of faith, I experienced closeness with everyone in the choir, with my family, and with God."

C4Y performs sacred music



YOUNG PEOPLE from across the diocese come together in C4Y, the diocesan Choir for Youth. C4Y holds performances like this one, its Lift Every Voice Spring Concert in April, to unite people through sacred music.

Concert and the 100th Anniversary of Catholic Charities Mass.

The choir boasts an impressive list of credits, but its primary function is still to fulfill the synod's goal to empower young people in their faith.

"When I auditioned for C4Y, I had no idea that it would change my life," said choir member Isabella Mercaldo, a 2016 Immaculate High School graduate. "Through

in many genres. In the coming year, choir director Mary Bozzuti Higgins hopes to build the choir a basic repertoire of music for Masses and special celebrations, incorporating more a cappella pieces and Gregorian chant.

"God himself is making this music touch other people through our voices," said Liam Kurosaki.

Bozzuti Higgins, a mother of three, understands the difficulties

students face in balancing school, sports, and extracurricular activities. Accordingly, she makes extensive efforts to accommodate all who wish to participate in C4Y. She arranges choir rehearsals at staggered times in six locations and has traveled across the diocese to audition individual performers.

In particular, she aims to foster a welcoming environment. "It's not about being perfect," she said, "it's realizing that our faith comes first in this endeavor."

C4Y draws approximately 100 members in grades 7-12 from across the diocese. Despite various ages and hometowns, "we have common threads of love of our faith and love of music," said Bozzuti Higgins.

On June 25, a group of C4Y members will sing at the diocesan Ordination Mass. In November, the choir will pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and will sing for the closing of the Holy Door at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. The second annual Christmas concert will be held in December.

C4Y is currently seeking performers entering grades 7-12. Auditions will be held the week of June 20, following the same schedule as the rehearsals.

(Register on the website at [www.bridgeportdiocese.org/c4ysings/diocesan-youth-choir-registration-form](http://bridgeportdiocese.org/c4ysings/diocesan-youth-choir-registration-form))

bridgeportdiocese.org/c4ysings/diocesan-youth-choir-registration-form or email mhiggins@diobpt.org for more information.)

Rehearsal Schedule

C 4 Y

Mondays | 4:30-6 pm | Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center | 229 Danbury Road, Wilton

Tuesdays | 2-3:30 pm | Kolbe Cathedral High School | 33 Calhoun Place, Bridgeport

Tuesdays | 4:30-6 pm | Catholic Center, Queen of Saints Hall | 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport

Tuesdays | 7-8:30 pm | St. Joseph High School | 2320 Huntington Turnpike, Trumbull

Wednesdays | 4:30-6 pm | Trinity Catholic High School Chapel | 926 Newfield Avenue, Stamford

Thursdays | 4:30-6 pm | Immaculate High School | 73 Southern Boulevard, Danbury

Local News

Social Media and webpage connect diocese

BRIDGEPORT—The Diocese of Bridgeport has officially launched an all-new webpage: DOB Social. The new page was the brainchild of Social Media Leader John Grosso, and serves as a directory of all social media accounts throughout the diocese.

"I am really excited about the new page," Grosso said. "Not only is it a good way to draw attention to our many different accounts on a diocesan level, but it allows people to find their parish and school and connect with them."

The directory link is located in the top right-hand corner of the diocesan website, across from "Latest News." While its major focus is a directory of social media accounts throughout the diocese, the page has multiple

"tabs." Additionally, prominently placed, rotating banners feature key social media initiatives such as Periscope, which allows the diocese to live stream events.

Also present is a "stream" of prominent social media accounts that highlights key diocesan initiatives, and brings attention to accounts from different parts of the diocese.

"Very cool! Simple to use, it's easy to scroll through and find what I'm looking for. The whole diocese is just a thumb click away. I like the simplicity of it—it makes looking up parishes on my phone so much easier," shared Carol Mahar of St. Ann Parish in Bridgeport via Facebook Messenger.

The page was created as a

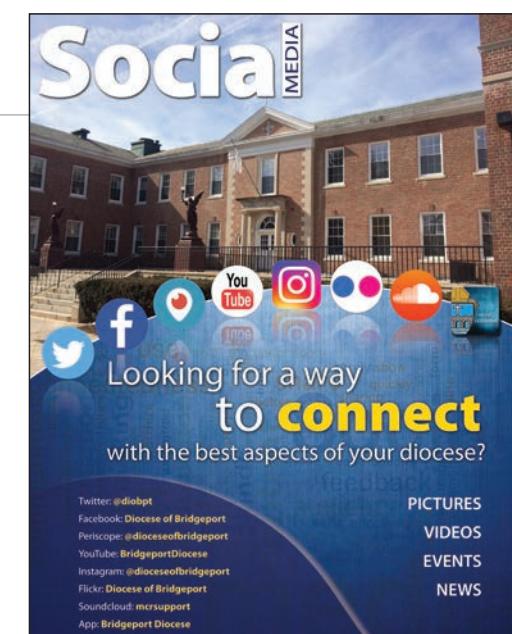
response to the synod mandate to rejuvenate and restructure diocesan communications. With the directory and stream features, the page offers stronger connectivity with the parishes, schools, and Catholic Charities organizations throughout the diocese. Each organization is listed with a link to its website, Facebook, and any other social media account.

"We really wanted to celebrate and promote the parishes and schools that make the important effort to be on social media," Grosso said. "Social media is the front line of communications in our diocese, so anything we can do to help our organizations reach more people and evangelize is important."

As with most media in the

digital age, the page is constantly evolving. "There are plans to add a tab for youth groups," social media intern Grace Wagner explained, "along with adding more accounts to the 'streams' feature, and greater connectivity with the Diocesan App."

"At some point, we want to feature some social media news on the page as well," Wagner added. "The beauty of the page is that we can constantly add to it based on the comments and feedback we receive. We want to create a page that is useful to everyone in our diocese."



DOB SOCIAL—an all-new web page and directory of diocesan social media accounts!

"There are so many amazing things going on in our diocese, and our goal is to make it easy for people to see and hear about all of them," Grosso said.

(The page officially launched on Wednesday, May 25. To access the new page, go to www.bridgeportdiocese.org/dobsocial/home.)

'Mad Dog' howls for Merton Center

BRIDGEPORT—Legendary sports talk host Christopher "Mad Dog" Russo let out his trademark howl to begin the 22nd Annual Celebrity Merton Center Breakfast, and the morning went on to raise almost \$150,000 for the downtown soup kitchen.

The breakfast brought together 300 business and civic leaders and friends of the Thomas Merton Center to the downtown Holiday Inn to support the center, which serves over 550,000 meals a year to those who gather at its tables.

Russo, the host of Sirius XM's "Mad Dog Unleashed," shared a few of his most treasured sports talk moments with the audience.

He said that on a recent show he got the chatter going by suggesting that Jerry West was far greater than Stephen Curry of the Warriors. After listening to callers go back and forth on the issue, he noticed that "Sam from Jacksonville was on Line 5" and had been waiting for a few minutes.

The caller turned out to be Boston Celtic great Sam Jones who spent the better part of a half hour reminiscing with the

Mad Dog. "That kind of moment makes it all worthwhile to do the show," said Russo, who added that he felt very fortunate "being in the right place at the right time" throughout his career as a sports commentator.

During the annual event, Father Charles Allen, SJ, of Fairfield University handled his usual role of bidding up giving to the Merton Center while delivering anecdotes and one-liners that had the audience roaring.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano brought it all together when he said, "the poor are not problems to be solved but our brothers and sisters to be loved."

The bishop praised staff, board and volunteers for their efforts and their approach to caring for those served at those in need at Merton Center.

"We call them, 'our guests,' not clients, disadvantaged, poor and homeless. The guests are welcomed as part of our diocesan family."

Dr. Brian Jenkins, director of Merton Center, told the gathering that prescription drugs and heroin are now the leading cause of death in the United States, taking more lives than automobile accidents and gun violence. He said guests to Merton Center have

multiple-level needs and challenges, but they are "desperate to find solutions" and move on in their lives.

Dr. Jenkins presented the Joseph E. Mulcahy Creative Service Award to retired Sacred Heart University English professor Dr. Ralph Corrigan of Trumbull for his efforts in leading a creative writing class for Merton Center guests. Their poems and writings have been collected in a volume,



"Poems from the Center."

He said that Dr. Corrigan, a twenty-year volunteer at Merton Center, was also revered by guests for "making the best oatmeal in town."

The breakfast was hosted by



CELEBRITY BREAKFAST—More than 300 men and women filled the banquet room of the downtown Holiday Inn in Bridgeport for the 22nd annual Celebrity Breakfast. (l-r) Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, Merton Center Director Brian Jenkins and broadcast legend Chris "Mad Dog" Russo, who was the featured speaker.

a day, provides take-home groceries for individuals and families through its food pantry, sponsors support groups and provides case management services to help guests finding housing and other basic needs. It is located at 43 Madison Ave., Bridgeport.

(For more information, call 203.367.9036 or visit www.themertoncenter.org.)

Academics and Athletics

Breakfast of Champions honors achievement

"Any time that we celebrate the goodness and intelligence of our young people is a day of blessing and hope," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at the "Breakfast of Champions," which honors Catholic school students who excel in academics and athletics and above all strive to live a lifestyle that exemplifies Gospel values.

During his opening remarks, Bishop Caggiano warmly thanked the honorees, their principals, pastors and parents. "Your young people have come to love the Lord through the love you show to them, the love that brought you here today," he said, speaking to parents.

Two awards are given at the breakfast: a St. Thomas Aquinas Award to students in their last year of elementary school or high school who have demonstrated academic accomplishment and the St. Sebastian Award for high school seniors who not only achieved academic distinction but also have been captain of an athletic team that won at the state level during this academic year.

The two often overlap. Gianna



Basso, the St. Thomas Aquinas honoree from St. Catherine of Siena School in Trumbull, was not only a top scholar in her class but also is Student Council co-president and was on St. Catherine's basketball and track teams.

"It's grades, but more importantly her overall character that helped us choose Gianna," said St. Catherine's principal, Peter Rodgers.

Gianna, who enjoys all subjects from English to math, will be attending St. Joseph High School in Trumbull this fall, where she plans to try out for the track team. Her long-term goal? "I want to be a teacher for grades seven through high school," she said.

Taylor Guth from Immaculate High School in Danbury, Immaculate's St. Thomas honoree—and valedictorian, is headed for the University of Notre Dame this year, where she plans to concentrate in neuroscience and pre-med. Active in campus ministry throughout her high school years, serving breakfast to the homeless at Dorothy Day House, she hopes that she can combine her future career with service, possibly through an organization like Doctors Without Borders.

These students, and all the honorees, take to heart the words of Bishop Caggiano. "As you are honored today, remember that

there is more work to be done," he told them. "You are the eyes, heart, hands and feet of the Lord in the world."



STUDENT HONOREES—One of the happiest days at the Catholic Center each year is the Breakfast of Champions when almost 200 students, parents and pastors come together to celebrate academic and athletic achievements. "It's a day of blessing and hope," Bishop Caggiano said.

STAMFORD SCHOOLS FROM PAGE 3

beyond what is provided by the Bishop's Scholarship Fund to enroll their children.

"This is the time to re-register and to get our enrollment set for next year," the bishop said, urging those in attendance to encourage other parents to complete the registration process.

He thanked parents and pastors for their cooperation in the April 24 "Open House" weekend that led to 40 new registrations for next year. The schools also host "Take a Look Tuesdays," weekly open houses every Tuesday from 9 to 11 am.

The bishop discussed the new, two-tier governing model proposed to oversee the four Stamford schools. It will include a Board of Members made up of the bishop, the vicar general and the diocesan superintendent of schools to ensure the Catholic identity of the schools, and a Board of Directors composed of lay leaders who will take responsibility for finances, marketing and planning.

The bishop said the new governance model has many strengths, particularly noting that it would unify the schools on planning and major initiatives while also preserving "the individual and distinctive culture of each school."

He added that the new governance model will restore a healthy balance between a centralized school system and local control. The new board will have decision-making authority over school finances, programs and improvements.

In presenting the strategic planning timeline, the bishop said that the data, planning and research effort will formally begin this month, along with the formation of the Strategic Planning Committee, which is expected to evolve into the new board. The implementation of the plan is set for April 2017.

(For more information or to volunteer, visit: www.CatholicSchoolsStamford.org.)

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Giving Back

Taylors encourage young generation of givers

By REBECCA VODOLA

More than 110 people from around the diocese gathered for cocktails and dinner on May 22, at the home of Julie and Rowan Taylor, the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal chair couple.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the honored guest at the event which provided an opportunity for the Taylors to bring a younger group of individuals and families together to meet the bishop and other guests.

Julie and Rowan, who are parishioners of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, shared their personal testimony of faith and their love for the Church. They also showed the 2016 Appeal video.

Bishop Caggiano thanked

everyone for attending, and spoke with younger guests about their ability to make a difference in the future of the Church. He added that their support to the Appeal changes lives.

The bishop highlighted the story of Brian Jenkins in the Appeal video, who went from being a guest of Merton Center to earning his doctorate and becoming director of the soup kitchen that serves more than 350,000 meals a year in downtown Bridgeport.

The bishop said that Dr. Jenkins' life was "truly a miracle" because of the service and compassion he received through a Catholic Charities program. He also praised the Taylors for their ongoing commitment and

thanked vice chairs Maureen and Michael Considine and Elena and Stephen Schlegel.

Rowan Taylor asked guests to "look around and see who's not here," and then to reach out to those individuals and tell them why it is important to support the Appeal. He also explained the need for monetary support of the diocese, which funds programs and events from seminarian education to nutrition programs.

Julie Taylor added that she and her husband continued on for a second year as chairs because they "care about the future of their Catholic faith," and opening their home to host an event is a way for both of them to help continue the work of the Gospel.

The Taylors have spoken



AN APPEALING EVENING—More than 110 people gathered at the home of ACA chaircouple Julie and Rowan Taylor of New Canaan for a dinner and reception to celebrate the work of the Appeal, thank young donors for their support and encourage others to give.

about the work of the Diocese of Bridgeport and the need for giving at vicariate receptions throughout the diocese.

"Their work as chair couple for the second consecutive year has been fruitful. The 2016 Catholic Appeal has received donations totaling 85 percent of its goal to date," said Pam Rittman, director of the ACA.

The theme of the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal is Renewed

in Faith, Hope and Charity. The overall \$11 million goal funds the major programs and ministries of the diocese, including Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, religious education, St. John Fisher Seminary and the Catherine Denis Keefe Queen of Clergy Retirement Residence in Stamford.

(For more information or to give online, go to www.2016ACAbbridgeport.com or phone 203.416.1470.) ■

STRATEGIC PLANNING FROM PAGE 2

"strongly agree," respectively. The pastoral planning process and the discussions underway within the Planning Task Forces are designed to help parishes identify ways to help parishioners grow in their Catholic faith.

Are our parishes truly welcoming?

(See Chart #2, right)

The second chart shows the responses to the survey statement, "The parish helps me connect with the local Catholic community by making me feel welcomed and accepted." Again, compared to the cumulative score of all the dioceses, Bridgeport scored fairly well, with 46 percent of respon-

dents "strongly agreeing" with that statement. Nevertheless, we have a challenge and opportunity ahead of us. Are we welcoming to all? Do we make the stranger feel welcomed? How about the family with young children, or the single person?

In a recent DMI response session, an individual parish was very concerned with its lower-than-desired "strongly agree" responses to this question. Around the table the Task Force members emphasized that they considered themselves a welcoming community, that many had known each other for 20-30 years. Yet they also came to understand

that close-knittedness can serve as a deterrent or obstacle to reach others who may worship in their community. Many participating parishes have identified this as a major priority.

Strength of Sunday Mass

One of the challenges identified

by the synod dealt with Liturgy and Worship. Throughout the listening sessions as well as the Synod General Sessions, individuals and delegates encouraged the diocese to think about what can be done to encourage more vibrant Sunday Masses. We

heard comments about hospitality, music, preaching, and the conduct of the Sunday liturgy. The results from the Disciple Maker Index bear out these anecdotal comments with solid, and challenging, statistics.

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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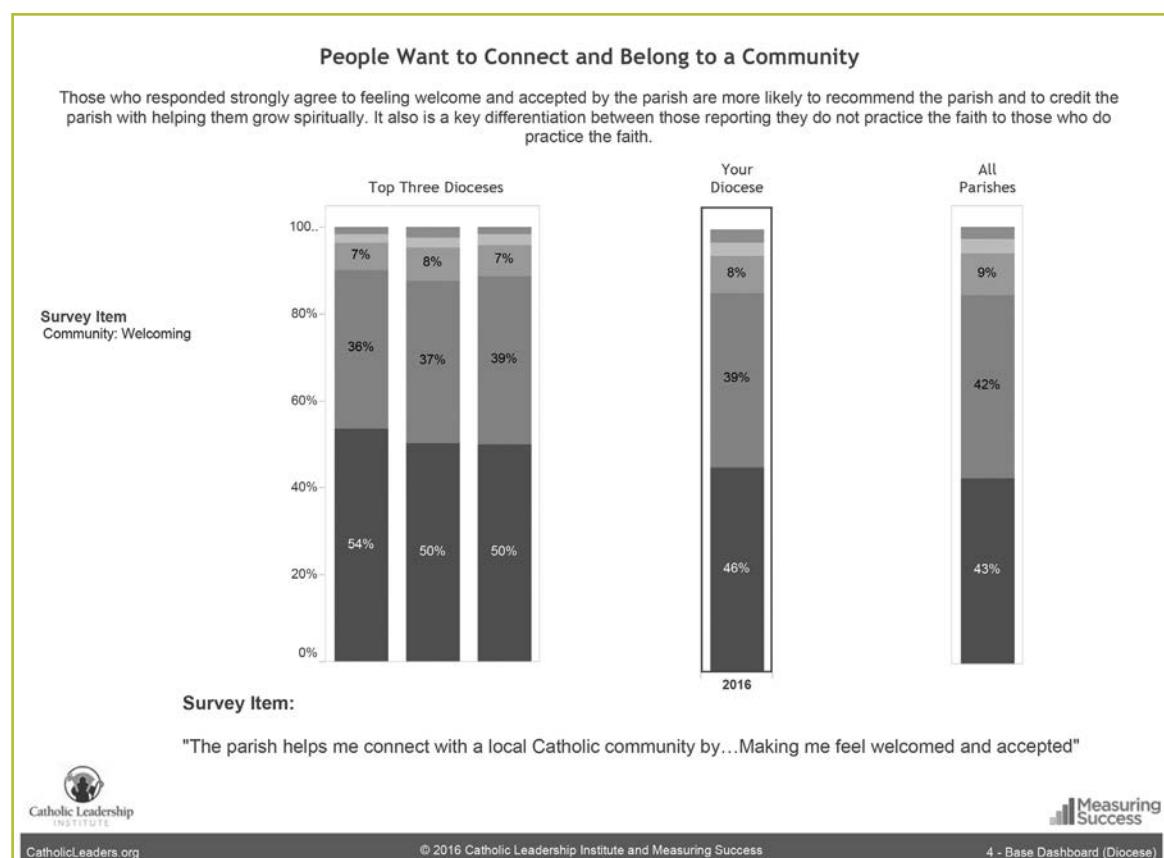


Chart #2

College Commencement

Sister Maureen Fleming honored at Fairfield U

FAIRFIELD—The graduate commencement ceremony at Fairfield University on May 22 conferred an honorary degree on Sister Maureen Fleming, SSND, coordinator of Pastoral Outreach at St. Luke Parish in Westport, for her advocacy for the rights of women and children and for those in poverty. Valeria Martinez, assistant professor of finance in the Dolan School of Business, delivered the citation:

Fairfield County is a study in contrasts. It is one of the wealthiest areas of the country, yet contains great numbers of urban poor and immigrants. It is one of the most highly educated areas, yet is home to many who can't read or write English. Fortunately for this latter group, Sister Maureen Fleming of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a 1971 graduate of our graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, has devoted her talents, passion, and education to help these members of our community acquire the tools they need in order to succeed.

In 1995, Sister Maureen became executive director of Bridgeport's Caroline House, a center founded by her order and dedicated to helping immigrant women and their children

develop literacy skills. The goal of Caroline House is not only to teach language skills to 50 low-income, immigrant women enrolled each semester, but also to break down the barriers of social and physical isolation that have kept them from building better lives.

"There is a great need for these women to learn English," says Sister Maureen. "If they cannot fill out a job application, there is no hope."

An incident in May 1999 involving one of these women shook the City of Bridgeport to its core and gave shape to the next phase of Sister Maureen's ministry. Julia Toledo Urgiles and her four young boys were fleeing a difficult domestic situation in the dead of night, when all five were struck and killed by a train. "All of us at Caroline House were devastated, and we realized there were others in similar situations. It was a wake-up call and catapulted me out of my executive job and into involvement with other issues," she recalls.

Since then, Sister Maureen has been passionate about educating the world about the twin issues of domestic abuse and human trafficking. "Nobody believes that we have an issue with trafficking



RECOGNIZED for her advocacy for women, children and those most in need, Sister Maureen Fleming (center) received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Fairfield University. She is shown here with University President Father Jeffrey von Arx, SJ, and Dr. Tracey Robert, associate professor of Counselor Education and director of Clinical Training.

in Fairfield County, but we do. This modern-day form of slavery is under the radar and yet under our noses," she says.

As a registered member of an NGO (non-governmental organization) at the United Nations, Sister Maureen is a participant on the commission dealing with the rights of women and children. She has worked tirelessly to educate the public and lawmakers, with the goal of bringing perpe-

trators to justice. She is proud that the hotline number she continually gives out has resulted in hundreds of calls to law enforcement agencies.

Though educating the public and elected officials is an essential first step, "collectively, we have to push our lawmakers to prosecute perpetrators," she says.

Currently serving as director of Outreach Ministry at St. Luke Parish in Westport, Sister

Maureen oversees a ministry that includes programs such as a food pantry, housing assistance and fundraising for her parish "Matthew 25" fund. This fund helps support charitable causes for those most in need such as Caroline House; Blessed Sacrament Parish, Bridgeport, summer camp; the Missionaries of Charity; the Cancer Survivor Network in Bridgeport; and the Open Door Soup Kitchen in Norwalk.

For her dedication to the most marginalized and least powerful among us, especially children and abused women, the President and Board of Trustees of Fairfield University hereby proclaim:

Sister Maureen Fleming,
SSND, Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*.

After earning her undergraduate and graduate degrees in education from Seton Hall University, Maureen Fleming taught in both the Archdiocese of New York and later in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Calling herself "a teacher down to my toes," she also has a certificate in counseling, another in pastoral ministry, and a M.A. in Religious Studies from Fairfield University.

Fairfield University conducts 66th annual commencement exercises

FAIRFIELD—Fairfield University held its 66th annual commencement exercises on May 22 at two ceremonies celebrating the achievements of undergraduates and graduates and featuring addresses from Cindi Bigelow, the CEO of Bigelow Tea, and Father Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator, SJ, the principal and president of the Jesuit School of Theology and Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations in Nairobi, Kenya.

The total number of degrees awarded by the university included 938 bachelor's degrees, 480 master's degrees, 17 Sixth-Year Certificates, and 28 doctorates. The graduates earned degrees from the College of Arts & Sciences, Charles F. Dolan

School of Business, School of Engineering, Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies, and the Graduate School of Education & Allied Professions.

Following the invocation by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, Father Orobator took to the podium to address the class of 2016 and sang a traditional prayer of gratitude in his native tongue. In his speech he urged graduates to never forget the love, support and sacrifices of their families, and challenged them to become ambassadors of the values and beliefs of Fairfield University.

"Work for a more humane, just, and sustainable world—for yourselves, your community, your university and your world. You are now part of another

global family of Fairfield University."

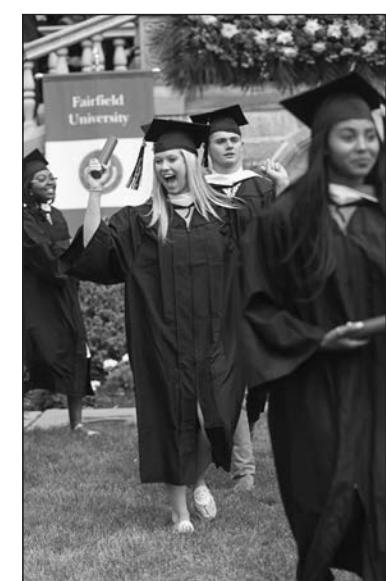
Also at the undergraduate ceremony, honorary degrees were given to Don Gummer, a modern sculptor whose exhibit is currently on display at the Quick Center for the Arts; and to alumnus Julio Ramirez '77, PhD, who was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring by President Barack Obama in 2011 and the Award for Education in Neuroscience from the Society for Neuroscience.

As the commencement exercises came to a close, Fairfield University President Father Jeffrey von Arx, SJ, concluded, "You, our students, now our graduates, are the reason this

place exists and the reason we, your teachers and mentors, have chosen the lives we have. You leave Fairfield the objects of our hopes and longings, of our dreams and aspirations. And you leave, of course, with our best wishes, our blessings and our prayers."

For the graduate ceremony, Bigelow delivered the commencement address. Through her work in the community, Bigelow embodies the Jesuit emphasis on social responsibility and service to others. Among many other philanthropic initiatives, she works with teens in Appalachia to rebuild homes, and supports numerous humanitarian causes.

The day closed with parting words from Father von Arx: "We



have asked you to discern that along with the privilege of education comes the obligation to be of service to those who need what you have to give. That is what a Jesuit education is all about. There is so much good work that needs to be done in the world. I have every confidence you will find your place in it."

College Commencement

Sacred Heart graduates celebrate...

FAIRFIELD—More than 1,900 Sacred Heart University students began a new journey on May 15 after receiving diplomas and words of advice and encouragement from business and religious leaders, scholars and classmates.

President John J. Petillo reflected on the students' past four years and how their time spent at the university transformed them in substance and in spirit. "Continue to chase your dreams unfettered by the naysayers. May the knowledge and experiences you gained here enable you to be women and men for others," Petillo said.

The president also thanked the students for their dedication to SHU. "Class of 2016, you have made your mark upon this university," he said. "I thank you for that gift. Through your learning, your community service and your student participation in athletics, performing arts and clubs, you have enriched our culture for future classes to build upon."

Before the eager undergraduates were called forth to receive their diplomas, Petillo handed

out a posthumous diploma to the family of Kaitlyn Doorhy, a student who died in 2014 just before the start of her junior year.

"Almost two years ago while on her way to campus to help freshmen move in, Kaitlyn Doorhy was tragically struck by a car," Petillo said. "In those few days following, I witnessed a community gathering in prayer and support. Even in her death she enabled four transplant recipients to live."

Kaitlyn's parents and her sister went up to the podium to accept the honorary degree.

Victoria Sweet, award-winning historian and former associate professor of medicine at the University of California, delivered the keynote address and received an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Sweet talked about how fast-paced life has become and advised students to "take back your time. And if you're rushed and harassed; if your day is filled with things you have to get through, then no matter how much you want to be mindful and present, caring and compassionate, you will not be able to do



GRADS CHEER at Sacred Heart University's Undergraduate Commencement on May 15, 2016, at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport.
(PHOTO BY MARK F. CONRAD)

that. You just won't," Sweet said. "So my challenge to you, to your generation as a group, but also to each of you individually, is to be mindful of what you spend your time doing. And make sure that every day you take some time to do nothing—vacant time, vacation time—they both come from the same root."

At the same ceremony, Brad

Evans, senior adviser at Morgan Stanley, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Brianna Grills, president of the class of 2016, reminisced about her classmates' past at SHU before she led the ceremonial turning of the tassel. "Today, as we graduate, we feel a sense of satisfaction that the puzzle we

began working on about four years ago is now complete," Grills said. "But we also feel a sense of loss that our time at SHU is over, and we are ready to move on and begin working on a new puzzle."

During the May 14 graduate commencement, the keynote speaker was Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga, archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Cardinal Maradiaga explained the importance of receiving an education at a Catholic university. "For me, one of the most important aspects of Catholic university education is that it empowers you with an expanded capacity for ethical and moral perspectives to make good decisions and act compassionately in the dynamic, modern world."

He also posed the tough question that was likely on many graduates' minds, "What do you want to do with the rest of your life? I will not tell you what kind of job to get or where to work; instead I urge you to strenuously consider your roles as global citizens in the 21st century," Cardinal Maradiaga said. "In this respect, your challenges and duties are much greater than that of your parents and previous generations. And I know that this Catholic university has prepared you for it."

An honorary Doctor of Humane Letters was also bestowed on Leo Melamed, chairman emeritus of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group, at the graduate ceremony.

St. Vincent's College taps 179

BRIDGEPORT—St. Vincent's College conferred degrees to 179 members of the Class of 2016 at their May 21 commencement exercises.

Most of the students graduated with degrees in nursing: 114 students earned associate of nursing degrees, while 29 others received bachelor of science degrees in nursing. St. Vincent's also awarded associate degrees in radiography and medical assisting, and bachelor of science degrees in radiologic sciences.

The college put a spotlight on radiography graduates this year. One radiography student, Justin Gagner of Oxford, was featured as a student speaker and several received awards. St. Vincent's College is the only institution in southern Fairfield County offering an associate degree program for radiography.

Rev. Larry Fullerton,

executive pastor of Black Rock Congregational Church in Fairfield, gave the commencement address. His remarks addressed the responsibility caregivers have

Vincent's College. "Holistic care encompasses the body, mind, and spirit. Every new patient brings the opportunity to connect technical abilities with compassionate

Doctor of Humane Letters. The ceremony took place at the University of Bridgeport's Arnold Bernhard Arts & Humanities Center, Mertens Theatre.

St. Vincent's College provides associate degree programs in nursing, medical assisting, radiography, and general studies as well as three online bachelor's degree completion programs in nursing, radiologic sciences and healthcare administration. Through its continuing and professional studies department, the college also offers a wide range of certificate programs leading to immediate employment in the healthcare field. Opportunities are offered for full- and part-time study with financial aid available to eligible students.



to make life better, particularly for those most in need.

"As our graduates begin their careers, they have a tremendous opportunity to touch people's lives," explained Dr. Michael Gargano, Jr., president of St.

caregiving." The other student commencement speaker was Vivian Lounsbury of Bridgeport.

Father Charles Allen, SJ, special assistant to the president of Fairfield University, received an honorary

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Walking on Holy Ground

By RONNIE LAZZARO

My story is one of conversion, loss, illness, disability and great love. Through the sponsorship of a wonderful friend, I was selected to be part of an Order of Malta pilgrimage to Lourdes in France, and with that the blessings began. I would encounter God in all his glory.

The best of humanity and the worst human suffering were on full display, and yet everywhere I looked I saw God and felt his love. The Order of Malta, the clergy, our caregivers, the medical personnel, the volunteers, my fellow malades (the sick and the dying), all reflected the goodness of the Lord.

And the incredible joy! How joyful it is to live and even to suffer with the knowledge that he is always with us. He showers us

with his love through the actions of those who allow themselves to be his messengers. On the well and the sick, on the rich and the poor he pours out his mercy and in thanksgiving we are all called to do the same for each other.

In this place you can do



nothing less. This is holy ground and its sacredness is palpable. As within the burning bush, the

intensity of God's presence is overwhelming and inescapable. It filled me up. It took my breath away. I could only look to heaven in awe and submission.

The grotto where the Blessed Mother appeared to the little girl, Bernadette, is the heart of Lourdes. It is alive. It throbs with love and hope, longing and wonder. I walked through the grotto past the spring and slipped my fingers over the stone worn smooth by the legions before

me. I was touching eternity, and I am forever joined to those believers by prayer and thanks-



ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE—“My story is one of conversion” writes Ronnie Lazzaro (above) one of the many diocesan pilgrims to Lourdes in May. Like many other pilgrims, she has experienced suffering and loss but felt the presence of joy of God’s love at the shrine. “This is holy ground and its sacredness is palpable,” she said.

giving. I am part of the story. It is real. Drink of it, bathe in it, immerse yourself in the blessed waters and know the goodness of the Lord.

The story of Lourdes is about how the love of God is meant to flow freely through each of us

as it does from Mary’s spring. No one is unworthy and no one is to be denied. To love much and live fully, to care for each other as he cares for us, is our gift of thanksgiving to the good God whose grace is the source of everything.

Caregiver reflection

By KATHERINE GROSSO

Ever since I first heard about the Malta Pilgrimage to Lourdes in my freshman year at Fairfield University, I knew I wanted to attend. I heard so many great things from faculty members and past students, all describing it as “once in a lifetime.” It goes without saying that I was elated when I found out that, as a third year nursing student, I had been invited to help on the pilgrimage.

At first, I didn’t quite know what to expect. I was nervous that I wouldn’t be as moved as people said I should be or as present as I wanted to be. Looking back I laugh, because I had no reason to doubt it would be anything less than extraordinary.

Three things (of many) that stood out to me during this trip, that really grabbed me and jerked tears from my eyes, were the candlelit procession, the Anointing of the Sick and the baths.

During the candlelight procession, we marched together, holding candles with people from all nations, praying the Rosary and singing Ave Maria. I’ve never felt so connected to complete strangers. The communion of voices was enough to make many, me included, tear up and process

with goosebumps.

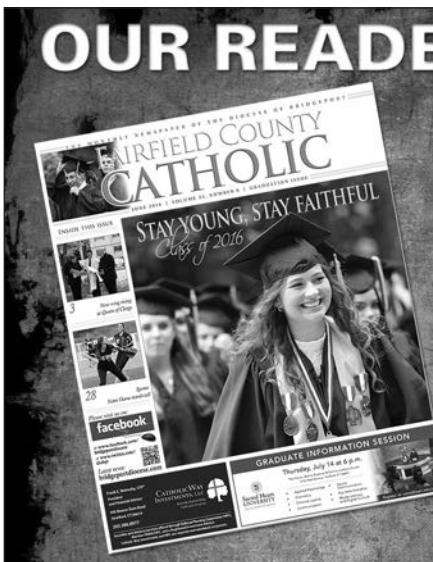
During the Mass of the Anointing of the Sick, we, *malades* (ill people) and caregivers alike, received the Sacrament of the Sick. When the priest anointed my hands and gave his blessing I found myself moved to tears once again. There were many very sick people on our trip, of all ages and backgrounds, all praying for a miracle in Lourdes. In that moment, all my finals, all schoolwork, nursing and stress, faded away. I was ready to give of myself to others and to do my best to be someone’s miracle. I knew that the Knights and Dames of Malta and the volunteers with me felt the same.

Going to the baths was the last thing I did during my pilgrimage. All the Knights and Dames urged us new people to go, insisting and insisting that it was a necessity. I was nervous, because going into the baths involves being completely exposed with complete strangers. Realizing that it was a once in a lifetime experience, I knew I did indeed have to.

It was a modest process, where three women helped, prayed with, and guided me gently into the holy water. It was a simple thing, like baptism, but it was by far the most moving experience I’ve ever had. I had to take a moment after

to sit quietly by myself afterwards, thanking God for bringing me on this pilgrimage. I felt connected to my faith and to those around me in a way I’d never felt before. It was this revitalization of my faith that moved me and I was so grateful to be reminded of God’s presence with me always.

As I said, I can’t convey the depth of emotion that each and every Mass and event evoked. Every *malade*, caregiver, Dame and auxiliary had their own story. My *malade* in particular became an inspiration for me. We set out to make this trip special for the *malades* and their caregivers, but



ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE—Fairfield University Nursing student Katherine Grosso of Stamford served as a caregiver on the pilgrimage and was deeply moved by the experience.

if I was being honest my *malade* made the trip special for me. With these experiences in mind I can

say I took back a stronger connection, not only to my faith, but also to the people I share it with.

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World Youth Day

Mueller Family to sing in Krakow

By PAUL CHU

Among the hundreds of thousands of Catholics worldwide who will converge on the city of Krakow in Poland for World Youth Day 2016, one Connecticut family will play a unique role.

Chris and Constanza Mueller (pronounced "Miller") are known to many Catholics in the Diocese of Bridgeport through Chris's years of work as organist and choirmaster at the Basilica of St. John in Stamford. They have become known to many more through their singing, together with their children Christina, 12; Michael Gabriel, 10; and Raphael, 7, at liturgies throughout the diocese, including this past Christmas at the Cathedral

of St. Augustine in Bridgeport.

This ensemble, officially billed as the Mueller Family Schola, has earned another name; as Constanza tells it, "A friend called us 'the polyphony family' and we went with it! We feel blessed to be united in harmony—it is a true joy! We practice every day, and we hope our music will inspire others. Singing together helps to bond as a family, and the sense of closeness we experience is a real blast!"

Which might lead to the question: What is polyphony? As Chris describes it, "Polyphony is music which grew organically out of chant, as people started singing chant lines simultaneously at different pitch levels, and then began ornamenting the melodic pitch and/or varying the under-

lying rhythms. Once composers began writing such music down, polyphony blossomed."

Then as now, the joy which stems from this complex music is contagious. "Our rehearsals feature joyful singing and thrilling harmonies—which focus our concentration—and sometimes, unexpectedly, burst into play!" Constanza says.

But now the polyphony family is closing in on a new horizon—in Poland.

Chris explains, "I have been asked to conduct the music at all the English-language weekday Masses at World Youth Day. There will be five of these daily Masses, and polyphony and chant will be sung at every one. Imagine setting a sort-of liturgical template at a Mass attended by thousands of young adults from around the English-speaking world!"

Yet this does not even begin to describe the scope of the family's hopes for Poland. The Muellers are planning to offer a concert of their own sung polyphony, providing beauty and inspiration to young Catholics of all language groups attending the event—young Catholics, it should be added, who for the most part are not as young as the three Mueller children. As Constanza says, "We are working a lot with youth—they pray, talk together, and inspire each other to grow the desire for polyphony and



MUELLER FAMILY SCHOLA—Chris and Constanza Mueller and children Christina, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are excited about singing at World Youth Day.

chant in the Mass."

Chris adds, "We have begun a 'Mustard Seeds' initiative through social media, reaching out to young people of high school and college age worldwide, to stir up a desire in them for polyphony and chant at their own parish Masses. We know that some of our participants will be attending World Youth Day, and we'll have an in-person Mustard Seeds gathering there in Krakow—our first international event!"

Furthermore, through the events of World Youth Day, the family hopes to promote the work of the Christopher Mueller Foundation for Polyphony and Chant, a "new organization,

whose primary purpose is to assist any person, group, or institution that desires polyphony and chant in the Roman Catholic Mass," Chris explains. The use of his own name, Chris adds, not only offers truth in advertising to would-be collaborators, but puts a living name and face on a genre frequently, and mistakenly, consigned to a distant past.

"Our foundation was born out of the witness of countless lay people who told us that through the beauty of polyphony and chant at Mass, they felt lifted to love God, to experience his infinity," Constanza says. "So many wish that they had that kind of beauty in their own local parish."

Catholic Academy Golf Classic raises close to \$200,000

FAIRFIELD—The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport held its Fourth Annual Golf Classic at the Country Club of Fairfield on May 19. The event was a "birdie" by all accounts—from picture-perfect weather to almost 100 enthusiastic golfers to nearly \$200,000 raised for student scholarships.

Roughly 930 students attend one of the four campuses that make up the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport—St. Ann Academy, St. Andrew Academy, St. Augustine Academy and St. Raphael Academy—and 85 percent receive some sort of financial assistance, totaling \$3 million annually.

The event was generously underwritten by Brad and Barbara Evans. Judy and Jim Bailey underwrote the gifts and Heineken USA donated the beer. Green Earth Energy Photovoltaic was the Gold Sponsor, and Bronze Sponsors included Day Pitney LLP, James Read, Frank Sica, and William J. Fessler Family Dentistry. Other sponsors were: Merrill Lynch, People's United Bank, Blakes School Uniform Company, Thomas Graham, Frank Mori, and Raymond Rizio.

"We are so grateful to the generosity of so many that make this annual event so successful," said Sister Joan Magnetti, rscj, executive director of the Catholic Academy. "Many contributed items for our auction, as well as funds for scholarship in our Leaders of Tomorrow program, make the gift of a Catholic education possible."



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June 2016

St. Catherine Academy

'Let their light shine'

By REBECCA VODOLA

The reading from Matthew's Gospel that urges Christians to "let your light shine before oth-

ers" proved fitting for the celebration of three graduates from St. Catherine Academy on June 8.

At the graduation ceremony, held on the school grounds in Fairfield, St. Catherine's celebrated the largest graduating class in its 17-year history, with three graduates.

Msgr. Robert Weiss, St. Catherine's chaplain and pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Newtown, celebrated the Mass. His love for the St. Catherine students was evident. "This place is light," he said in his homily, referring to Matthew's Gospel.

According to St. Catherine's Executive Director Helen Burland, staff and parents, the graduates Joshua Kotos, Patrick Nolan and Angel Vargus, all of Bridgeport, spread the light of Christ wherever they go.

Brian Farrell, director of education at St. Catherine's, said that all of the students at St. Catherine Academy have special needs and each has an individual comprehensive educational plan.

"St. Catherine's has provided many with life and vocational skills, helping them to reach their potential," he said.

Graduate Joshua Kotos has been at St. Catherine's for about a decade, during which time he "impressed his classmates as a true leader," according to Farrell.

Josh developed a passion for predicting the weather. His predictions are sometimes "more accurate than the weathermen on TV," Farrell said.

As a part of St. Catherine's vocational placement program,

Josh worked at job sites including the Fairfield University cafeteria, Caroline House in Bridgeport, Gilbertie's Herb Farms in Easton and Taco Loco restaurant in

Confirmation this year. His favorite part of the graduation ceremony was processing in to the church, he said, because everyone was waiting there to



ers" proved fitting for the celebration of three graduates from St. Catherine Academy on June 8.

Bridgeport, where Josh looks forward to working after graduation.

Josh was awarded the St. Thomas Aquinas medal for academic achievement in May. His eyes lit up as he described his favorite part of the graduation ceremony, receiving his graduation certificate, which he did with a grin. He says that he will miss St. Catherine's "because everyone is so nice here."

Msgr. Weiss described graduate Angel Vargus as "joyful," never without a smile. His classmates call Angel personable and "happy all the time," said Farrell. According to Farrell and Msgr. Weiss, Angel loves all things musical, especially singing. His love of music was confirmed as Angel danced to the recessional song at the graduation Mass, "This Little Light of Mine."

"It has been said that singing is praying twice," Farrell said, referencing St. Augustine. "When Angel sings, he is praying at least three times."

Angel will return to St. Catherine's in the fall for its Adult Day Program.

Another graduate, Patrick Nolan, came to St. Catherine's only one year ago. He was shy at first but soon came out of his shell and shared his sense of humor, Farrell said.

Several alluded to Patrick's childlike glee. Farrell smiled as he told those gathered that, on May 20 at dismissal time, Patrick ran down the hallway joyfully shouting "Dance!" in anticipation of the adult dance that night.

Patrick received his

see him graduate. "I like going to Caroline House and playing with the kids," he said.

The students and staff at St.



PROUD GRADUATES—(l-r) Joshua Kotos, Angel Vargas and Patrick Nolan spread the light of Christ wherever they go. The three graduates of St. Catherine Academy were joined at their commencement ceremony by classmates, family, friends, Diocesan Chancellor Father Robert Kinnally (l) and their chaplain, (r) Msgr. Robert Weiss.

Catherine's will miss the graduates. "They have given us as much with their spirit, humor, dedication and hard work as we have given them," said Farrell.

Msgr. Weiss smiled as he looked upon the young men. "You're ready to go out in the world and make a big, big difference," Weiss said to the eager graduates, "and that's exactly what you'll do."

St. Catherine Academy is part of the St. Catherine Center for Special Needs, which includes pastoral care in parishes and support for Catholic schools. St. Catherine's recently completed the first year of its Adult Day Program.

(St. Catherine Academy is located at 760 Tahmire Drive, Fairfield. For more information, go to info@stcatherineacademy.org or call 203.540.5381)



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Listening Session with the Bishop

Religious witness to Gospel values

WESTPORT—On the afternoon of May 17, 150 women and men Religious attended a Listening Session with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at St. Luke Parish in Westport. In the hour-long open microphone session, issues relating to mission, ministry and community were discussed. This was the third in a series of similar meetings which began as part of the Diocesan Synod process.

The bishop addressed topics such as yearly stipends and ministry agreements of Religious who work in the diocesan schools, parishes or curia departments. Comments from the floor ranged from the need to know opportunities for ministry and leadership in the Diocese of Bridgeport to reactions to the recent comment by Pope Francis at a meeting of the International Union of Superiors General suggesting that a commission be formed to study the New Testament use of the word deaconess and possible modern implications.

After the session, Bishop Caggiano celebrated a Liturgy for Consecrated Life during which the Religious renewed their vows.

The theme of the event was mercy. In his homily, the bishop recalled an incident at his first Mass as a newly ordained priest. He said he went to use the ribbon to flip the pages in the book on the altar and suddenly saw the ribbon had detached from the book and was dangling from his hand. This left him fumbling with

pages, looking for the correct spot while embarrassedly explaining that he "was new at this."

The bishop recalled the realization that all his learning, preparation and talent did not help him in this simple situation and reminded him that God was in charge. "God is powerful and merciful," he said.

The Religious also were invited later to a special annual dinner there at which twenty Religious celebrating special jubilees of vows were honored and given



GIVING WITNESS—Religious men and women throughout the diocese gathered recently for a listening session with Bishop Caggiano at St. Luke Church in Westport. The program included Mass, dinner and recognition of religious celebrating their jubilee years. The diocese has over 40 religious orders within its boundaries.

gifts by Bishop Caggiano. The eldest had been in the vowed life eighty years. Eight sisters in attendance had a photo taken with the bishop.

The diocese has over forty religious orders living or ministering

within its borders, and most were represented by members on this special night. Bishop Caggiano praised the witness Religious give to Gospel values in a world which, more than ever, needs signs of Christ's ideals and principles. ■



CONGRATULATIONS Sacred Heart Academy CLASS of 2016

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A ministry of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

First Saturdays

Saying 'yes' to the Blessed Mother

By JOSEPH PRONECHEN

Easy quiz: Raise your hand if you've heard of Our Lady of Fatima. Good. Now raise your hand if you know about the Five First Saturdays devotion. If your hand is up, you're among the few who do.

But, as Franciscan Friar of the Renewal Father Andrew Apostoli, an international expert on Fatima who recently visited St. Theresa Parish, points out:



"The First Saturdays devotion is an extremely important part of Our Lady's request at Fatima for peace in the world and for the spread of devotion to her Immaculate Heart."

In 1917, Mary appeared at Fatima, Portugal, on the 13th of the month from May to October. In each, she asked us to pray the Rosary daily. During her July visit she told the three shepherd children—Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia—that she would return with two requests.

"The first was the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart," says Father Apostoli, "and the second was the practice of what she called the Communion of Reparation, or as we call it, the Five First Saturdays."

This second request came on December 10, 1925. Our Blessed Mother appeared with the Christ Child to Sister Lucia, then in a convent in Spain. The Blessed Mother told her, "Look, my daughter, at my heart encir-

ced with thorns, with which ungrateful men wound it every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Give me consolation, you, at least; and announce for me that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all who on the first Saturday of five consecutive months confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for 15 minutes

meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary with the purpose of making reparation to me."

That's right. Our Lady herself assures that those who make this devotion will receive from her the graces necessary for salvation at the moment of their death.

"Our Lady was giving us the basic rules of the spiritual life. And the Rosary," Father Apostoli says. "Pope John Paul II said it is Christo-centric and a Marian devotion."

Father Apostoli makes clear why Our Lady herself assures us observing the Five First Saturdays devotion plays a significant role in her promise of the ultimate triumph of her Immaculate Heart, beginning with reparation.

Why Five First Saturdays? In 1930, Jesus explained to Sister Lucia the reasons for this reparation to Our Lady.

"My daughter," he said, "the motive is simple: There are five ways in which people offend and blaspheme against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Jesus listed these blasphemies: against her Immaculate Conception; against her perpetual virginity; against her divine and spiritual maternity, refusing to accept her as the mother of all mankind; neglect of implanting in the hearts of children a knowledge and love of this Immaculate Mother or implanting indifference or contempt against her; and rejecting and dishonoring her sacred images.

Father Apostoli adds one reminder. "The Christ Child said to Sister Lucia not to make this devotion just once," he says, "but to repeat it over and over again because it is necessary for the coming of the era of peace in the world."

After a group of parishioners led by Yvonne Bahadosingh, who have had a daily Rosary devotion to Our Lady for many years at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull, requested the establishment of the public Fatima devotion at the parish, Father Brian Gannon, their pastor, began the First Saturday devotions at St. Theresa, for a combination of reasons.

"Having this devotion to our Blessed Mother fulfills the wishes and desires of parishioners, and it is a personal blessing for me, too. It fulfills a number of goals," he explains. "First it fulfills the request of our Blessed Mother herself, which is crucial to our times, our welfare, and for our world. Second, it fulfills the request of many devout Catholics. And third, it becomes a personal act of gratitude to me to Our Lady of Fatima for the many graces she has given me throughout my life. I personally have had a devotion to Our Blessed Mother, to Our Lady of Fatima, since I was a teenager, and I felt she was a very strong influence and guide to my vocation and personal spiritual life."

Father Gannon advises people to ask their pastors if they could start the devotion in their parish. If the priest is too stretched, "they could do it themselves on First Saturdays. A parish will only benefit from many graces from our Blessed Mother by instituting this as a regular devotion because it is at the request of Our Blessed Mother herself. 'Do this,' she said! You can't go wrong by saying 'yes' to our Blessed Mother, for

sure!"

Let's circle the First Saturdays (beginning any month) now on our calendar.

1. Go to confession on First Saturday (or the Saturday immediately preceding or following)

2. Receive Holy Communion on the First Saturday itself.

3. Recite five decades of the

Rosary.

4. Speak in a conversational way with Our Lady for 15 minutes, using one or more mysteries of the Rosary with the intention of making reparation to her Immaculate Heart.

5. Do these on the First Saturday of five consecutive months. Then keep going.

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EDITORIAL

Promise

The future is in good hands. Actually, we don't have to wait—the present is already in good hands. As the Class of 2016 graduates from high school, they have spent hours volunteering in nursing homes, hospitals and hospice facilities; built and repaired homes for veterans, fragile seniors, and those in need; tutored both inner-city children and the struggling students in their own schools; taught religious education; became youth ministry leaders; cared for the environment; served meals to the homeless. They have been working, in so many different ways, to make our world a better place.

In an ideal world we would recognize all graduates from all schools. They are the "now" of our world, actively changing it, claiming it as their own. We wish them well. We, and they, depend on their promise—on the energy, enterprise and sense of mission they have already shown through their achievements. Well done, graduates!

Love, not hatred

Statement by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on the Orlando Shootings

"Sunday morning's attack in Orlando has unmasked once again the evil face of hatred and bigotry in our society. It is an evil that must spur us to rededicate ourselves to fostering a true spirit of unity and reconciliation.

Yesterday's news accounts have clarified the fact that the gunman who attacked the gay and lesbian patrons of the club in Orlando targeted his victims specifically because of who they were. It is hard to comprehend what fueled such an intense bigotry in the heart of the gunman that could lead him to kill so recklessly and maliciously. It is a question for which we will never have a full answer. No matter what the reasons, the root for all of them was sheer hatred.

How do we respond before such hate? At minimum, all Catholics must raise our voices against such hatred. There can be no place in our midst for hatred and bigotry against our brothers and sisters who experience same sex attraction or for anyone who is marginalized by the larger society. The Lord Jesus extended his arms on the Cross to embrace all people who respond to His offer of salvation. Who are we to close our hearts to anyone for whom the Lord has offered an invitation to experience His saving life? As a society and a Church, we must do whatever we can to fight all hatred, bigotry and intolerance in all its forms.

Another way to stand against such hatred can be realized in more simple ways. While we strive to create a larger world that is free from hatred, we often have many opportunities in our ordinary lives to break down the walls that divide us. How often have we chosen to do nothing rather than extend a word of welcome or kindness to someone whom we have avoided, precisely because they are different from us? How many times have we failed to correct a racist comment spoken by a family member or objected to a slur spoken by a friend or co-worker against someone who is gay or lesbian? Each of these lost occasions is also lost opportunity to invite the world to conversion, one person at a time.

As we pray for those who died in Orlando, let us pray that we might have the courage to fight against all bigotry and prejudice wherever we may experience it."

Witnesses

We come undone by the violence; it works every time. We watch it unfold before our eyes: the grieving mother or widow; the distraught survivor; the friend or parent empty-handed in shock; the child suddenly without a father; the victim's photo taken the day or even moments before—when his or her life was full of promise. The news breaks in before breakfast, or while we are at work or just in time for dinner. We could almost write the script: man with automatic weapon; man who is angry; man who is intoxicated with terrorist ideology or hatred of an individual or group. The aftermath is unspeakable; something we can only lift up in prayer or take to the altar. We become armchair bystanders to the world's illness, violence and cruelty. But what do we do about it, and how much can we watch without it hollowing out our own humanity? Just when we are tempted to lose faith, we learn the stories of first responders who put their lives on the line, of loved ones who die protecting each other, and total strangers who dive into harm's way as if the victims were their own brothers and sisters. Perhaps that is what we must take to heart and as an article of faith; that we are all brothers and sisters in spite of our real differences. We witness each other's lives—and that is best done through the lens of love, mercy and respect.

EDITOR'S CHOICE



Bishop Caggiano experiences Alaska

ANCHORAGE—Bishop Frank Caggiano arrived in Alaska June 8, following an invitation to talk and celebrate Mass for the Alaska Youth Conference. During his visit, the bishop was treated to an aerial view of the state on a small Cessna aircraft. "What struck me about my brief visit is the sheer beauty of Alaska. I saw towering mountains still capped with snow, glaciers that sit majestically in the open water, green meadows that gently wind their way to the many rivers and inlets that form the coastland of Alaska. It was breathtaking to see!"

"Since my arrival in Anchorage, I have been filled with a sense of peace that often eludes me in my busy, ordinary life. The beauty of nature has always been a way to encounter the power and majesty of God in our lives. My trip to Alaska has powerfully reminded me of this basic truth." (Read more on Facebook.com/Bishop Frank J. Caggiano)



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport, has made the following clergy appointments in the Diocese of Bridgeport:

DIRECTOR

REVEREND JOHN CONNAUGHTON, appointed to Director of Seminarian Formation of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Father Connaughton will continue to serve as Director of Vocations. Effective date is July 1.

VICAR

REVEREND WILLIAM QUINLAN, appointed to serve as Vicar for Canonical Affairs related to Clergy of the Diocese

of Bridgeport. Father Quinlan will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Gabriel Parish, Stamford. Effective date was May 25.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

REVEREND A. ALEXIS MORONTA, IVE, new to Diocese, to Parochial Vicar of Saint Mary Parish, Stamford. Effective date was June 1.

CHAPLAIN

REVEREND CHARLES EBERE IKWUEGBU, new to Diocese

to Chaplain to Saint Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport. Effective date was June 6.

RESIDENCE

REVEREND MONSIGNOR JERALD DOYLE, Retired, Trumbull, to Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford. Effective date was May 11.

Monsignor Thomas W. Powers, Vicar General, June, 2016

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Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano

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Editorial



Not quite

A WOMAN'S VOICE

BY KATIE SCARLETT CALCUTT

Katie-Scarlett Calcutt is the mother of three, with a fourth on the way.

There has to be some Catholic joke out there about how Joseph is the perfect husband: he does what he's told without saying a word.

Well, if there isn't, there is now.

And it's true. Joseph is the strong, silent protector who risks livelihood and reputation for his wife and her child. Kind of dreamy.

I even begin to ask myself "Why isn't MY husband a bit more like Joseph?"

Well, maybe it is because I am not quite like Mary.

That's right, ladies. This Father's Day, Joseph will undoubtedly be invoked in Christian circles as a prime example of spouse and father. But I wonder: how did Mary set him up for success? How can I set up my husband similarly?

First, be worthy of his trust. Sure, Joseph got a visit from an angel in a dream guaranteeing Mary's faithfulness. That is pretty good insurance. In addition to the angel's testimony, Joseph knew Mary. Presumably, they lived in the same small hamlet, where it would be hard to put on false airs.

There must have been something about Mary that, as impossible as a virgin pregnancy seemed, made the whole thing credible. The Immaculate Conception no doubt had a reputation as a pious, chaste woman. Joseph could trust his dream because he was a God-fearing man. But Mary's spotless character didn't hurt.

Similarly, if I want my husband to treat me like a patient, sensible, reasonable adult, then I need to act like one. In doing so, I will earn his trust. "I promise, honey, I didn't fly off the handle with that cashier." If I want him to believe me, I shouldn't fly off the handle with him. "No, dear, that handy kitchen gadget was definitely not a frivolous purchase." If I have a history of spending money unwisely, why should I expect him to take my word on this one? The holier I am, the easier it is for my husband to depend on me and trust me, especially in challenging circumstances.

Next, let him lead. Mary is undoubtedly the most awe-

some creature ever. She was the Daughter of the Father, the Mother of the Son, and the Spouse of the Holy Spirit. Drop the mic. Yet, when the Father wanted Jesus to flee to Egypt, he worked through Joseph. Can you imagine the conversation? "Mary, wake up. God has strongly suggested I take you guys to Egypt, so let's go."

Mary didn't say "What? Why didn't he tell me? I'm the Mother of God here! No one ever tells me anything! Good luck finding a job in Egypt! I'm just supposed to drop everything and lug this new baby to a foreign land?" Nope. She goes. She follows. She risks everything because her holy husband asked her to.

I, however, love to micromanage. My husband will volunteer to cook a meal and, there I am, telling him what he could be doing better. Poor guy. Most people, especially husbands, excel when they are given the chance to lead and own something, not be someone's sous chef. I undermine and weaken my husband when I

always demand the lead. What am I afraid of? That he'll take the kids to the hardware store in last fall's Halloween costumes? Worse things could happen.

Finally, stand with him. When Mary finds Jesus in the temple, she says he has caused great anxiety to her and "his father." She doesn't form a clique with Jesus because they both happen to be sinless. She stands with her husband, even when it's the Son of God she's addressing.

It can be tempting to belittle or team up against my husband publicly or in front of our kids. There are entire sitcoms that seem to be based around this one gimmick: "Daddy's such an idiot!" It is also hard to keep my corrections or disagreements to myself until we are alone. But to turn on him rattles our marriage and confuses our children. We must be a united front, even if there are little fissures we need to work on.

So, to all you not-quite-Josephs, from one not-quite-Mary: Happy Father's Day.



One Dad at a Time

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

Matthew Hennessey and his family are parishioners of St. Aloysius in New Canaan.

The humility quotient was high in the parish hall at St. Mary's in Stamford. Fifteen men had gathered for a fatherhood support group. It was late spring. The sun was setting over the city. The NBA playoffs were on. There were loads of other things these guys could have been doing on such a night.

For the most part, though, they weren't there because they wanted to be. They were there because they had to be.

"Most of these guys are here because something happened," said Daniel, a program volunteer with the nonprofit St. Joseph Parenting Center. "They made

a mistake and got involved with the legal system. For a lot of them, if they want to see their kids, they have to do this. They're good guys, though. They take it seriously."

The vagueness of the statement intrigued me. I both did and didn't want to know more about the kinds of things that could "happen." SJPC's mission is to use parenting education to prevent abuse and neglect. One thing was clear: no one around the table was proud of what had "happened."

Daniel is himself a graduate of the 12-week "Dads are the Difference" program. It's just one of the 28 free parenting classes offered by SJPC in both English

and Spanish. Daniel says the program helped him find new and productive ways to relate to his kids. He got so much out of it that he now volunteers to help lead the discussions.

Measi O'Rourke, SJPC's executive director, says that sometimes just getting the guys talking is the hardest part. The first few meetings can be pretty sticky. By about the third week, though, they start to open up.

"Talking about parenting comes naturally to moms," says O'Rourke, who is a nurse by training. "It's harder for the dads. They're used to being called deadbeats. But they're not. They're just beaten down."

The guys in the basement at St. Mary's were a diverse crew. They came, as one among them said, from "all walks of life." They were white, black, Latino—and everything in between. Some were young; some not. A few had mud on their boots. Others were dressed for business. There was even a three-piece suit and a pocket square.

What they had in common was both beautiful and simple: they all

wanted to become better fathers. They knew they needed to start getting it right. So they came to these evening sessions—to listen, to share, to compare notes, to grow.

It worked. As I listened to them reflect on how the program had helped them, it became clear that it actually had. They talked about the importance of communication and self-awareness. They talked about identifying weakness and building trust in relationships. They talked about taking care of themselves, physically and mentally. They talked about forgiveness.

"We're more than just providers," said one of the dads. "We're nurturers, too. We have to give our kids what they need, when they need it, not just when it's convenient for us."

Coping with frustration was a recurring theme. What to do when you're worn down from a long day? Where do you find the patience to listen to a replay of your son's dodge-ball game or a name-by-name census of your daughter's dolls?

Daniel asked them to imagine a mandatory work function with

the boss that they absolutely didn't want to attend. "Sometimes you just have to put on that phony smile and get through it," he said. "You can do it at your job, right? Why can't you do it at home?"

The nodding heads around the table confirmed that Daniel had hit upon a plainly unassailable strategy. Sometimes you gotta dig deep.

"You know what I realized in the last few weeks?" piped up one of the guys. "Being a father is a marathon, not a sprint." The observation was met with enthusiastic exclamations in the affirmative. I found myself nodding in agreement, too. I didn't have to be there, but I'm glad I was.

We hear a lot about the breakdown of the family, especially in urban areas such as Bridgeport and Stamford. What we don't hear much about are people like Measi O'Rourke, Daniel, and the other giving souls of the St. Joseph Parenting Center who are doing what they can to put it back together.

God bless them for their efforts. And if you can find it in your heart to help, God bless you, too.

Vals and Sals

Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

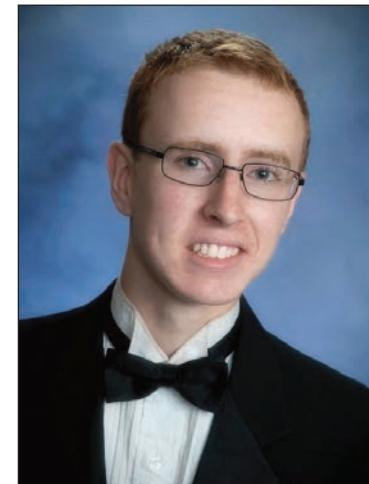
All graduations are cause for celebration, whether it's a proud youngster marching up to get his preschool diploma or a university president awarded a second PhD. Certainly the most energetic and joyous celebrations are those of newly-graduated high school seniors heading out into the wider world. While we take time in this issue to feature the graduates of diocesan and private Catholic high schools, we congratulate all of you. Caps off!

Immaculate, Danbury
In celebration of their 50th graduation anniversary, members of Immaculate's Class of 1966 joined the Class of 2016 at the June 1 commencement ceremony, which was held at Western Connecticut State University. Combined, the 113 graduates were awarded \$17.5 million in scholarships and merit awards from top ranked colleges and universities. Immaculate's enrollment this year is 457.

Taylor Guth, Immaculate's valedictorian, is a CIAC Scholar-Athlete. A four-year varsity athlete in field hockey, tennis and basketball, she was named captain in each sport. She was recognized by receiving First Team All-State and Academic All-State awards in field hockey. A two time All-Conference selection in basketball, she culminated her career on the hardwood by joining the Mustang 1,000 Point Club.



IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL, DANBURY – Taylor Guth, valedictorian; Sean McCoy, salutatorian



Scholar. He has been named Student of the Year and received the Citizenship Award and the Rensselaer Medal for Excellence in Leadership and Service. Sean has been a peer tutor, student ambassador and Student Council president, and was founder of the Debate Club and captain of the History Quiz Bowl Team. He worked as stage manager for Immaculate's award-winning drama and musical theater productions. Sean was also a member of the varsity cross-country and track teams.

Sean taught religious education at his home parish, St. Joseph in Danbury. He has been a hospice volunteer and is currently working towards earning his license as an EMT, with one more phase of testing to complete.

Taylor heads to the University of Notre Dame this fall, where she will study neuroscience and behavior with a concentration in pre-med.

Salutatorian Sean McCoy was one of only 30 students statewide to be selected as a Connecticut Governor's Scholar and has also been named an AP Scholar and a National Merit Commended

She is a National Merit Commended Scholar, the vice president of the National Honor Society and a peer tutor at Immaculate. A member of St. Joseph Parish in Brookfield, she has been president of campus ministry, a member of the Key Club and a student ambassador. Taylor volunteered with Housatonic Habitat for Humanity, served breakfast at Dorothy Day House of Hospitality in Danbury, and volunteered at the Brookfield

town library. She helped lead a week-long summer mission trip to Camden, N.J., with a team of Immaculate students.

"Taylor has been an exemplary student from her first day at IHS, serving as the embodiment of the school's motto "Reverence, Respect and Responsibility."

Ranking first out of a highly competitive class of 113 is a

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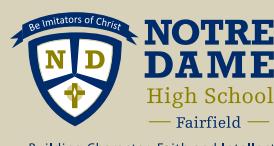
—CHRISTOPHER CIPRIANO, PRINCIPAL

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Vals and Sals

tremendous accomplishment, but even more impressive have been Taylor's contributions and achievements outside of the classroom" said Principal Joseph Carmen. "Sean has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and leadership from the day he entered IHS," said Principal Carmen. "He is an outstanding young man."

Kolbe Cathedral, Bridgeport

Kolbe Cathedral's 71 seniors held their graduation on June 2 in St. Augustine Cathedral. Msgr. Thomas Powers, vicar general of the diocese, was on hand for the

establish a scholarship in memory of Leah Rondon, daughter of Principal Henry Rondon. Alyssa was selected by the faculty to receive the Maximilian Kolbe Award, the school's highest honor, awarded for honesty, integrity and faith in action.

"Alyssa exemplifies our school motto, 'Work Hard and Be Nice,'" said Principal Rondon.

Alyssa will take the Bridgeport Rotary Club's scholarship to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the fall.

Salutatorian Kayla Weaver has been a commuter from West



KOLBE HIGH SCHOOL, BRIDGEPORT – Alyssa Mesaros, valedictorian; Kayla Weaver, salutatorian

ceremony. One hundred percent of this year's graduates are pursuing higher education. One young man will be attending West Point Prep, a one-year program that prepares cadet candidates to qualify for admission to the U.S. Military Academy.

Valedictorian Alyssa Mesaros is a graduate of St. Andrew Academy. As a member of St. Andrew Parish, she has been active in the youth group and has been a lector at Masses. Alyssa has served as an Ambassador for Kolbe Cathedral at high school fairs, elementary school visits, speaking engagements and shadow day events. A four-year member of the girls' basketball team, Alyssa also served as the volleyball team manager. She was awarded the South West Conference Leadership Award.

A member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, Alyssa has served as a peer tutor and has volunteered many hours at Homes for the Brave. In a separate initiative, Alyssa led a student group to support fundraising efforts to

Haven throughout her high school career. As a graduate of Bailey Middle School, she excelled both academically and athletically. As an inducted member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society, Kayla served as a peer tutor. She was part of the Echo Perfect 10 program, gaining an internship at Bridgeport's Barnum Museum and the mayor's conservation team. Kayla was selected to the All State basketball team and the All South West Conference team. She was the CIAC Scholar Athlete from KCHS and was featured as a News Channel 12 Scholar Athlete. Kayla will pursue her studies and her basketball career at Emmanuel College in Boston.

"Kayla is the perfect example of time management," stated Principal Henry Rondon. "She has balanced academics, athletics, commuting and volunteering, giving her very best to all endeavors."

"These two young women have held the top spots in the class of 2016 throughout their



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Emily Schofield, valedictorian; Alana Merly and Mikael Tessema, co-salutatorians

four years at Kolbe Cathedral. There are no better representatives of the school's mission to empower its learning community with knowledge, skills and Catholic values," boasts President Jo-Anne Jakab. "We send them off with God's blessings to build a better world."

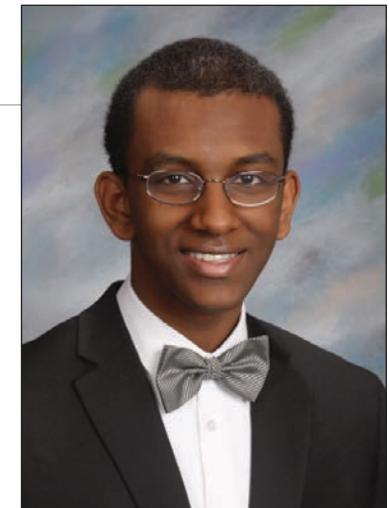
Notre Dame, Fairfield

Notre Dame High School in Fairfield held its 56th graduation ceremony on June 3. Msgr.



Thomas Powers, vicar general of the diocese, presented the diplomas. The Class of 2016 is comprised of 104 graduates, representing 34 cities and towns, as well as Italy, China and South Korea.

Valedictorian of the class is Emily Schofield of Stratford. Notre Dame has two co-salutatorians: Alana Merly of Milford and Mikael Tessema of Bridgeport.



Emily has been a four-year member of the varsity softball team and was named captain for her senior year. She has volunteered to welcome incoming freshmen and was a frequent contributor to campus ministry service projects. As a reflection of her tremendous academic achievements, she was inducted into both the National and French Honor Societies. Emily

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Congratulations To Our Class of 2016



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Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS *FROM PAGE 19*

is a member of Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Fairfield.

Notre Dame's principal Chris Cipriano said, "Upon arriving at Notre Dame, Emily quickly acclimated to our school and made a commitment to excel in and out of the classroom. I have no doubt that a tremendously successful future awaits her." Emily will attend Fairfield University and plans to major in mathematics.

Notre Dame has co-salutatorians this year, Alana Merly and Mikael Tessema.

Alana Merly, a resi-

dent of Milford, is a member of St. James Parish in Stratford. Inducted into both the National and French Honor Societies, Alana has served as junior and senior class president. She volunteered with campus ministry, served as a freshman orientation Link Leader and will be making her third Appalachia trip to serve the poor in Neon, Kentucky, in June.

Principal Chris Cipriano stated, "Alana has contributed significantly to our community and has shown her desire to help improve the lives of others. I know her character, values and morals will lead to much success in the future." Alana

will attend Clark University in Massachusetts this fall.

Mikael Tessema of Bridgeport is a member of St. Mary of Zion Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Yonkers, N.Y. Mikael is a member of both the National and Spanish Honor Societies, and his resume includes membership in the Chess Club, Drama Club, Video Game Club, Debate Club and Care Club. Mikael helped to welcome the Class of 2019 as a freshman orientation Link Leader this past fall.

Chris Cipriano stated, "Mikael's personality and wit will have left their mark on Notre Dame. His commitment to academic success these past

four years was outstanding and I know that his experience in college and beyond will be tremendously positive."

Mikael will attend Harvard University and plans to major in physics.

St. Joseph, Trumbull

St. Joseph High School graduated 216 students on June 4. The 2016 commencement was held at Dalling Field on the school's campus. Msgr. Thomas Powers, vicar general of the diocese and Trumbull First Selectman Timothy Herbst were in attendance. St. Joseph's, the largest diocesan high school, has an enrollment of 800 students this year.

Matthew J. Cenci is the Valedictorian for the Class of 2016. A resident of Shelton, he previously attended Shelton Intermediate School. He serves as pianist for St. Joseph Parish there. Matthew is a member of the Spanish and Math Honor Societies, in addition to participating in the school's Philosophy Club, Math Team and Writing Center. Academically, Matthew is an AP Scholar with Honor and a Governor's Scholar semifinalist, and has received the Bausch and Lomb Science award from the University of Rochester, and an Excellence in Mathematics award from Fairfield University.

In his free time Matthew

Congratulations to the Fairfield Prep Class of 2016!

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Shawn A. Abrek
Theodore D. Allen
Ignacio T. Altamiranda
Robert B. Anderson
Dane J. Audet
Samuel T. Auray
Aidan L. Ayer
Guido C. Balderrama
Brendan G. Beiser
Senay Bellete
Robert J. Bellitto
Connor R. Bercik
Daniel P. Berkowitz Jr.
Justin G. Blanchette
John H. Bosken
Samuel W. Britt
Joshua J. Brown
Brendan Bucher
Colin R. Burns
Patrick B. Byrne
Ryan P. Cahill
Matthew T. Callahan
Patrick T. Campbell
Brendan P. Carey
Sean K. Cassidy
Alejandro Castillo
Matthew C. Cesare
Peter E. Christakos
Vito P. Ciambriello
Luke I. Clair
Jack F. Clarke
John P. Collins
Justin F. Consoli
Ryan M. Conway
Thomas S. Conway
Matthew M. Cotto
Adrian M. Coyle
Aidan T. Coyle
Andrew S. Crane
George H. Crist
Matthew J. Crowley
Thomas E. Cullimore
Sam A. Cusick
Joseph A. Daccache

Alvand Daghoghi
Tyler S. Daniel
Jackson M. Day Jr.
Paul F. DeFelice
Joshua E. Defrancisco
Luke S. DeMarco
Matthew P. Didelot
Thomas J. Dillon
Gavin T. Doran
Chandler R. Douglas
Dale T. Duffy
William B. Duffy
Zachary R. Duffy
James T. Ekstract
Vincent D. Farricielli
Antonio M. Fidaleo
Nicholas H. Franchuk
Zachary J. Fromme
Ethan Fuller
Braden M. Furio
Christopher J. Fusco
James A. Gardella
Lee T. Gardella
John F. Garfield III
Matthew L. Gerics
Daniel P. Giangrande
Darien O. Gilling
Austin M. Golden
Samuel L. Gosselin
Harrison P. Graham
William R. Graham
Patrick O. Grasso
Eric A. Grundt
Geoffrey Hadden
Dajon E. Hall
Zachary J. Hamar
James J. Haranzo
Thomas J. Hardiman Jr.
Shane A. Harris
Benjamin P. Hazzard
John M. Hickey Jr.
Frederick W. Hinkley II
Brendan C. Hoffman
Ryan T. Hogan
Nicholas A. Howard

Stephen D. Howard
Nolan M. Hrozenchik
Liam T. Hullihan
John A. Humes
Christopher A. Iannaccone
Alexander J. Jacovino
Matthew Jakab
Sanjeev Jariwala
Jowanza J. Jeffers
Theo W. Jordanides
Liam P. Kells
Richard F. Kelly
Thomas J. Kelly
John P. Kenny
Matthew G. King
John S. Kirby
Brandon F. Kistler
Peter F. Kokias
Jonathan J. Konecnny
Peter M. Kozolowsky
Christopher J. Kral Jr.
Daniel L. Krischluas
Michael Z. Kubisek
Andrew P. Lagrange
Gianni M. Leito
Wenhao Li
Kevin C. Lichtenfels
Nicholas J. Lignore
Maximillian P. Longo
Francisco A. Lopez III
Juan R. Lopez
Connor J. Lynch
Sassine N. Makhratz
Ralph P. Manigat
Chase E. Mascolo
Daniel McCarthy
Thomas F. McDevitt III
Jack R. McGowen
Ryan P. McMullin
Max M. McPhee
Jackson W. Mendes Jr.
Thomas H. Mendola Jr.
Michael J. Meszaros
Neco V. Milillo
Thomas C. Moore

Ahmed E. Musa
William E. Newbauer IV
Vincent Nguyen
Patrick M. Norris
Alexander J. Norton
Connor K. O'Brien
John P. O'Connor
Evan M. O'Hara
Michael R. O'Keefe
Liam S. O'Mahony
Ciaran P. O'Reilly
Samuel T. Opont-Durogene
Jack R. Oricoli
Nathaniel L. Ortiz
Hayden R. Page
Andrew T. Palaia
Julio C. Palencia
Augustine J. Palmieri III
Sohail S. Patel
Matthew J. Pompa
Austin J. Prusak
Ryan C. Ramos
Patrick W. Rauscher
Vignesh N. Ravi
Conor T. Raymond
Calvin G. Reed
Robert X. Reilly Jr.
George H. Richards III
Owen K. Richards
Eric J. Rogers Jr.
Jihad S. Rogers
Andrew C. Rolapp
Aidan J. Rooney

Brendan L. Rooney
Matthew S. Roselli
Alex M. Rushworth
Anthony M. Salta
Orlando Sanchez Jr.
Geoffrey L. Santore
William J. Schlichtig III
Matthew T. Schmerzler
Andrew L. Sciarretta
Michael T. Scott
Shane M. Seaman
Charles W. Selden
James D. Shannon
Colin F. Smalkais
Logan P. Stein
Grant H. Stone
Matthew E. Sweeney
Zachary J. Thrun
James K. Toner
Michael J. Toohey
William T. Traynor
Connor H. Tuite
Rasheed J. Tyree
Nicholas C. Urban
Joseph P. Valus
Nathaniel A. Vereen
Travis C. Whitney
Kevin P. Wilemski
Morgan T. Williams
Christian K. Willkehr
John H. Wolters
Joshua C. Workman
Yifei Zhu



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Vals and Sals

enjoys playing the piano and listening to music.

Matthew will be heading to the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, in the fall to pursue a career in medicine while continuing his studies in piano and music.

Salutatorian Nicholas A. Maltese is a graduate of Jockey Hollow School in Monroe, where he is a parishioner at St. Jude Parish. Nick is a member of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, National Math Honor Society and National English Honor Society. He is the recipient of the Chemistry Award, Physics Award, Spanish V Award and the

Yale University Book Award. He received the President Award in his freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years for outstanding academic achievement.

He was captain of the cross-country team and a member of the track team. He has volunteered at the Monroe Physical Therapy and Sports Rehabilitation Center in Monroe as well as St. Vincent's Medical Center.

Nicholas will be attending Quinnipiac University this September. He was accepted for the six/seven-year Doctor of Physical Therapy Program and has received a scholarship from Quinnipiac University towards



SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, TRUMBULL – Matthew J. Cenci, valedictorian; Nicholas A. Maltese, salutatorian



both his undergraduate degree and his graduate program.

"We could not be more pleased with the caliber of this year's valedictorian and salutatorian," said Dr. James Keane, St. Joe's principal. "Nicholas and Matthew represent the 'best of the very best' of St. Joseph High School. They model the academic depth and breadth of our program and are also well-rounded, involved members of our vibrant school community."

Trinity Catholic, Stamford

Trinity Catholic High School graduation took place on June 4. Msgr. Thomas Powers, vicar general of the Diocese of Bridgeport,

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Albertus Magnus College
Alfred University
American University
Ana Maria College
Arizona State University
Assumption College
Bates College
Baylor University
Benedictine College
Bentley University
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Bryant University
Bucknell University
Case Western Reserve University
Castleton University
Catholic University of America
Central Connecticut State University
Chapman University
Christendom University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colby College
Colgate University
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
College of Charleston
Connecticut College
Cornell University
Creighton University
Curry College
Dartmouth College
Dean College
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Elon University
Emmanuel College
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Florida State University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Fordham University

Franciscan University
Franklin and Marshall College
Franklin Pierce University
Furman University
Gannon University
Georgetown University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Hamilton College
Hampton University

Merrimack College
Miami University Oxford
Michigan State University
New York University
Nichols College
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
Providence College
Plymouth State University

St. John's University
St. Joseph's College
St. Lawrence University
St. Louis University
St. Michael's College
Springfield College
Stetson University
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas Christian University
The Ohio State University
Thomas Aquinas College
Trinity College
Tulane University
Union College
University Of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of California at Los Angeles
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Dallas
University of Dayton
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Kentucky
University of Maine
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Miami
University of Missouri
University of New England
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
University of Notre Dame

University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of St. Thomas
University of San Francisco
University of Scranton
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Southern Maine
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee
University of Texas
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin Madison
Ursinus College
Vassar College
University of Vermont
Villanova University
University of Virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytechnic University
Wake Forest University
Washington College
Washington and Lee University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western Connecticut State University
Western New England University
West Virginia University
Whittier College
Williams College
College of William and Mary
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Wyoming Catholic College
Xavier University

Members of the Fairfield Prep Class of 2016 were accepted at these Colleges and Universities

Harvard University
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
College of the Holy Cross
Howard University
Indiana University
Iona College
Ithaca College
James Madison University
John Carroll University
Johnson and Wales University
Kansas State University
Lafayette College
LaSalle University
Lehigh University
Le Moyne College
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
Lynn University
Manhattan College
Marist College
Marquette University
Mercy College

Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rhodes College
Rice University
Rider University
Roger Williams University
Rollins College
Sacred Heart University
Saint Joseph's University
Salve Regina University
Santa Clara University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Siena College
Southern Connecticut State University
United States Air Force Academy
United States Military Academy
Southern Virginia University
St. Anselm College
St. Bonaventure University
St. Edward's University



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Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALTS FROM PAGE 21

who had been Trinity's chaplain before he left for assignment in Rome, handed out diplomas and spoke to the graduates. Trinity had 102 graduates this year, with a total enrollment of 422 students. Stamford Mayor David R. Martin proclaimed June 4 to be "2016 Class of Trinity Catholic High School Day."

Trinity's valedictorian, Joseph Cranston, came to Trinity from All Saints School in Norwalk. He is the second of two brothers to attend Trinity Catholic. During his years at Trinity he was a TCHS ambassador for two years and was in the Political Science Club. He received the University of Conn. Presidential Award for Excellence, the ACRE "Information for Growth" Award from the NCEA, the John and Jack McMahon Memorial Award and the Daughters of the American Revolution History Award.

A member of St. Philip Parish in Norwalk, he has been active in volunteering for AI's Angels, a charity dedicated to helping children and families challenged by childhood cancer and serious blood disorders. Joseph has also helped with Crunch Fitness cancer runs for the American Cancer Society.

Joseph will attend the University of Connecticut next semester, with a major in engineering.

Salutatorian Elizabeth Smyth follows in her father John's (Stamford Catholic '82) footsteps as an outstanding scholar-athlete at Trinity. An FCIAC and a CIAC Scholar-Athlete, she was captain of the varsity volleyball team and chosen to be captain of the National Volleyball team at Chelsea. She was named a Hearst CT Media Girls' Volleyball All Star and received the U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete



TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, STAMFORD – Joseph Cranston, valedictorian; Elizabeth Smyth, salutatorian

award. Elizabeth also played varsity tennis.

Elizabeth has taken honors and AP courses throughout her years at Trinity, and has received the Harvard Book Award and the DAR Excellence in U.S. History award. She was the recipient of



the Rachel Sottosanti Memorial Scholarship.

Elizabeth has been editor-in-chief of the school newspaper and was in the Political Science Club, the Multicultural Club, and the Leadership Club. She was a student ambassador, a member of the Student Council, and treasurer of the student body. She took part in a summer program of Girls Who Code. She is active in the Youth Group at St. Gabriel Parish in Stamford, is a

"In addition to being recognized as an FCIAC Scholar-Athlete, Ellie has been one of our most focused students. She has challenged herself academically with our most rigorous curriculum and on-line learning and has earned numerous academic awards."

Private Catholic High Schools

In addition to diocesan schools, a number of students from this diocese attend private Catholic high schools, where they have earned recognition for their academic excellence.

Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich

The Convent of the Sacred Heart Greenwich graduated 75 young women in the Class of 2016 on June 3. The school has an enrollment of 731 students from the early childhood program through grade 12, with 309 girls in the upper school. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrated the Baccalaureate Mass prior to commencement. This year, CSH has two valedictorians and two salutatorians.

Co-valedictorian Sofia Barbosa, a member of St.



CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, GREENWICH – Sofia Barbosa and Avery Juan, co-valedictorians

peer tutor, and volunteers as both a volleyball and a gymnastics coach.

Elizabeth will attend Duke University, where she will major in engineering.

"Joe has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and embodies our core values of faith, respect, academic achievement and charity. He is personally modest and unassuming, and has always exemplified a commitment to excellence without seeking the spotlight," said Dr. Joseph Gerics, TCHS principal.

Clement of Rome Parish in Stamford, is fluent in Spanish, French and English and completed AP courses in both Spanish and French. She has been on the cross country and track teams, and served as captain of the track team this year. She has been a member of the school's Big and Little Sisters program as well as the Alzheimer's and Midnight Run clubs.

Each summer, Sofia visits family in Mexico City, and volunteers with the Missionaries of Charity at a free hospital,



Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

The 75-members of the class will matriculate to the following 46 colleges and universities. Three student-athletes will continue their sports careers at Division 1 National Collegiate Athletic Association schools: Cornell University and Davidson College.

Sacred Heart Greenwich Class of 2016 College Matriculation

American University	Duke University (2)	University of Miami	Southern Methodist University (4)
Amherst College	Elon University (4)	University of Michigan (2)	State University of New York at Albany
Boston College (2)	Fordham University (3)	Molloy College—CAP 21	Syracuse University (2)
Boston University (3)	Franklin and Marshall College	Universidad de Navarra	Trinity College
California Institute of the Arts	Georgetown University (3)	University of Notre Dame	Tufts University
Carnegie Mellon University	Hamilton College (2)	University of Pennsylvania	Villanova University (2)
Clemson University	Harvard University	University of Richmond (2)	University of Virginia (3)
Colgate University (2)	College of the Holy Cross	University of Rochester	Wake Forest University (2)
Columbia University	Howard University (2)	Saint Joseph's University	College of William and Mary
University of Connecticut (3)	Lehigh University	Santa Clara University	
Cornell University (2)	University of Maryland	Sarah Lawrence College	
Davidson College	Miami University	University of Southern California (3)	
Drexel University			

As of June 1, 2016

Upper School Open House: Thursday, Oct. 13 at 6:00 p.m.

K-12 Open House: Saturday, Nov. 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Barat Center Open Houses: Friday, Nov. 11 & Friday, Jan. 20



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Vals and Sals

assisting particularly with children in the oncology unit. This experience has led her to pursue a career that will have a positive impact on others. She took a summer course at Columbia University in biomedical engineering, and will head to Colombia this fall with the

intent of becoming a biomedical engineer.

Co-valedictorian Avery Juan was co-editor of the literary magazine, was a part of the Big and Little Sisters program and a peer leader and participated on the JV soccer team and the JV and varsity tennis teams.



FAIRFIELD PREP HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Top scholars John "Jack" O'Connor and Zachary Hamar

She has a strong interest in environmental science and last summer had the opportunity to work at Fordham University's Louis Calder Center. She founded the club "Fish are Friends" in her junior year to raise money and awareness for the National Marine Mammal Foundation, which attempts to improve the lives of marine mammals affected by human activities.

A member of St. Agnes Parish in Greenwich, Avery travelled to New Orleans with other Sacred Heart students to rebuild a home damaged by Hurricane Katrina. She has worked with Sacred Heart's Summer Outreach Program, which provides academic and athletic enrichment to children from underserved populations. In addition, she participated in the Midnight Run to serve New York's homeless, and Saturdays at Sacred Heart, a program to help children from low-income families.

Avery will attend Tufts

University this fall.

CSH co-salutatorian Caroline Geithner comes from Larchmont, N.Y., and will attend Georgetown University this fall. Co-salutatorian Olivia Thurman Rivera of Mamaroneck, N.Y., will attend Harvard University.

"My hope for all our graduates is that they will continue to find, within themselves, that strength, sense of integrity, spirit and pride to make things happen, to conceive of their direction, and to follow it," said Pamela Juan Hayes, head of school.

Fairfield Preparatory School

The Fairfield Prep 74th commencement exercises were held on June 5 in Alumni Hall at Fairfield University. Two hundred and one young men, in traditional white dinner jackets, graduated. Prep's total enrollment is 891. While Prep does not name a valedictorian and salutatorian, John "Jack" O'Connor and Zachary Hamar are among the top one percent of

the Class of 2016.

Jack O'Connor, a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Stamford, earned All-State Lacrosse selection and is a two time All-SCC Lacrosse honoree. He also earned All-SCC Cross Country honors.

Jack has achieved membership in the National Honor Society, has been recognized with the United States Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award and was recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar and an SCC Scholar Leader. Jack was a peer tutor and a leader of Prep's Freshman Retreat and Sophomore Retreat and a member of Prep's Mock Trial team. He has served the wider community through his support of the Stamford Boys and Girls Club and by his involvement in the Kennedy Center Bowling program.

Jack will continue his lacrosse career and intellectual growth at Bowdoin College in

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL Class of 2016 College Acceptances \$5,901,234 IN SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Alvernia University
American University
Assumption College
Auburn University
Averett University
Bard College
Baylor University
Belmont University
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Binghamton University
Boston University
Bowling Green State University
Bryant University
Case Western Reserve University
Castleton University
Central Connecticut State University
Christopher Newport University
College of Charleston
College of New Rochelle
Creighton University
Curry College
Delaware State University
Delaware Valley University
DePaul University
Dominican College
Drexel University
Duke University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Elms College
Elon University
Emmanuel College
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Flagler College
Florida Institute of Technology

Florida State University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Franklin Pierce University
Geneva College
George Mason University
Gordon College
High Point University
Hofstra University
Iona College
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Johnson & Wales University
Keene State College
King's College
La Salle University
Lasell College
Lesley University
Loyola University of Chicago
Loyola University of Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Lynchburg College
Manhattanville College
Marymount University
Marymount Manhattan College
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Mercyhurst University
Merrimack College
Miami University Oxford
Michigan State University
Mitchell College
Monmouth University
Mount Saint Mary College
Newbury College
Nichols College

North Carolina State University
North Country Community College
Northeastern University
Norwalk Community College
Nova Southeastern University
Old Dominion University
Pace University New York City
Pace University Westchester
Pennsylvania State University
Pennsylvania University
Plymouth State University
Providence College
Quinnipiac University
Radford University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rider University
Roanoke College
Roger Williams University
Rutgers University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Anselm College
Saint Francis University
Saint Joseph's University
Salem State University
Salve Regina University
Seton Hall University
Southern Connecticut State University
Southern Methodist University
Springfield College
St. John's University
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
SUNY Albany
SUNY Cobleskill
SUNY Genesee
SUNY Morrisville

SUNY Oneonta
SUNY New Paltz
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas Christian University
Tulane University
The Catholic University of America
The University of Alabama
The University of Arizona
The University of Scranton
University of Arkansas
University of Bridgeport
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Connecticut at Stamford
University of Connecticut at Storrs
University of Delaware
University of Hartford
University of Maine
University of Mary Washington
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Miami
University of Mississippi

University of Missouri
University of Nebraska
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina at Asheville
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
University of Rhode Island
University of San Diego
University of South Carolina
University of Tampa
University of Vermont
Ursinus College
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Washington College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
West Virginia University
Westchester Community College
Western Connecticut State University
Western New England University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University



Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALTS FROM PAGE 23

the fall of 2016.

"Jack has a healthy and highly positive attitude toward life recognizing that one must have a 'short memory for successes and failures,'" said Principal Dr. Robert Perrotta. "These are his words and he lives by them in earning his way through each experience and each day."

Zachary Hamar possesses a strong foundation of faith, and is active at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown. He is an altar server, participates in the Youth Group, and is a member of the Squires of the Knights of Columbus. Zach is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as a peer tutor. He is a student-athlete and has rowed on the crew team for all four years, earning a spot in the first varsity boat in his sophomore year. He also loves music, and has performed in the Select Choir and Encords a capella group since freshman

year, plus loves to play the guitar. "Zach is a rising young man filled with lots of promise and potential," Principal Perrotta noted. "He is intelligent, athletic, and passionate about his Catholic faith."

Zach is continuing his education at the University of Notre Dame.

Lauralton Hall, Milford

The graduation ceremony for Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Lauralton Hall, was held on Saturday, June 4th at 10 am. Dr. Toni Iadarola, Lauralton's president, was the commencement speaker, addressing the 108 graduates of the Class of '16. Lauralton had 468 young women enrolled this year.

Valedictorian Caroline Sarda is a member of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan and has been awarded many honors throughout her career at Lauralton. A National Merit



LAURALTON HALL, MILFORD – Caroline Sarda, valedictorian

Finalist, she is a Connecticut Governor's Scholar, received President Obama's Recognition of Educational Excellence, and was one of the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford Summa Scholars. Caroline was co-founder and co-president of the Chinese Club and has served as president of the Debate Team and vice president of the National Honor Society. She is a mentor for "Breakthrough Options," serving poor, single-parent families, and

is a member of New Canaan Young Philanthropists and St. Aloysius Youth Ministry.

Caroline developed an interest in human rights during a trip to the Philippines that gave her first-hand exposure to the struggles of people living in poverty. She plans to major in English and political science at Georgetown University.

Lauralton's salutatorian, Grace Coguillo, is a member of St. Mary Parish in Milford. A National Merit Commended Scholar, Grace is interested in the environment, international affairs and world conflict. She plans to pursue public policy at the University of Virginia in the fall.

Lauralton's highest honor, the McAuley Award, is named after Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. The McAuley Award is given annually for dedication and commitment to Lauralton Hall's mission. This year the McAuley Award recipient is Jamiah Bennett of Milford, who will be going to the University of Connecticut.

"In addition to outstanding academic and leadership achievements, the 2016 graduating class has used its Mercy education to formulate a vision of a just, global world," said Dr. Iadarola. "This year alone, the graduates accumulated almost 6,000 service hours at organizations in Connecticut and abroad. They have learned to build bridges of love....not walls of hate."

Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden

One hundred and twenty one young women graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden on May 28. SHA had 500 students enrolled this year. President Sister Sheila O'Neill and Principal Sister Maureen Flynn presented diplomas to the Class of 2016. Sacred Heart alumna C. Alden Pelker, J.D., '06 delivered the commencement address; she earned a B.A. from Yale University and J.D., magna cum laude, from Georgetown University.

SHA valedictorian Helena Bui has always been active in her home parish of St. Mary in Branford. Recognized as an Archdiocese of Hartford Summa Scholar, she will be attending Yale University, with a double major, one in molecular, cellular and developmental biology, and a second in the history of science, medicine, and public health.

Jennifer Piciw, Sacred Heart Academy's salutatorian, lives in Shelton. She is a member of St. Jude Parish in Monroe, where she is an altar server and lector. She has received awards at the Connecticut State Science and Engineering Fair, been honored as a Scholar Leader by the Southern Connecticut Conference (SCC) and was recognized as a Summa Scholar by the Archdiocese of Hartford. A member of the Science

National Honor Society and the Mathematics National Honor Society, she has served as president for both. With her honors biotechnology class, Jennifer traveled to Washington D.C. to present their sequence of a CpG island in the FASN gene at the Mitochondrial Disease Conference. That same summer, Jennifer also held an internship at the Yale Medical School in a biomedical engineering lab.

Additionally, Jennifer has been a member of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, through which



SACRED HEART ACADEMY, HAMDEN – Jennifer Piciw, salutatorian

she earned her Silver Award and the Silver and Gold Girl Scout Leadership Pin.

In the fall, Jennifer will attend the University of Richmond, where she received a full tuition scholarship as a Science Scholar. Jennifer plans to double major in biochemistry and molecular biology and mathematics.

Senior Cara Walsh, a member of St. Bridget Parish in Cheshire, was presented with the distinguished Mother Clelia Merloni Award, named for the foundress of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is given each year to the senior who consistently exemplifies the ideals of love, service and reparation—the three hallmarks of the Apostles of the

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Science & Engineering Fair

Young scientists take home honors

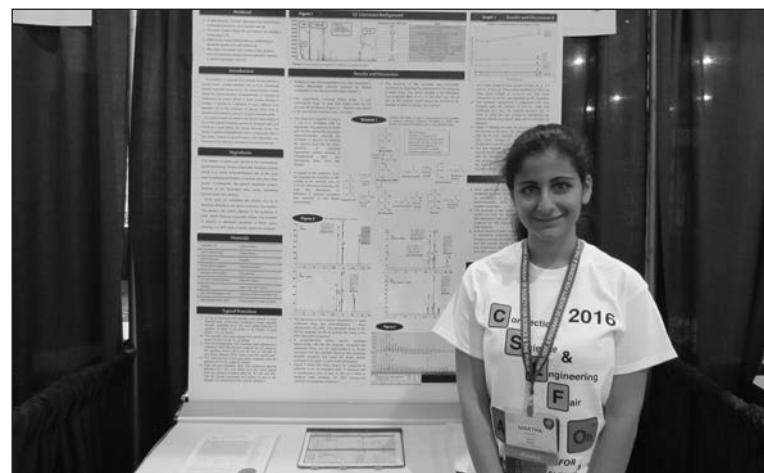
By PAT HENNESSY

Students from diocesan Catholic schools excelled again this year at the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair. CSEF is a yearly, statewide fair open to all seventh through twelfth grade students in Connecticut schools and nearby areas of New York.

Through CSEF, students are encouraged to pursue independent work using proper research methods. More than 15,000 students compete for the 600 spaces at the state fair. Prizes are awarded in two divisions: Life Science and Physical Science.

Ten diocesan schools took home CSEF awards this year: two high schools and eight elementary schools. At the high school level, St. Joseph's in Trumbull had winners in both Life Science and Physical Science, while the two winners from Immaculate in Danbury were both in Physical Science.

Immaculate junior Martha Haddad looked at sustainability initiatives with research experiment, her "Novel Glycerol-Free Biodiesel Production Using Enzyme Catalysis." A repeat winner with five years of participation in CSEF, this year Martha was one of seven top high school winners from Connecticut sent to Phoenix, Az., in May to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), the world's largest pre-college science and engineering competition. She won third place



MARTHA HADDAD POSES with her research experiment at the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair. Immaculate High School, where Haddad is a junior, was one of ten diocesan schools to take home CSEF awards.

in the Grand Awards, Chemical Energy Category, at ISEF.

A two-time national semifinalist at the Broadcom MASTERS National Science Competition, Martha has won at the state level in both the Physical Science and Life Science categories.

The middle school finalists, following Martha's example, demonstrate similarly intense dedication. Among the ten diocesan schools that fielded winning projects, two others can boast First-Place winners.

Eighth grader Analise Seamon of St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury took home the first place trophy in Life Science for "An Egg-cellent Experiment." Inspired by her own challenge to keep her teeth as white as possi-

ble while wearing braces, she ran a survey and determined that coffee, tea and cola were the major culprits staining teeth. She stained eggshells, similar in composition to tooth enamel, in a solution of those liquids, then checked the efficacy of competing whitening toothpastes. (For caffeine addicts, Analise discovered that Crest 3D White Luxe was most effective at removing coffee stains.)

At St. Mark School in Stratford, the team of Ashlinn Derleth and Christina deBenedetto went home with a Life Science trophy for "Music and Memory: Does Music have a Positive Impact on Alzheimer's Patients?"

Motivated by the example of Ashlinn's grandmother, who had trouble remembering names

but could recall the words of songs from her past, they contacted Atria assisted living in Stratford and, with permission, met individually with fourteen residents. Their testing of behavior and mood demonstrated that the music of their younger days did have an overwhelmingly positive effect on residents with Alzheimer's disease.

These three first-place winners have received an invitation to Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology and Engineering Rising Stars), the premier science and engineering competition for middle school students nationwide.

Aspiring scientists from schools from throughout the diocese gained recognition at CSEF. St. Mary's in Bethel fielded ten winning projects, with the eighth-grade team of Madeline Suarez and Abigail Gleissner taking third place as finalists in Life Sciences. In addition to Analise Seamon's trophy, students at St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury had seven other winners, including three projects earning finalist status: eighth grader George Hyland in biotechnology; and two seventh-grade teams, Eric

McNamara and Thomas Fahey and Zachary Meyerson and Dionie Smith, both with Life Science projects.

Bradley Kerr, an eighth grader at St. Joseph School in Danbury, took third place in Life Sciences, with an invitation to Broadcom MASTERS. St. Joseph also produced two finalists, eighth grader Sean Guiry and seventh grader Elias Haddad, both in the Physical Science division. These three were among a total of ten winning projects.

Greenwich Catholic School claimed four winning projects, with two team finalists. Eighth-graders Dylan Allman and Harrison Day were Life Science finalists; Dylan Lombardo, Will Carroll and Martin Santos earned their recognition in the Physical Science Division.

St. Jude School in Monroe earned two winners in the Life Science Division. St. Joseph School in Shelton had four winners, including Life Science finalist Emily Borges in the eighth grade and seventh-grader Lauren Greenfield, who took home a trophy in Life Science.

St. Rose of Lima School in

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

VALS AND SALS
FROM PAGE 24

Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In the fall, Cara will attend Fairfield University as a nursing major. She hopes one day to become a geriatric nurse.

"The Sacred Heart Academy Class of 2016 is an exceptional group of young women, all of whom are truly ready to share the compassion, integrity, and scholarship they have learned at Sacred Heart," said Sister Maureen Flynn, ASCJ, '81, Sacred Heart's principal. "I am grateful for the impact that they have had on Sacred Heart Academy... and they have left an indelible mark."

Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

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Catholic Schools

Evan Koch wins national ‘Try Prayer!’ competition

EASTON, Mass.—Family Rosary, a ministry of Holy Cross Family Ministries, has selected Evan Koch of St. Joseph School in Danbury as the sixth-grade winner in the 2016 U.S. “Try Prayer! It Works!” contest. The national competition encourages students to express their faith through art, poetry and prose.

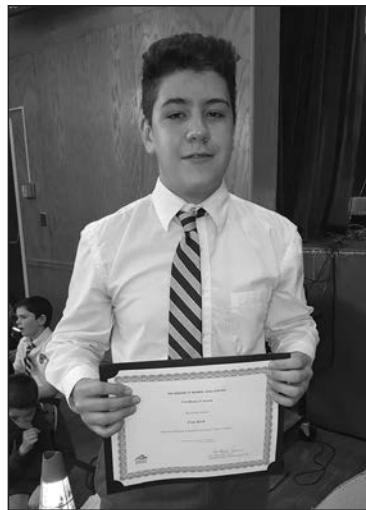
Evan was selected from nearly 2,500 finalists in the 21st annual contest. For his winning entry, Evan submitted a colorful multi-media artwork of a milk carton with “missing” people urged to join the family of Jesus by following his ways.

Each year, children and teens from Catholic schools, parishes

and other Catholic organizations use their creative skills to illustrate a different faith-based theme. This year, the theme was “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers and sisters?” Students from kindergarten through 12th grade creatively depicted in various art forms how they act in faith and follow the word of God.

The contest theme this year was based on scripture. In Matthew 12:46-50, Jesus is told that his mother and brothers are waiting to speak to him. Jesus asks, “Who is my mother and who are my brothers?” He

then holds out his hand toward his disciples and says, “Behold my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my father who is in heaven, he is my



EVAN KOCH

brother and sister and mother.”

Entries were judged on content, ability to capture and interpret the theme, artistic and technical proficiency. First-place winners were awarded \$100, and their sponsoring school or organization also earned \$100 as well as a copy of the DVD “A Dedicated Man.” ■

SCIENTIST FROM PAGE 25

Newtown saw seven winning projects this year. Two seventh graders, Peyton McKenzie in Physical Science and Madelaine Simms in Life Science, earned Middle School Finalist awards.

Five projects from St. Mark School in Stratford, including Ashlinn and Christina’s first place, took winning status at CSEF. Liam Millott took home a trophy as a middle school seventh grade finalist in biotechnology, and the team of eighth graders Natalie Sciallo and Kelly DeRosa were middle school finalists in Life Science.

Private Catholic schools in the area are also proud of their CSEF winners. Eighth grader Joyce Reed at the Convent of the



EIGHTH GRADER Analise Seamon of St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury took home the first place trophy in Life Science. At St. Mark School in Stratford, the team of Ashlinn Derleth and Christina deBenedetto also earned a Life Science trophy.

Sacred Heart in Greenwich took home an award in Life Science. Fairfield Prep had four winners at the high school level, and Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden congratulates future scientists for bringing home nine winning projects.

All participants in the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair are winners. They have studied, surveyed, experimented, developed, tested theories—and learned an amazing amount about their topics. Congratulations are certainly due, too, to their science teachers who have encouraged their independent exploration. For all of them, the future looks bright. ■

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**STARTING
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Mondays | 4:30-6:00pm • Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center | 229 Danbury Road, Wilton

Tuesdays | 2:00-3:30pm • Kolbe Cathedral High School | 33 Calhoun Pl, Bridgeport

Tuesdays | 4:30-6:00pm • Catholic Center, Queen of Saints Hall | 238 Jewett Ave, Bridgeport

Tuesdays | 7:00-8:30pm • St. Joseph High School | 2320 Huntington Tpke, Trumbull

Wednesdays | 4:30-6:00pm • Trinity Catholic High School Chapel | 926 Newfield Ave, Stamford

Thursdays | 4:30-6:00pm • Immaculate High School | 73 Southern Blvd, Danbury

Respect Life

Sisters of Life celebrate 25th anniversary

By REBECCA VODOLA

The Sisters of Life celebrated the 25th anniversary of their founding on June 1 with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Patrick's Cathedral followed by a block party on 51st Street. More than 1,000 people, including laypeople, priests, and other religious men and women, gathered for the community's joyous jubilee.

Timothy Cardinal Dolan celebrated the Mass and delivered the homily, summarizing the history of the order. The Sisters of Life was founded by John Cardinal O'Connor on June 1, 1991, when eight women, including current Superior General Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, entered the community dedicated to the charism of life.

Cardinal Dolan said that, 25 years ago, the first eight members of the Sisters of Life had to have great trust in God that forming the community was his will. The Sisters, their friends and benefactors all continue to have that trust today for the continued success of



LAUREN JANIK, (l), a postulant with the Sisters of Life, poses with writer Rebecca Vodola (r) at the New York City block party celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Sisters of Life.

street, and the Sisters' navy-blue-and-white habits, conspicuous in the metropolitan scene, drew many curious passersby to the celebration. Outside, Sisters of Life offered food, face painting, and games, while Confession and

Life has grown from eight members to nearly 100. Since opening their first convent in 1994, they have expanded to locations in



THE SISTERS OF LIFE HOSTED a block party with food, face painting, and games, while Confession and Eucharistic Adoration were available at the Church of the Sacred Heart on the block.

New York, NY; Suffern, NY; Washington, DC; Denver, Colo. and Toronto, Canada. They also operate the Villa Maria

Guadalupe retreat house in Stamford.

(To learn more about the Sisters of Life, visit www.sistersoflife.org.) ■



HUNDREDS GATHERED for a Mass celebrated by Timothy Cardinal Dolan. Here, Mass-goers speak with a Sister of Life outside of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

the Sisters of Life.

"We have so much trust that I'd like to invite you to the 50th anniversary celebration of the Sisters of Life on June 1, 2041," joked the cardinal.

After Mass, the crowd burst out the doors onto the streets of New York, headed to 51st St for the block party.

A live band, colorful banner-like fabrics draped across the

Eucharistic Adoration were available at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the block.

People of all ages, from weeks-old babies to nonagenarians, joined in the commemorative festivities. Among those gathered were a small delegation from the Diocese of Bridgeport and Sisters of Life postulant Lauren Janik of Stamford.

Over 25 years, the Sisters of

Post Abortion: Days of Prayer and Healing set

By REBECCA VODOLA

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Diocese of Bridgeport invites anyone who is suffering from a past abortion to experience God's love and mercy by attending an Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing.

The next Day of Prayer and Healing is set for Saturday, July 9, in Trumbull. Confidential pre-registration is required.

"Many women suffer in silence after an abortion. The Day of Prayer and Healing is meant to be the first step on a journey of healing," said Maureen Ciardiello, director of the Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

The day includes witnesses of mercy, group sharing, quiet time, personal prayer, the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass. Women receive help and sup-

port while building relationships and connecting with others who relate to their experience.

"It is important for every woman to know that God is waiting to heal her. She is not alone, she is welcomed, and people are praying for her and have been in her shoes," said Ciardiello.

Symptoms that commonly afflict post-abortive women include anxiety, depression, guilt, shame, eating or sleeping disorders and thoughts of suicide. The road to full recovery takes time and effort, but those in the ministry are prepared to walk with all women in their journeys to healing, offering ongoing support through groups and additional retreats.

Ciardiello said the Days of Prayer and Healing are a part of the Entering Canaan model "that ensures constant and consistent support for those seeking to begin their healing journey."

Entering Canaan also offers monthly support groups designed

to address specific post abortion issues and provide the tools needed to work through them. Entering Canaan falls under the umbrella of Project Rachel, the Catholic Church's response to those who have been wounded by an abortion.

For those unable to attend the July date, another Day of Prayer and Healing is set for Saturday, September 10.

A men's Day of Prayer and Healing for men suffering from a past abortion will be held on Saturday, October 29. "Abortion harms men, too," Ciardiello noted.

(For more information, or to register for the July 9 session for women, contact Project Rachel's confidential phone line: 203.416.1619 or email at projectrachel@diobpt.org. Men can register for the October session by calling 877.586.4621 or by emailing lumina@postabortion-help.org.) ■

Sports

In defeat Notre Dame, St. Joe's stand tall

By DON HARRISON

The ultimate goal for most high school teams, it would seem, is winning a state championship. But sometimes second best has its own rewards. Two recent cases in point:

Notre Dame of Fairfield won 20 games against just five defeats before coming up short, 2-0, against the No. 1 seed, Holy Cross of Waterbury, in the CIAC Class S state championship softball game at DeLuca Field in Stratford.

St. Joseph of Trumbull, despite the loss of its finest offensive player for most of the season, won four straight Class S state tournament lacrosse games before bowing to top-seeded Somers, 14-8, in the final played at Jack Casagrande Field in Norwalk.

"When I first saw the girls play in fall ball, I thought we had potential. I knew we had talent," said Jeff Bevino, the former Notre Dame athletic director and football coach, who returned to the school as softball coach last fall after eight years at Foran High in Milford.

"Our girls exceeded our expectations by far," he adds. "From where they've come from



EMILY SCHOFIELD, Notre Dame High's All-State shortstop, won another honor this spring—class valedictorian.

The Aetna Golf Classic is Still Swingin'

FAIRFIELD—Well over a hundred supporters of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County (CCFC) showed up with putters and drivers in hand to play in the annual Aetna Golf Classic, a benefit to raise money for the Bridgeport-based social services agency. Co-chaired by Jon Vaccarella and Bill Tommins, the popular event has raised millions for CCFC over two decades. During the day, the participants played a round of golf at the newly renovated Patterson Club



in Fairfield. After hitting the links, these fans of CCFC bid on silent and live auction items, garnering about \$80,000 to support the non-profit organization, which is celebrating its centennial year.



to where they are today, I want them to know how much they mean to me. They're tremendous kids that believed."

Emily Schofield, the Lancers shortstop and captain, capped her outstanding senior season by batting over .500 and earning Class-S All-State status. She is also class valedictorian and will attend Fairfield University in the fall.

by a pair of throwing errors and a wild pitch. And then Letizia brought home the winning run with a squeeze bunt.

For St. Joseph, this was its fourth straight appearance in the state championship title game—and, perhaps, the most unlikely. Senior captain Mike Rudora, "our best offensive player," according to first-year



MIKE SUDORA, who scored four goals in St. Joseph's Class-S lacrosse state title victory over Weston last year, tore his ACL in the fifth game of his senior season but was an inspirational leader for the Cadets, who advanced to their fourth straight state championship game.

Two of Schofield's teammates were also elected to the All-State team sponsored by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association: Junior pitcher Madison Letizia (18-4 W-L, .480 batting average) and sophomore catcher Michaela Luk (.500-plus average). And Bevino was voted Class S Coach of the Year.

Two other invaluable Lancers: Lucy Grant, who played baseball as a freshman, made a smooth transition to softball by excelling at bat and at first base, and junior third baseman Dayniera Artis.

Notre Dame's resolve and spirit came to the fore in the team's 7-6 come-from-behind triumph over Stafford in the state semi-finals. Down to their final three outs, the Lancers tied the score on Grant's single followed

coach Brendan Talbot, tore his ACL during the fifth game of the Cadets' season and, with reluctance, was reduced to an off-the-field role of inspirational leader.

"He's a great kid. He was there for all of our games and practices," Talbot says. "In the title game, I had hoped to call time out with 15 seconds left and put him on the field. Well, it didn't work out that way. So, when we were down by six goals with 50 seconds to play, I got him on the field. I wanted him out there."

Sans Rudora and playing a typically challenging FCIAC schedule—including No. 2 in the nation Darien—the Cadets sputtered most of the season. But they upended Fairfield Ludlowe and

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

School News

Gates Scholar

FAIRFIELD—Breiana Campbell of Bridgeport, a member of Notre Dame High School's Class of 2016, has been named a Gates Millennium Scholar. She is one of 1,000 recipients from across the nation selected to receive this full college and postgraduate scholarship, out of over 50,000 applicants.

Breiana has enrolled at Dartmouth College, N.H., for her undergraduate studies and plans to also attend medical school.

As a student at Notre Dame, Breiana has consistently been in the top 10 of her class while taking a challenging AP-level curriculum. She has been a four-year member of both the indoor and outdoor track teams, serving as a captain during her senior year. She is a member of the National and Spanish Honor Societies and was elected to serve as president of both organizations by her peers. She has regularly volunteered with Notre Dame's Campus Ministry program and Care Club.

In 2015, Breiana was selected as Queen of Bridgeport's Barnum Festival from a pool of candidates representing all area high schools. Breiana has volunteered with the Golden Hill United Methodist Church, her home congregation, serving as a captain for their meal preparation team assisting area low-income and homeless families. She has also volunteered her time at St. Vincent's Hospital and with the Stratford Emergency Medical Services.

Breiana is currently completing her senior internship in the Neuroradiology Department at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Notre Dame's principal Chris Cipriano commented, "We couldn't be prouder of Breiana. She is a wonderful example of Notre Dame and one who has proven our mission successful for building character, faith and intellect in each student."

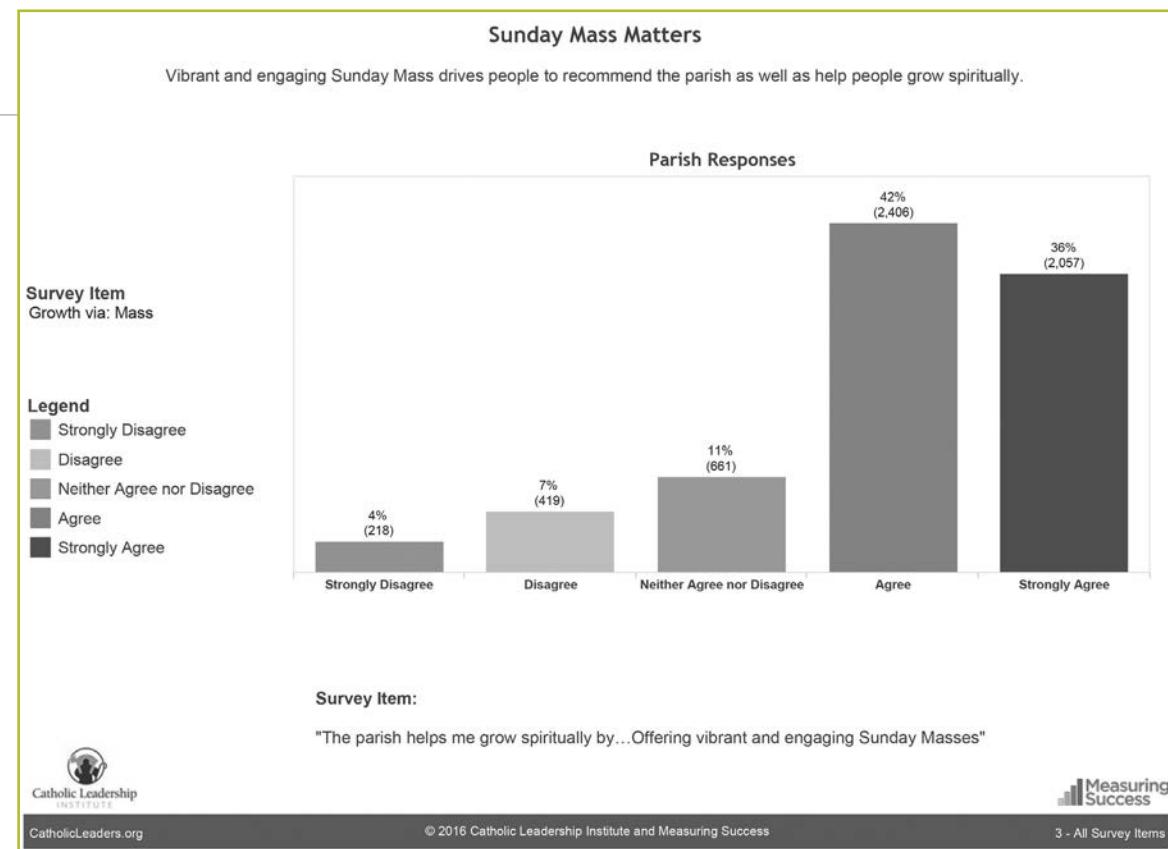


Chart #3

STRATEGIC PLANNING FROM PAGE 8

(See Chart #3, above)

Only 36 percent of respondents "strongly agree" with the statement that the parish helps them grow spiritually by offering vibrant and engaging Sunday Masses. Twenty-two percent of respondents either "strongly disagree," "disagree" or "neither agree nor disagree" with that statement.

Again, while this is in line with the national averages, it provides

our parishes with a grace-filled moment to begin to re-imagine how the parish comes together for liturgy. While maintaining the sacred nature of the liturgy, are there opportunities to foster an attitude of welcome and hospitality, strengthen the skills of those who deliver the homilies, improve the quality of the music ministry?

Going Forward

The details provided within the DMI survey results are a gold

mine of opportunity. Each participating parish is being asked to look at its parish-specific DMI responses and, in conjunction with their parish self-assessment, begin to identify responses to the challenges identified. As we move forward, the Office of Strategic and Pastoral Planning stands ready and willing to assist our parishes.

(Patrick Turner is director of Strategic and Pastoral Planning)

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 28

then, following a defeat in the FCIAC playoffs, roared through four opponents in the state tournament, ousting Montville, Old Lyme, North Branford and East Catholic. Alas, Somers had too much firepower in the final and St. Joe's two-year reign as state champion ended.

Four upperclassmen stepped up to keep St. Joe's competitive and all, points out Talbot, were named to the All-State team: Goalie Cillian Donahue and midfielder Chris Klablonski, both seniors, and a pair of juniors, attack Jared Newall and defender Kevin Faustich.

"We were the No. 18 seed in the tournament and we play in the FCIAC, one of the best—if not THE best—lacrosse conferences in the country," says Talbot, whose team finished 12-10. "We start two seniors. We've got a lot of kids coming back. We're hoping to be back in 2017."

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Obituary

Deacon Kenneth Stroud, 95

NEWTOWN—Deacon Kenneth Edward Stroud, 95, Deacon Emeritus of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown, went to the Lord peacefully June 3 at his home in Heritage Crest, Southbury, surrounded by his family. He would have been 96 years old in July.

Kenneth Stroud was born and raised in England. He was a gifted musician and scholar, playing the church organ when he was so young that his feet could barely reach the pedals.

In 1940, he enlisted in the RAF and was sent to serve in the Far East to set up radar facilities for the British. He was captured soon after arriving and held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese for over three years in Java. The account of his ordeal was published in a book "Prisoner of War Number

2378" written in collaboration with his son Adrian Stroud.

He met his future bride, Mary Patricia (Pat) Mason in Weymouth, England, and they were married in 1947. Baptized an Anglican, he converted to Catholicism after marrying Pat, which began a life-long devotion to the Church. An electrical engineer by profession, he spent his career in telephone and satellite communications and holds a valuable patent that revolutionized how we communicate today.

Coming to the United States, the couple lived in New Jersey before ending up in Newtown. While they were living in New Jersey, post-Vatican II, the order of permanent deacons was revived by Pope John XXIII and Ken enrolled in one of the first diaconate classes in the

Archdiocese of Newark. He first served at St. Luke's parish in Waldwick, NJ and later, until his retirement, at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown, where he performed hundreds of baptisms and weddings, including those of his children and grandchildren.

"He was just so proud to be a Catholic," says Msgr. Robert Weiss, pastor of St. Rose. "His legacy was a wonderful one, rooted in faith. He lived his faith and he passed it on."

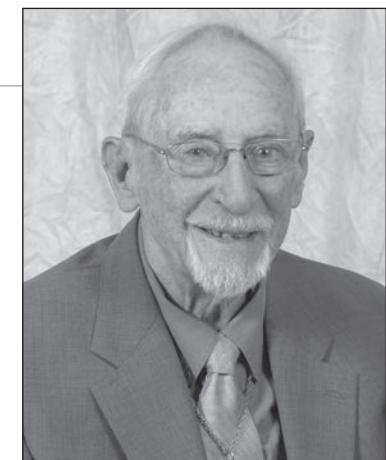
Because the Newark Archdiocese instituted the diaconate program before the Diocese of Bridgeport, Deacon Stroud had the distinction of being the earliest-ordained deacon serving in this diocese.

He sang in the St. Rose choir along with Pat and, together, they began a ministry to the sick

and elderly, volunteering with Hospice and Meals on Wheels. "Ken and Pat were a great team," says Msgr. Weiss. "They visited people in hospitals together, helped decorate the church at Christmas and Easter, sang in the choir together and did so many things for the parish."

Deacon Stroud retired at St. Rose a few years ago and was named Deacon Emeritus by Bishop William E. Lori. Even after his beloved wife left this world in 2004, he continued as a member of the choir until his recent illness.

Deacon Stroud was predeceased by his elder brother, Reginald Stroud. He is survived



DEACON KENNETH EDWARD STROUD

by his five children and eleven grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Deacon Stroud on June 9 in St. Rose of Lima. Msgr. Thomas Powers, vicar general of the diocese, was the principal celebrant. Msgr. Weiss was the homilist. Interment followed in St. Rose Cemetery. ■

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DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT: JUNE 19—JULY 23

JUNE

19	Rev. Robert S. McBride.....	1982
	Msgr. Frank Wissel	2014
20	Msgr. John J. Bumstead	1996
21	Rev. Albert D. Talbot.....	1962
22	Rev. Xavier Renda	2009
24	Rev. Nicholas Calabro.....	2015
	Rev. Franklin J. Corrigan	1974
	Msgr. William A. Genuario.....	2015
25	Rev. Albert A. Tomasko.....	1978
27	Rev. J. Barry Furey	2012
28	Rev. John J. Draper	1966
30	Rev. Arthur E. Norton	2004
	Msgr. Thomas P. Mooney	1956
	Msgr. John E. Tomis.....	1986

JULY

1	Rev. Anthony J. Intagliata.....	1990
2	Rev. Alfred J. Carmody.....	1958
5	Msgr. John J. Hayes.....	1964
6	Msgr. Philip N. Salmone	1967
8	Rev. James J. Kane	1956
9	Rev. Sean F. Flynn.....	1978
10	Rev. Edward F. Doyle.....	1981
	Deacon Stephen Sebestyen	2011
12	Rev. Edwin Coyne	2013
13	Msgr. James P. Devine	1972
	Rev. A. Fred Constantino	1980
17	Msgr. Walter R. Conroy	1997
	Fr. Robert Terentieff.....	2011
19	Msgr. Bartholomew J. Laurello	2004
20	Rev. John M. Conlisk.....	1990
	Rev. Peter DeMarco	2015
	Rev. Kevin P. Fitzpatrick	2008
	Rev. Chester Kicia, O.F.M.....	2003
	Msgr. John J. Wigh.....	1995
21	Rev. David H. Krahel	2008
22	Msgr. Nicholas P. Coleman, P.A.....	1963

Obituary

Dee Maggiori, 94, journalist, editor, columnist, and diocesan and community leader

TRUMBULL—Doris (Dee) Maggiori, one of the founding editors of *Fairfield County Catholic* and a noted Catholic journalist, died on June 2 in St. Vincent's Medical Center.

"For years Dee's monthly column, filled with practical advice and amusing stories, was the highlight for many readers of *Fairfield County Catholic*," recalls Dr. Joseph McAleer, who edited the paper from 1998-2009.

"She was an editor's dream: always on time, perfect grammar, solid catechesis, and never dull. We are indebted to Dee for her yeoman's work founding the newspaper with Msgr. Nicholas Grieco,

launching a new era of evangelization for generations of Catholics in our diocese."

In 1984 Maggiori was one of the co-founders, along with Msgr. Grieco, of the Diocese of Bridgeport's *Fairfield County Catholic* newspaper, where she served for 13 years as assistant editor before retiring and becoming a columnist in 1997. For more than ten years, her column "In The Spirit" appeared in the *Fairfield County Catholic* newspaper and the

Catholic Journal of Edgewater, Florida. She also served as a free-lance reporter for the Catholic News Service.

Her work as a journalist and free-lance writer included articles that appeared in many national magazines and newspapers. For 12 years, she wrote feature articles for the *Catholic Transcript* in Hartford and also for the former *Bridgeport Sunday Post*.

Born in Bridgeport, Maggiori became a Trumbull resident in 1959. She was the founder of the Trumbull Woman's Club and served as its first president. She was also a co-founder of the Trumbull Youth Association (TYA), served as a judge on the Trumbull Arts Commission's Literary

Competition for nine years, and was a faithful volunteer for the American Red Cross Blood Bank for 27 years.

In 1986, she was chosen as "Connecticut Woman of the Year" by the General Federation of Women's Clubs for her extensive community volunteer work, and in 1991 she was awarded the "Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice" Medal by Pope John Paul II for her many years of service to the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Bridgeport, where she had



"Dee Maggiori was born with a gift for writing but also with a heart that cared for the poor and suffering."

worked with drug addicts and alcoholics through the Manpower and Training and Development Program and served as coordinator of the Diocesan Commission on Aging and as the chair of the Commission on Laity for the 1970 Synod.

At the time of her death, in

as membership chair. She was also the coordinator of "Talking Writers" and facilitator of the "Advanced Writers' Workshop" in Westport, as well as a co-producer and frequent host of the TV program, "Creative Women Today."

She was a long-time member of the League of St. Joseph's Manor and served as a Eucharistic Minister at Christ the King Parish in Trumbull for more than 20 years. She enjoyed writing, playing the piano and water-color painting. Maggiori was predeceased by her husband of 47 years, Herman Maggiori, an international marketing executive with whom she traveled to 76 countries. He was the author of the book *How to Make the World Your Market*, which she edited.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Maggiori on June 7 at Christ the King Church in Trumbull. Interment followed in Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

In his eulogy at the conclusion of the Mass, Msgr. Nicholas Grieco, first diocesan director of communications and founding editor of *Fairfield County Catholic*, said that Dee's life "exemplified the role of the laity" in her concern for others and love for the Church. Noting that she was inspired by Vatican II, Msgr. Grieco said Dee Maggiori was born with a gift for writing but also with a heart that cared for the poor and suffering.

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Column: Thomas Hicks



More valuable than the most precious gift

POTPOURRI

By THOMAS H. HICKS

Thomas Hicks is a member of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull.

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle" (Philo of Alexandria).

Charity is the supreme virtue. Christianity is ultimately a matter

of love and service. We are called to put a face on God's love. According to Matthew chapter 25, there will be a judgment passed upon the works of charity, fulfilled or neglected.

There are all those private

worlds of suffering around us. Friend after friend has a sad tale to tell. The pain of so many people lays me low. Physically or mentally, pain seems more the rule than the exception. This "vale of tears" has a vast number and variety of sorrows.

Charity primarily involves loving what is near, what is given to us. We are to be compassionate participants in life, stirred by other people's worries and distress.

Let me give a series of observations and quotes concerning what may be involved in being compassionate participants.

Sigmund Freud once said: "We cannot remove all suffering, but we can remove some, and we

can mitigate some. We can make other people's lives a little easier and a little more enjoyable."

We should pray to know, as Psalm 102 says, that "this is the time to have mercy; yes, the time appointed has come."

The small everyday kindnesses would involve such things as:

Never treating people dismissively or disrespectfully.

Making people feel that they are important.

Putting the best interpretation on what somebody has said, as St. Ignatius taught.

The ancient Rabbi Hillel, when asked if he could sum up the whole Talmud in one sentence, replied with a negative version of the Golden Rule. "What is offensive to you do not do to others. All the rest is commentary."

Wordsworth spoke of being "dealers-out of small blessings" ("The Old Cumberland Beggar").

The business of blame belongs to God. We are to think leniently of others. The 14th century treatise, The Cloud of Unknowing, says: "Judge yourself as you like, but leave other people alone."

Charity expresses itself by being large-hearted and offering praise to deserving others, and not being envious. People in general are starved for affirmation. It takes little to congratulate and complement. There is the Spanish proverb, "One kind word can warm three winter months." St. Benedict stated that "one loving word is more valuable than the most precious gift."

Kindness heals; kindness is the great physician. Pope John XXIII, commenting on his role in the Church, said: "I learned what my most important function was—to be a steady source of kindness."

There is a major Islamic writing titled On the Duties of Brotherhood, by al-Chazall. The writing states that charity is shown by such things as:

Concealing what is ugly about another and revealing what is good.

Communicating to another the praise you heard from anyone who praised him or her.

Trying to find excuses for others.

Giving spontaneously and not obliging the other person to ask, so that the other does not have to reveal his or her need and appeal for help.

Hilaire Belloc spoke of how

we must be unfailingly courteous toward others. He wrote that "courtesy was something less than courageous holiness, yet it seemed to me that the grace of God was in courtesy."

Charity involves learning to guard our tongues and being careful of what we say. We are to seek the wisdom to know when to speak and when to be silent. Will Rogers said: "Never miss a good chance to shut up."

A writer named A.E. Brooks said that "life is a chance of learning how to love." And the writer Walker Percy said: "There are people who get "A's" in everything, but flunk life."

And there's a story from Ireland. A group of Irish men who didn't know each other are at a table playing cards.

Eventually one of them had to leave, and pushing hard with his fists on the table-top, heaved himself up to where he was standing. For the first time the others saw he had only one leg. The other was gone from the knee joint down. He began hopping to reach his crutch in the corner when he lost his balance. He would have fallen in a heap if a man named Brendan hadn't leapt forward and caught him.

"I'm as crippled as the dark world," the man with one leg said.

"If it comes to that, which one of us isn't, my friend?" Brendan said.

The truth of what Brendan said struck the rest of the men. We are all cripples, all of us. Then Brendan said "to lend each other a hand when we're falling, perhaps that's the only work that matters in the end." (cf. F. Beuchner, *Listening To Your Life*, p. 76)

The most important plenary indulgence which everyone can obtain without the ordinary forms is the indulgence of charity which, the Scriptures tell us, covers a multitude of sins (I Peter 4:8).

So, in the end we will be judged on the quality of the care we have shown. The times in the story of our lives are the times which allow us to do a work of charity. Ours is not to judge and condemn, but to love and be merciful.

Finally, there's something St. Vincent de Paul said that is worth mentioning. "Charity is greater than any rule, and all rules must lead to charity."

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Column: Joe Pisani



Making all things new

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

Joe Pisani has been a writer and editor for 30 years.

Years ago, I hid my high school yearbook from my four daughters because it was painful to have them leaf through the pages and stumble upon pictures of me on the track team, the drama club, the student council and the school newspaper—with a full head of black hair.

They'd gasp, "Oh my gosh! You had hair! You had so much hair! What happened?" As if I were somehow responsible for the tragic turn of events that left me bald and gray. Bad genes, bad attitude, bad karma.

The times they are still a'changing, as Bob Dylan would say. And so are we. Forget the fond memories and the autographs from my former classmates at St.

Joseph High School, because all I could focus on was the hair.

The other thing I recently realized—after I found my yearbook in the closet beneath a pile of shoe boxes—was that there were several group photos I wasn't in, and the captions succinctly stated, "J.Pisani not pictured." Missing in action again.

I must have been rebelling against something or other, which seemed monumental to my adolescent thinking but to the rest of the world was nothing more than a hiccup in the cosmic scheme.

Under my yearbook picture, someone had picked out a prophetic quote from Bartlett's that read, "Why all this toil for triumphs of an hour?"

Adolescent self-obsession pret-

ty much characterized my teen years and those of countless other Baby Boomers. When we weren't arguing at the dinner table with our parents or defying authority during the Vietnam era, we were listening to folk singers proclaim how we'd change the world and make it a better place. We were rebels, we were nonconformists, we were Dylan wannabes.

The world was a cauldron brimming with crisis, and our lives were shrouded in anxiety. During my senior year, Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King were assassinated, anti-war protests and civil rights demonstrations were being held across America, the Viet Cong's Tet Offensive undermined our efforts in Vietnam, President Lyndon Johnson chose not to seek reelection, and the Democratic National Convention in Chicago was marred by violence and unrest.

However, those troubled teenage years in a troubled era in a troubled world gave us values and moral insights that lasted a lifetime. At St. Joe's, we talked about right and wrong. We talked about God and faith. We talked about the world and our place in it and how we could make it

better. Those discussions—and arguments—were fundamental to our Catholic education.

Most important of all, I met principled men. A lifetime later, I realize principled men and women are rare and should be

"Principled men and women are rare and should be cherished."

cherished. They were men like Norman DeTullio, Joe Foran, Msgr. Richard Shea and Coach Vito Montelli. (I'm sure there were principled women, too, but ours was an all-boys' school so women were notoriously underrepresented.)

Back then, the Marist Brothers ran the school. When they celebrated their 150th anniversary in 1967, there were 10,000 brothers teaching in 60 countries, including 600 in 25 schools in America.

On the eve of the congregation's 200th anniversary, its ranks are diminished to 3,000 brothers in 79 countries, with only 150 in the United States.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class of St. Joseph High School. I got my alumni magazine in the mail recently and read the letter from President Bill Fitzgerald, who wrote, "How graced we are to spend each day in a place that begins and ends with prayer, where faith and ethics are taught throughout, where the intellectual and physical life of our students has a spiritual and communal foundation."

What a noble commitment to teaching young women and men about the spiritual life and moral values, especially when they'll go out into a world that no longer knows right from wrong.

When I look at our society, I wonder how things could have gone so tragically wrong in 50 years, but when I look at my high school, I see growth, development, faith and the pursuit of good, and I'm convinced that's the power of the Holy Spirit making all things new.

On the last page of the yearbook, there's a picture of an empty corridor with the caption, "Once an everyday reality and now a memory—a lifetime memory." It was so true. ■

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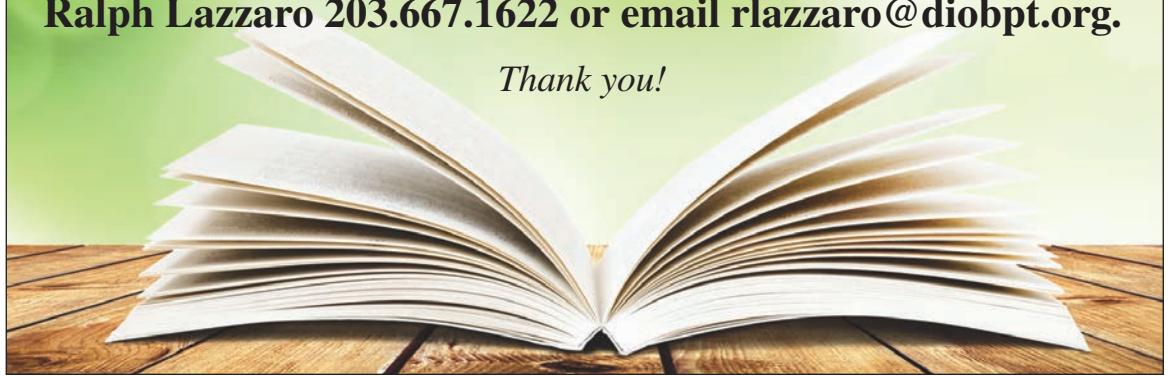
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Bits and Pieces

FAMILY FAIR will be held at St. Mary Parish, Stamford, Thurs.-Sun., **June 16-19**. Rides, food, raffles. Thurs.-Fri., 6-10 pm; Sat.-Sun., 5-10 pm. For more info, contact Sharon Macknight: smacknight@optimum.net or 203.327.1806.

PARISH CARNIVAL will be held at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, Tues.-Sat., **June 21-25**, from 6-10 pm. Family event with rides, games, food and free entertainment. For more info, call 203.426.1014.

DAY OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL: "Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit," open to men and women, will be held Sat., **June 25**, from 9 am-3 pm at St. Stephen Parish, Trumbull. Bring bag lunch, refreshments pro-

vided. Led by Fran Karpie, OFS. Suggested donation \$10. Checks made payable to Magnificat Bridgeport Diocese. Mail to: Pat Paniccia, 25 Easton Rd., Monroe, CT 06468-1502. For more info, email: pat.pan@hotmail.com.

VENERATION of the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be sponsored by the Prayer Group at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, on two evenings, Mon.-Tues., **June 27-28**. Vivian Mestey, guardian of the sacred image, will make a presentation concerning the image and its mission. Evening schedule: 4-6 pm, Veneration and Individual Prayer; 6 pm, talk; 6:30 pm, Rosary; 7 pm Mass; 8 pm, Adoration, Benediction and Closing. For

more info, contact Deacon Frank Masso: 203.605.8321 or frank.masso@att.net.

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS of Greater Danbury (CYAGD), ages 18-35, meets at the Newman Center (off the campus of Western CT State University) #7 8th Ave., Danbury, and other nearby locations. Game Night at the Newman Center: Tues., **June 28**, 6:30-8:30 pm. Bring a favorite or play a familiar standby. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or see Facebook "Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury."

ADULT DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT to benefit the Cardinal Shehan Center will take place Tues., **July 12**, from

5:30-8:30 pm at Insports Centers Trumbull, 29 Trefoil Drive, Trumbull. Treat your employees to a competitive and fun night out! T-shirts and pizza provided. First drink on the house. Up to 9 players per team, men and women welcome. Team entry fee: \$650. For more info or to register, contact Lorraine Gibbons: 203.336.4468 or lgibbons@shehancenter.org.

CYAGD NIGHT OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP will be held at Sacred Heart Parish, Danbury, on Tues., **July 5**, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Holy Hour, followed by a social. This event is open to all ages. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or see Facebook "Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury."

TASTE AND SEE! Summer Book Club at St. James Parish, Stratford, held Weds., **July 6-August 3**, at 10-11 am or 7-8 pm. *In God's Womb*, the spiritual memoir of Edwina Gately, poet, mystic and prophet is the selection. Cost: \$20; includes book. For more info, contact [Betsy Redgate](mailto:Betsy.Redgate@stjamesparish.org): 203.375.5887.

SECULAR FRANCISCAN Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Emery Parish, Fairfield, on Sat., **July 9**, at 9:30 am. Msgr. Ernie Esposito will celebrate Mass, followed by a social. "Come and See" if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order. For more info, contact Pat Heile, OFS: 203.255.8801 or pheile5713@aol.com.

MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE will be celebrated Mon., **July 9**, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Fr. Larry Carew. For more info, call the Charismatic Renewal Office: 203.268.8253.

PROJECT RACHEL Healing Ministry: During this Jubilee Year of Mercy those suffering from a past abortion are invited to begin a healing journey and experience God's love and mercy. The ministry will offer a Sat., **July 9**, Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing for women, and offers ongoing support with monthly gatherings. For more info, call our confidential phone line: 203.416.1619 or email projrachel@diobpt.org.

SUMMER SCRIPTURE STUDY at St. James Parish, Stratford: "Breathe: Making Room for the Sabbath." Break the bondage from busyness and build in time for God! Wed., **July 9-August 6**, 9-11:30 am. Cost:

\$20; includes study materials. For more info, contact Betsy Redgate: 203.375.5887.

CARNIVAL OF FUN at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside held Tues.-Sat., **July 12-16** on the parish grounds. Food, rides, games of chance and skill, raffles, live entertainment nightly. Bracelet nights Tues., Wed. & Thurs. For more info, go to www.stcath.org or call 203.637.3661.

FAITH ON TAP with Fr. Michael held Tues., **July 12**, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Down the Hatch, 292 Candlewood Lake Rd., Brookfield. Great food and an inspirational talk about the differences between the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or Facebook "Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury."

ENCOURAGE apostolate for friends and family of loved ones with same-sex attractions or gender ID issues, meets the third Sat. of the month (**July 16**) at 10:30 am and is strictly confidential. For more info, contact the Norwalk Chapter: EncourageNorwalk@gmail.com.

WEEK OF DIRECTED PRAYER at St. James Parish, Stratford, held starting Sat., **July 16** thru Sat., **July 23**. Find God in the ordinary events of your life by making a directed retreat with an experienced spiritual director without leaving home or workplace. For more info, contact Betsy Redgate: 203.375.5887.

CYAGD DANCE PARTY (with impromptu dance lesson, with the dance TBA): Tues., **July 19**, from 6:30-8:30 pm at St. Joseph Parish, Danbury. Have some fun and dance the night away. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or Facebook "Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury."

FAITH ON TAP with Fr. Joseph Gill held Mon., **July 25**, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Down the Hatch, 292 Candlewood Lake Rd., Brookfield. "How to Get More Out of the Mass." For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or Facebook "Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury."

MASS CARDS are available from the diocesan Mission Office for all intentions. The donations support missionaries throughout the world. Call Elaine Bissenden in the Mission Office: 203.416.1447.

WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE HOLY SEE, A **PLENARY INDULGENCE** CAN BE GAINED BY ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILGRIMAGE AND WHO, ALONG WITH HAVING THE INTERIOR DISPOSITION OF COMPLETE DETACHMENT FROM SIN, SACRAMENTALLY CONFESS THEIR SINS, RECEIVE THE HOLY EUCHARIST AND PRAY FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF.

JOIN BISHOP CAGGIANO AND THE FAITHFUL FROM THE DIOCESE ON OUR PILGRIMAGE TO WASHINGTON D.C.

FOR THE CONSECRATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

DESTINATION: Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC

EARLY MORNING DEPARTURES LOCATIONS:

Bridgeport, Catholic Center
Bethel, Saint Mary Parish
Fairfield, Saint Pius X Parish
Greenwich, Saint Paul Parish
Norwalk, Saint Matthew Parish
Trumbull, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish

COST/PERSON: \$75 for transportation and box dinner. The cafeteria at the shrine will be open to purchase lunch.

REGISTER BY OCTOBER 14:
Visit rallybus.net/DOBPilgrimage
via credit card or call
1-855-725-5928 to register and pay via check.

DAY INCLUDES: mid-day prayer, reconciliation, Eucharistic adoration, and Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano.

If you are traveling on your own, please plan on arriving at the Basilica by 10:30 a.m.

For more info contact: Janet Davis at jdavis@diobpt.org

Children and teenagers will need to be chaperoned by their own parents or by adults who are VIRTUS trained and background checked from their parish or school.



New Covenant Center

Too many cooks in the kitchen? Not on this night!

By ELLEN McGINNESS

Gamely sporting hair nets, potato peelers, oven mitts, and plastic aprons, over 30 young adults showed up at New Covenant Center (NCC) in Stamford to prepare 150 dinners that would be served the next day to hungry clients.

The inaugural event, dubbed "A Social Night of Service," brought together "under 30s" from many different towns, parishes and backgrounds. Yet there was a single common denominator: to help feed the hungry.

Upon arrival, the volunteers walked into the dining room of NCC where Pandora music was playing on the surround sound speakers, beverages were chilling on ice, and salty snacks were open for the taking.

Paul Harinstein, president of the NCC Advisory Board, welcomed the group and thanked them for their time and willingness to help. "It's people like you—who give up a free night when you could be doing so many other things but are here instead to help us cook—you're the people who really make a difference. Thank you for coming."



MAKING A DIFFERENCE—Young volunteers gather for "A Social Night of Service" to prepare food to serve to clients at New Covenant Center in Stamford.

Father Andy Vill of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Stamford then took the reins and clustered the volunteers into different work groups: potato peeling and cutting; chicken breading; carrot peeling and dicing; salad preparation; brownie mixing. Father Vill and NCC Head Chef Maria supervised their sous chefs, and in about 90 minutes—voila! One hundred fifty meals were prepared.

As a bonus for helping out, the volunteers ate some of the breaded chicken, mashed potatoes, salad,

roasted veggies, and brownies they themselves had prepared. Over dinner they talked about where they went to college, where they currently work and what they like

to do in their free time.

When asked if she would come back again to another "Social Night of Service," a young woman named Katie

replied, "Yes, definitely. I've always wanted to help, but was never really sure what to do. This was great, and I had a lot of fun doing it."



TO PREPARE for cooking 150 dinners, volunteers peel carrots at NCC. Over 30 young adults helped to cook the meals.



**Those with Down Syndrome,
their family and friends
are invited to**

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass asking
for the intercession of St. Robert Bellarmine
Bishop Frank Caggiano, celebrant
Father Richard Cipolla, concelebrant

Sunday, September 25, 2016
11:30am at St. Mary Church

669 West Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06850

Reception following the Mass

Please come and join the **MOMs+DADs** prayer/support group
(*Mother of Mercy spiritual Divine Advocate for Down syndrome*)
Third Thursday of every month, 7:30pm at St. Mary's Parish Center
Next prayer meeting will be September 15, 2016

Inquiries welcome at strapostolate@optimum.net

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