Consecration of the
DIOCES OF BRIDGEPORT
TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Join Bishop Caggiano
and the Diocese of
Bridgeport on Pilgrimage
to Saint Augustine
Cathedral in Bridgeport
as we gather in prayer and
worship to consecrate
the Diocese to the
Sacred Heart of Jesus

Schedule
1:00 pm Arrival
1:15 pm Welcome and Opening Remarks
1:30 pm Recitation of the Scriptural Rosary
   (Start of Confessions)
2:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration & Presentation
   by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR
3:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
   (Conclusion of Confessions)
3:30 pm Break
4:00 pm Eucharistic Celebration
   Mass and Consecration

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 5TH
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL
359 WASHINGTON AVENUE
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

All are welcome &
couraged to participate

Guest Speaker

Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R.,
a founding member of the
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal,
has been teaching and preaching
retreats and parish missions for
several decades. He is considered
one of the world’s foremost
experts on the apparitions at
Fatima. He is the author of
numerous books, including
Following Mary to Jesus and
Walk Humbly With Your God.

Fr. Apostoli is the vice-postulator
for the cause for the canonization
of Archbishop Fulton Sheen
and a frequent presence on
EWTN television.

For further information
about the pilgrimage, contact,
Janet Davis: 203-416-1636
Email: jdavis@diobpt.org

ON THE COVER
A PLACE OF PEACE—Bishop
Caggiano cuts the ribbon at the recent
ceremony celebrating the completion of
the new wing of the Catherine Dennis
Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence for
Retired Priests in Stamford.
(Above the fold) A member of the
Catholic Service Corps during the
recent Diocesan Day of Service.
Photos by Michelle Babyak

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22-23 PILGRIMAGE PREPARATION
   Consecration to the Sacred Heart
U.S. Judge: mass incarceration ‘failed experiment’

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

United States district judge for the Southern District of New York, Judge Edgardo Ramos, said that mandatory sentencing in the 1980s and 1990s has led to “mass incarceration and a justice gap,” in our society.

Speaking to 150 attorneys, judges, and legal professionals at the 2016 Red Mass held on October 2 at Fairfield University, Judge Ramos said that the United States has five percent of the world’s population but accounts for 25 percent of the world’s prisoners.

Judge Ramos called on attorneys in private practice to consider taking on more “pro bono cases” for the poor, and said the government will need to find new remedies for dealing with non-violent offenders.

He said that many face very difficult, often insurmountable odds “to make the right decision and resist the pull of the street.”

During the breakfast, Bishop Caggiano presented the St. Thomas More Award to outgoing Fairfield University president, Father Jeffrey von Arx for his commitment to the Red Mass and his support for the diocese in a wide range of programs and joint efforts.

Your door was always open and your departure is a great loss for the diocese,” the bishop said to Father von Arx as he presented him the award.

Edgardo Ramos was appointed United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York on September 15, 2011, after being nominated by President Barack Obama.

He began his term as a judge on December 15, 2011. He earned a B.A. in 1982 from Yale University and a J.D. in 1987 from Harvard Law School.

BRIDGEPORT—A Service of Peace, Hope and Healing for Victims by clerics sexual abuse. “We are reaching out to survivors of abuse as a minor by clergy, family members of survivors, those who work as leaders in child and youth protection, and those who have accompanied the survivors on their journey,” she said.

This past January, Bishop Caggiano met with survivors and family members from the Diocese of Bridgeport. He listened to their stories in order to gain a better understanding of their journey towards healing. The bishop asked the survivors for their guidance on ways that the diocese could further promote healing and outreach to those who may still be suffering in silence and may not have come forward.

A Committee for Healing was formed out of these initial meetings and consists of five survivors and three lay leaders of the Diocese of Bridgeport: the director of Safe Environments, the Victim Assistance counselor and the director of Pastoral Planning. The committee consulted with individuals both within the diocese and outside of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

The decision was made in July to sponsor a Healing Service that would be welcoming and would give all a chance to gather and to pray together in a safe place.

Victim assistance coordinators Erin Neil and Michael Tintrup, together with lay volunteers and clergy, will be available as a resource before and immediately following the service.

(For information about this service or to speak with someone about sexual abuse or other forms of abuse as a minor by a person from the Church, call Erin Neil, L.C.S.W., director of Safe Environments & Victim Assistance coordinator: 203.650.3265, or Michael Tintrup, L.C.S.W., Victim Assistance counselor: 203.241.0987. To report a new incident of suspected or known abuse of a minor, please immediately notify the police or the CT Department of Children and Family Services 800.842.2288.)
World Mission Sunday 2016

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

On World Mission Sunday, let us pray for the good success of our missionaries and their endeavors.

The second collection in all Catholic parishes is dedicated to supporting the Church’s missionary efforts throughout the world. Now, more than any other time in history, our Church and her missionaries face unprecedented persecution, poverty and political upheaval. These obstacles, coupled with the never before seen mass emigration of peoples, make the already difficult task of our missionaries even more burdensome. They need our support to sustain their ongoing work of spreading the Gospel, caring for the sick and the poor and bringing the life-giving sacraments of the Church to the suffering of the world.

Your donation makes their effort an extension of your Christian witness. Your financial support couples you with their labors and enjoins you with their enterprises. Your donation connects you with these dedicated men and women who are doing the work of the Church in ways that we cannot.

By contributing, we all share in the response to Christ’s command to make disciples of all nations.

Dear friends, we know that the Church is our hope, our salvation, and our comfort. She feeds and nourishes us from her Mystical Table. She shelters us from the waves and turbulent storms of life.

Having this appreciation of the Church, how can we refrain from sharing her with the orphans of the world? How can we not support with our utmost generosity those men and women, who—on our behalf—bring her to a people thirsting for peace, hope and salvation?

I beg you, beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, to give as generously as possible on this World Mission Sunday.

Think for a moment what we spend on various common amenities each month like cableTV, Internet access, coffee or even one meal out at a restaurant, and at the very least let us match that single expense with our donation today.

I thank you in advance and I pray that the Lord will bless you for your generosity and grant you peace and health and all those things needed for your salvation.

Faithfully yours in the service of Christ,
Reverend Seraphim Rohlman
Director, Pontifical Mission Societies

Please use the envelope enclosed in this issue! Thank You!
Propagation of the Faith

‘Mercy Changes the World’

World Mission Sunday observed October 23

By BETH LONGWARE DUFF

The Catholic Church’s Jubilee of Mercy (December 2015 to November 2016) also appropriately marks the 90th anniversary of what was originally called World Missionary Day when it was approved by Pope Pius XI in 1926 and organized by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith. On the weekend of October 22-23, the World Mission Sunday collection will be taken up in churches around the world, including all parishes in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Pope Francis has written that the Jubilee of Mercy casts a distinct light on World Mission Sunday 2016. “It invites us to consider the missio ad gentes (the mission to the nations) as a great, immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material,” he notes. “On this World Mission Sunday, all of us are invited to ‘go out’ as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the message of God’s tenderness and compassion to the entire human family.” According to the Pontifical Mission Societies, which conducts the World Mission Sunday collection, this year’s theme is “Mercy Changes the World.” As in past years, financial and spiritual support provided now and throughout the year is critical to the mission of priests, religious and catechists serving in more than 1,100 dioceses throughout Asia, Africa, parts of Latin America and Europe, and on the Islands of the Pacific, “bringing the light of Christ to the darkest of circumstances.”

“The World Mission Sunday celebration highlights the outreach of local churches through priests, religious and laity among the poor and marginalized half a world away,” the Pontifical Mission Societies elaborates on the mission office in each diocese. In Bridgeport, this includes the formation of priests and deacons who serve in the mission fields and the distribution of Mass stipends to missionary priests for the intentions of the people of the diocese.

Father Seraphim maintains that mission work is an essential part of the Catholic faith. “Christ, before his Ascension, told the Apostles to go and baptize all nations, making disciples of them, and to spread the Gospel,” he notes. “It’s part of the work of the Church, and the Church is made up of all of the faithful. So it’s a commission of all of the faithful to spread the Gospel.”

In addition to the ever-present challenges presented by natural disasters, recent global developments have placed additional pressure on missionaries in the field, making it more critical than ever that Catholics donate generously to the World Mission Sunday collection. “Everyone sees the news reports about the mass migration of people who have been displaced by war and ethnic conflicts that are occurring.” Father Seraphim says. “Not only are missionaries taking care of their own people in mission dioceses, but now they’re also dealing with an influx of Christians who are escaping persecution and genocide. That’s really straining the efforts, finances and resources of the priests, religious and laity who are serving in missionary fields.”

Father Seraphim calls active participation in the World Mission Sunday collection “an extension of Christian witness. They do what we cannot,” he says of the religious and lay missionaries around the world. “While we’re here, caring for our families and involved in our various occupations, through our financial support we become missionaries because we unite ourselves with the work of missionaries throughout the world whose vocation it is to go and spread the Gospel.”

(For more information or to volunteer at the diocesan or parish level in the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies, contact Father Seraphim: 203.416.1448.)
We offer our thanks to Almighty God for the gift of this beautiful facility and for the priests that live here, wonderful men who have served us faithfully, generously and quietly for many years, priests that we know well, priests who are dear to us,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on October 9 at the Catherine Dennis Keefe, Queen of Clergy Residence in Stamford.

More than 150 turned out on a rain soaked afternoon for the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new 16-suite addition to the retired priests residence.

The bishop thanked donors who have contributed $3.5 million to make the expansion and renovation of the residence a reality, and he thanked Msgr. William J. Scheyd, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, and Msgr. J. Peter Cullen, retired pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Greenwich, for their “selfless leadership” as “prime movers of the project.”

Bishop Caggiano also thanked former Bridgeport bishops Edward M. Egan and William E. Lori for their vision in creating and building the residence that “in each and every way allows priests to have what they need to administer joyfully and healthfully.”

“May this be a place of love and peace for priests who will live here for they continue to seek the goodness of Christ,” said Bishop Caggiano before cutting the ribbon on the new addition. The ceremony was followed by a reception and tours of the new facility provided by the retired priests.

The expanded residence provides 33 suites for independent living for retired priests. The 24,000 square foot facility includes a chapel, community, exercise and dining rooms, library, kitchen and full service laundry.

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/.
Catholic Charities Gala: A Night to Celebrate

STAMFORD—It was an evening of high energy, spirited music and celebration as Catholic Charities of Fairfield County celebrated its 100th birthday in a gala at the Stamford Marriott. Over 400 men and women filled the main ballroom for dinner and dancing. The evening included an awards ceremony and video offering a glimpse into the 100-year history of Catholic Charities, which was formed in response to the needs of the immigrants, orphans and working poor of industrial Bridgeport.

The gala capped a year of special events planned led by the Gala Committee leaders Marilyn Hart, Kevin Gremse, Jim McPartlan and Nancy Murphy.

Fox News Anchor Ernie Anastos served as Master of Ceremonies and Catholic Charities President Al Barber served as “auctioneer” for the night that raised over $100,000 for the feeding, behavioral health, childcare, and community programs of the Church’s social service arm in the county.

“We stand on the shoulders of giants,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, noting that before Pope Francis inspired the world with his concern for the poor and vulnerable, and 40 years before the diocese was formed, Catholic Charities was bringing compassion and mercy to those in need.

“Catholic Charities knows that people are not problems to be solved but people to be loved,” the bishop said, noting that the mission of Catholic Charities continues to inspire the diocese.

At the end of his remarks, the bishop announced that the board of Catholic Charities has approved the creation of the Catholic Charities of Fairfield County Foundation to permanently endow its charitable works.

“Catholic Charities is love in action,” he said, after presenting the Dr. Marguerite T. Boylan Awards for service to the poor to nine individuals from the area with a lifetime of service and concern for those in need.

Dr. Boylan founded Catholic Charities in Bridgeport and was a lifelong advocate of the poor.

The Boylan Awards were presented to Peggy Ceponis of Ridgefield for her volunteer service at Morning Glory Breakfast Program in Danbury; Father John Giuliani of Redding, one of the founders of Merton House in Bridgeport; Bruce and Linda Koe of Greenwich who helped to found the diocesan “Loaves and Fishes” campaign; Denis and Britta Nayden for their support of the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund, St. Catherine’s Academy and Trinity Catholic High School; Anne and Mary Sommer for their support of Merton Center in Bridgeport and New Covenant House in Stamford; and Msgr. Robert Weiss for his outstanding and compassionate leadership in the Newtown Community after the Sandy Hook tragedy.

Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc. is one of the largest private social service providers in Connecticut. Since 1916, Catholic Charities has served all people with programs that feed the hungry and homebound, shelter the homeless, strengthen families, assist the physically and emotionally challenged and deliver consultation and assistance to immigrants. It serves all people without regard to age, race, religion, or ability to pay.

(For more information, visit www.ccfairfield.org.)

2016 Annual Catholic Appeal Serves Our Community Every Day
Have you made your gift?

The ministries and programs in our Diocese continues every day. There is still time to make your gift. To make a pledge online, please visit 2016ACABridgeport.com or call 203-416-1479

Thank you for your support!

Gifts are payable through December 31, 2016
Strategic and Pastoral Planning

Pastoral plans look to strengthen parish life

BRIDGEPORT—More than 60 parishes have already submitted their parish pastoral plans to Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, identifying the synod priorities on which they wish to focus for the next two pastoral years.

As part of the pastoral planning process that was approved by the synod delegates, all of the parishes in the diocese were asked to establish a planning task force, analyze sacramental and financial data from the last few years, complete a parish self-assessment and then, based on that analysis and self-assessment, articulate priority plans for the next two years.

“Over the course of the last six months, I have had the pleasure of meeting with more than half of the planning task forces,” said Patrick Turner, director of the Office of Strategic and Pastoral Planning, “and have been truly impressed with the dedication, love, and desire of those serving on those task forces to strengthen the pastoral life of their parishes. So many of our parishes are doing great work in ministry, and we re-imagine how we live faithfully in the modern world, which has turned its back on the Gospel. The great spiritual struggle of the 21st century is the relevance of our parish and school communities for people who think they can search for God without the Church. We must invite people back into our family, one person at a time, and together deepen the mystery of the Church as we live in our own age. We have to remember that everything we do begins and ends with Jesus.”

FATHER Samuel Scott, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Danbury, offered his assessment of the parish Strategic Plan Taskforce. The Service was on the anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council fifty-four years ago and the feast day of St. John XXIII.” Changing times demand that we re-imagine how we live faithfully in the modern world, which has turned its back on the Gospel. The great spiritual struggle of the 21st century is the relevance of our parish and school communities for people who think they can search for God without the Church. We must invite people back into our family, one person at a time, and together deepen the mystery of the Church as we live in our own age. We have to remember that everything we do begins and ends with Jesus.”

As parishes move into the implementation phase of the process, pastors and planning task force members are being asked to share their pastoral plans with the broader parish community.

Many of the parishes have already engaged in broad parish consultation through surveys or town hall style meetings, and all parishes will publish their plans on two consecutive weekends prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. In addition, as part of an effort to promote full transparency, all of the pastoral plans will be published on the Office of Strategic and Pastoral Planning website in December.

Going forward, the Office of Strategic and Pastoral Planning will be updating parish data this fall as parishes conduct the annual in-pew Mass counts and submit their yearly sacramental statistical summary for the previous pastoral year. This data will continue to assist our parishes and the diocese in responding to ongoing trends and identifying challenges.

Planning task force members will be invited to a series of workshops in the late winter/spring of 2017 that will include speakers and examine best practices in a particular synod priority area. It will allow members to share the good news of work that is ongoing in their parish and share ideas and challenges with leaders from other parishes.

Save the Date!

Solemn Closing of the Holy Door and the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Join Bishop Frank J. Caggiano as he closes the Holy Door and concludes the Diocese of Bridgeport’s observance of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

With the celebration of Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral on Sunday, November 20, at 9:30 am, the bishop will lead our thanksgiving to God for the graces of this year, and pray that they will continue in the life of our diocese.

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Pastor: Rev. Richard G. Cipolla
Parochial Vicar: Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro

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Thursday: 6:30 am; Saturday: 8:00 am
Sunday: 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm, 5:00 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am, 12:10 pm

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:
Monday-Friday: 11:30 am-12:00 pm
Wednesday: 4:30-5:30 pm; Saturday: 9:00 am

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Fridays: 8:30 am-5:30 pm

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Located in Parish Center building behind Saint Mary Church | VISA/MC ACCEPTED
Diocesan Initiatives

Prayer Service for Peace and Racial Healing

BRIDGEPORT—A major interfaith prayer service event, “Prayer for a Path to Peace and Racial Healing,” will be held on Tuesday, November 22, at 7 pm at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport.

The service is open to people of all faiths and is the beginning of a major interfaith initiative of many faiths and ethnicities. Featured speakers include Bishop Frank J. Caggiano; Rev. Cass Shaw, president/CEO of the Bridgeport Council of Churches; Rabbi James Prosnit, leader of Congregation B’nai Israel, a Reform temple in Bridgeport; and Father Reginald D. Norman, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton, and episcopal vicar of the Apostolate of African American Catholics, said that the service is meant to bring people of many different faiths and backgrounds together. “It is our hope that as we begin in prayer, we will work together in the weeks and months to come to be a beacon of hope and understanding for all people. Our world needs an open and honest dialogue regarding racial healing.

Father Reginald D. Norman

PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE AND RACIAL HEALING

BRIDGEPORT—“Today is an historic day in our Diocese with the inauguration of the Catholic Service Corps,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, excited by the launch of the first Diocesan Day of Service on September 24, sponsored by the newly formed Catholic Service Corps.

The day began with prayer, followed by volunteer work, and Mass celebrated by the bishop at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Sacred Heart University.

Young service corps members worked in a variety of settings including Merton Center in Bridgeport, St. Margaret’s Shrine, New Covenant Center in Stamford, and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Norwalk.

The CSC was one of the major initiatives approved in the recent Diocesan Synod to provide opportunities for all the faithful, especially young people, to deepen and broaden their Catholic faith by inviting them to embrace a life of Christian service and the call to be missionary disciples.

“The young people who will begin to form the Catholic Service Corps will walk on the front line of faith, trying to overcome the temptation of spiritual complacency in their own lives by embracing, over time, a true lifestyle of service. Their witness will also encourage and challenge those around them to follow their example,” Bishop Caggiano said. The bishop dropped in at a couple of the worksites to offer encouragement to the young people, who worked in teams from different schools and parishes.

He believes that the charitable work, grounded in prayer and reflection, is an important part of faith formation. “My prayer is that the Corps will unleash a tidal wave of mercy that will slowly transform the face of our diocesan Church, bringing the gift of loving mercy to every corner of our county. My dream is that such love will be effectively offered and received by every human heart seeking a path to God.

“Given some of the challenges that we have faced as a Church over the past 15 years, many people may be tempted to believe that the best days of our Church are behind us. Today proves that our best days are yet to come,” he said. (For more information, contact Michelle Smith: msmith@dioBpt.org.)

Youth Day of Service begins and ends in prayer

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EDITORIAL

On Faithful Citizenship

As we approach the presidential election, we are confronted by many serious social and political issues that demand our attention as citizens and people of faith. For this reason, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has issued *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, its teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics.

*Faithful Citizenship* represents the Church’s guidance in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. As we approach the presidential election, all pastors, lay and religious faithful, and all people of good will are encouraged to use the document “to help form their consciences; to teach those entrusted to their care; to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue; and to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching.”

This year’s guide has been updated to take account of recent developments in the United States in both domestic and foreign policy:

- The ongoing destruction of over one million innocent human lives each year by abortion
- Physician-assisted suicide
- The redefinition of marriage—the vital cell of society—by the courts, political bodies, and increasingly by American culture itself
- The excessive consumption of material goods and the destruction of natural resources, which harm both the environment and the poor
- The deadly attacks on fellow Christians and religious minorities throughout the world
- The narrowing redefinition of religious freedom, which threatens both individual conscience and the freedom of the Church to serve
- Economic policies that fail to prioritize the poor, at home or abroad
- A broken immigration system and a worldwide refugee crisis
- Wars, terror, and violence that threaten every aspect of human life and dignity

All of these grave issues speak to a breakdown in what Pope Francis has called an “integral ecology” (*Laudato Si’,* nos. 137-55). The bishops remind us that “Without the proper ordering of relationships of persons with each other, with creation, and ultimately with God himself, sin takes hold.”

Pope Francis reminds us that all individuals, nations and members of the global community have the duty to place the needs of others “ahead of selfish desires to possess and exploit the good things that come from God’s hand.”

While the Church is involved in the political process, it is not partisan. Yet, as *Faithful Citizenship* points out, it would be a serious mistake—and one that occurs with regrettable frequency—to use only selected parts of the Church’s teaching to advance partisan political interests or validate ideological biases. All of us are called to be servants to the whole truth in authentic love, and it is in our fervent hope and prayer that this document will provide aid to all those seeking to heed this call.

It is often said that religious freedom should never be confined to the four walls of the Church, but must be lived and witnessed in the lives of believers and their impact on the larger community. One of the best ways to fulfill this obligation is to cast a ballot and make your voice heard.

Responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is an obligation. Let us all take to heart the urgency of our vocation to live in service of others through the grace of Christ and ask humbly in prayer for an outpouring of the grace of the Holy Spirit on the United States of America.

The *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* guide is available in its entirety online through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizen-ship/index.cfm

EDITOR’S CHOICE

Sensational at 60! St. Aloysius School celebrates anniversary

NEW CANAAN—St. Aloysius School celebrated sixty years of providing a quality Catholic elementary education at a party on September 17 at the school. Over 100 alumni—including members of the Karl, Franco and Flynn families who have put a combined total of thirty children through the school—turned out for the milestone event. First Selectman Rob Malloczi congratulated everyone who has helped make the school such a success over six decades, including former principal Dr. Donald Howard and (in photo l-r) Msgr. William Scheyd, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish; incoming pastor Father Robert Kinnally, and current Principal Bardhyl Gjoka. Congratulations St. Aloysius School—here’s to another 60 years!

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

**Parochial Vicar**

REVEREND DAMIAN PIELESZ, Parochial Vicar, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Stamford, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton. Effective date is October 21.

REVEREND TOMASZ PRZYBYL, SVD, new to the Diocese, to Parochial Vicar, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Stamford. Effective date is October 21.

**Director**

REVEREND WILLIAM F. PLATT, BCC, has been appointed to Diocesan Director of Hospital Chaplains. Father Platt will continue to serve as Parochial Vicar at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside. Effective date was September 20.

**Retirement**

DEACON WILLIAM D. MURPHY, Saint Gregory the Great Parish, Danbury, to retirement. Effective date was October 2.

**Other**

REVEREND FRANCIS XAVIER BILING, Parochial Vicar, Saint Mark Parish, Stratford, to home diocese of Simmedga, India. Effective date was September 29.

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

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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DEACON WILLIAM D. MURPHY, Saint Gregory the Great Parish, Danbury, to retirement. Effective date was October 2.

Other

REVEREND FRANCIS XAVIER BILING, Parochial Vicar, Saint Mark Parish, Stratford, to home diocese of Simmedga, India. Effective date was September 29.

Monsignor Thomas W. Powers, Vicar General, October, 2016
Editorial

Something More

A WOMAN’S VOICE
BY SISTER JOAN MAGNETTI, RSCJ

As the state sets out to reshape our system of public education, I would like to make a few observations, based on my personal experiences as an educator and administrator. I have been in Catholic school education as a principal of independent girls’ schools for 30 years in such well-off suburbs as Princeton, N.J., and Greenwich, Conn., with tuitions upward of $30,000. For seven years, I have been executive director for the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, which comprises four academies: St. Ann, St. Andrew, St. Raphael and St. Augustine, serving almost 1,000 low-income elementary school children with an average tuition of $4,700.

It costs us $7,500 to educate each pupil, while public school students (who do not pay tuition) receive $14,000 per pupil from the state. Suburban schools augment these funds with local tax dollars and special fundraisers. Our Catholic Academy of Bridgeport serves the same population of students as public schools in Bridgeport. Not all our children are Catholic, the majorities are below the poverty line, and our racial and ethnic mix mirrors that of the Bridgeport public schools. More than 85 percent of our students qualify for financial aid, requiring that we raise over $2 million annually.

We receive no public monies except for some Title II funds for professional development, the presence of a school nurse when possible, and transportation, which is now threatening to demand our children as young as five years old walk if they live less than 1.5 miles away from their school.

Our faculty salaries are often tens of thousands less than public school teachers, yet they joyfully serve. All teachers are evaluated annually; there is no tenure and underperforming teachers are not rehired. Our teachers take pride in knowing that, together, we set high standards for our pupils and themselves.

So why are our outcomes so different? Our Terra Nova tests reveal that except for several children with special learning challenges, the vast majority of our students are on or above grade level in math and reading/language arts, sometimes by two years. Our 8th graders move on to public and Catholic high schools with a high school graduation rate of 100 percent. No one drops out. Ninety-eight percent attend college or technical schools and distinguish themselves not only by their academic achievements but also by their character and discipline.

Our tag line for the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport is “Something More.” Why? Because we find that is why parents choose to send their children to school. They want “something more.” They want schools that are safe, develop character, celebrate religious diversity and encourage strong academics.

The court decision will lead to wide-ranging changes in the public education system, I am sure. However, I await the day when we can have a dialogue in America that allows public, religiously affiliated and independent schools to join hands in our common effort to make sure no student gets the short end of the stick educationally, and that academic success is not determined by ZIP code but by our resolve to provide the best for all children.

My Sheep Hear My Voice

A DAD’S VIEW
BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

I can barely hear what Sally is saying. Her lips move, but she’s covered her tiny mouth with miniature hands. She looks like someone with a secret that she might be willing to confess.

“Did you say something, sweetheart?” I ask, trying hard to conceal my curiosity, trying hard not to lead the witness.

Sally isn’t yet four years old. She has lately been struggling with the arrival of her new baby brother Billy, who has soaked up every excess ounce of attention since arriving home from the hospital. Fair to say, Sally would like her old place of prominence back. She isn’t above playing games to get it.

Sally repeats whatever it was she said the first time. Her voice is soft and high and gentle, like the puff of air beneath the wings of a butterfly. I still can’t hear it.

“I’m really sorry, love, but Daddy’s ears aren’t so good. What did you say?”

She drops her hands to her sides and glares. What a disappointment I must be. Here she is, ready to spill the beans, and Daddy is playing hard to get. What a letdown the big world can be when you’re three.

“My heart finds its rhythm again. Sally and me, we have a groovy kind of love.

“Oh, Sally, I love you too. More than you can ever know.”

We hug. She seems pleased again. At least until the next time I disappoint her.

The world is a confusing place. It will often ignore you. Things change in an instant, and they don’t change back. People are born; people die. Doubt persists. Every once in a while a kid needs to be reassured that Daddy’s full attention is obtainable.

The need doesn’t go away when you’re not a kid anymore. Maybe it dims a bit; dulls. The great existential fear is that no one’s listening.

“Do you love Daddy,” she says. My heart skips. “I wanted to whisper in your ear.” My heart finds its rhythm again. Sally and me, we have a groovy kind of love.

“Daddy doesn’t have all day. I’m getting ready to put the dishes away.” I can feel my patience slip. These are the times that try parents’ souls. Still holding my shoulder, still she says nothing.

“Sally…” I start, but she stops me.

“I love you Daddy,” she says. My heart skips. “I wanted to whisper in your ear.”

My heart finds its rhythm again. Sally and me, we have a groovy kind of love.

“We hug. She seems pleased again. At least until the next time I disappoint her.

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Fear of the void never leaves us. And Shanley is right—it sucks up a lot of energy. Though we profess faith, and look forward to the life of the world to come, we are vulnerable to the sins that are born of impatience. I know I am.

We are sheep. We need to hear the shepherd’s voice. In my moments of doubt, when I’m feeling ignored, I listen hard for that whisper in my ear, and I know I’m not alone. I know it.
Saint Mary, Norwalk

Regina Pacis Classical Catholic Academy thrives

By GREGORY BISHOP
AND PAUL BRUNNER

NORWALK—On September 8, the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Regina Pacis Academy (RPA) opened its doors to welcome families to its 12th academic year. The academy provides a classical curriculum to K-8 boys and girls in a whole-some Catholic environment at a reasonable cost for all.

As its Latin name attests, Regina Pacis Academy entrusts itself to the Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady, Queen of Peace.

“Our classical approach and our low student-to-teach-er ratios differentiate us from other schools in the area,” said the principal, Barbara Logsdail. “The children respond very well because our method fosters a love for learning by appealing to their natural intellectual curiosity and by building their self-esteem. We seek to provide children with the necessary tools for learning by developing a sense of wonder and love for all that is true, good and beautiful.”

The classical curriculum at RPA is directed toward the formation of the whole person—spiritually, intellectually, morally, socially and physically. Its goal is to form in the student the ability to learn new material. Instead of teaching what to think, students are taught how to think. Grounded in the trivium comprised of grammar, logic and rhetoric, RPA prepares students to enter high school by offering a full curriculum. This includes: theology; math through algebra I; English grammar and composition; history divided into four periods (the ancients, the medieval period through the Renaissance, the early modern era, modern times); science; Latin; art; music; drama; poetry; and physical education.

The teachers at RPA are the builders of this classical formation. “Our teachers are all practicing Catholics who are committed to pursuing our goals with excellence,” said Principal Logsdail.

RPA is located on the cam-pus of St. Mary Parish on West Ave. “The close proximity of the school to the church makes it convenient for the students and faculty to frequently participate in the sacraments,” said Father Richard Cipolla, pastor of St. Mary’s. “That includes weekly Mass, Adoration and Rosary and monthly confessions. Families and staff are also encouraged to attend the daily 8 am Mass before school whenever possible. Many of the boys serve at daily Mass.”

The classrooms and other facilities have been renovated over the past few years to create a welcoming and safe atmosphere, and the school also makes use of the gym and outdoor play areas.

“We’re grateful to Father Cipolla and the Bridgeport Diocese for the use of the premises,” said Fran Schanne, chair of the Board of Trustees, “and we’re pleased to be able to contribute to the gradual renovation of the overall facility. The arrangement benefits both the parish and the school and fosters a peaceful, thriving environment. Since we moved to St. Mary’s campus two years ago the building has pro-
vided a capacity that we did not previously have. We now have the ability to grow.”

The school draws families from a variety of cultural heri-tages, and from several different towns in Fairfield County. “Some of our families drive long distances to get to school every day,” said Sharon Marchetti, chair of the Seton Society, the school’s parent organization. “So it’s important to build a strong community by providing parents the opportunity to actively participate in the life and growth of our school through service.”

Regina Pacis Academy will host its main annual “Fall Gala” fundraiser on Saturday, December 10 at the Norwalk Shore and Country Club. “We’re committed to keeping tuition levels affordable for all,” said Michael Duchon, a parent and chair of the school’s Fall Gala committee. “It’s a real team effort with all our families pitching in to make the evening a great success.”

(For more information, visit reginapacisaacademy.com or call 203.642.4501. Anyone interested in attending or sponsoring the Fall Gala can contact Michael Duchon: mduchon@yahoo.com or 914.954.4000.)

Trinity Catholic High

STAMFORD—Sixteen months after Bishop Frank J. Caggiano presided over the ground breaking for the new Trinity Catholic High School multi-purpose ath-letic field, Interim Principal Tony Pavia welcomed donors, students, faculty, staff, parents and digni-taries from the Diocese of Bridgeport to the christening of the new multi-pur-pose athletic field.

Following the first Friday Mass, everyone made their way down to Gaglio Field for the christening ceremony.
Catholic Academy

‘Polpo’: a menu for success

GREENWICH—More than 50 people from Fairfield and Westchester counties turned out for a fundraising dinner at Polpo Restaurant in Greenwich on September 27, donating more than $225,000 to the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport—and surpassing last year’s record donations by several thousand dollars.

With its four campuses of St. Andrew, St. Ann, St. Augustine and St. Raphael, the Catholic Academy educates 930 students, most from the inner city of Bridgeport.

“We are completely thrilled and overwhelmed,” said the executive director of the Catholic Academy, Sister Joan Magnetti, rscj. “Our faithful supporters turned out tonight as well as many new donors who really believe in our mission and our students. This will further our commitment to raise over $2 million annually for scholarship awards.”

Brad Evans, chair of the board of the Catholic Academy and senior advisor at Morgan Stanley, welcomed all present, including fellow board members, the principals of the academy, and other invited guests. Paul Queally, former board member of the Catholic Academy and general partner and co-president of Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe and a parishioner of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, spoke of the importance that his wife Anne-Marie and he place on education and how essential it is that an excellent education rooted in values and faith will shape our future world.

Queally said that he and his wife were so enamored with the academy’s scholarship programs, particularly the Leaders of Tomorrow program, that they decided to “supersize” their commitment and start an additional scholarship program two years ago: the Queally Scholars. As a result, the Queallys now personally sponsor more than 60 students each year.

Queally encouraged those present to help in a similar way through the Leaders of Tomorrow program. With sponsorships of $4,500 per year, this program links donors with specific students, and donors receive report cards and letters from their students throughout the year. They also have the opportunity to meet with their sponsored child at their respective school.

Also speaking at Polpo was eighth grade teacher Ann Marie Donnelly, who shared highlights of her more than 30 years on the St. Augustine campus. “Each year my students have taught me something incredible, often with an overarching theme,” she said. “One year they taught me about determination, another about compassion, and last year, about love.”

In fact, the class of 2016 not only felt like a family to Donnelly, one student in particular felt like “a third son.” She explained, “One of my favorite students of all time is here with me tonight. At the end of last year he wrote me a thank you note and it started out ‘Dear Mom,’ because I was like a second mother to him.”

The student Donnelly referred to was José Dataram, a freshman at Fairfield Prep, who was accompanied to Polpo by his real mother, Rosa Torres. Dataram, one of seven children, boasted that all of his siblings have received a Catholic education in the city of Bridgeport and all have only been able to do so because of the generous financial aid they received. As Dataram spoke of the hardships he has experienced growing up in an inner city, the sacrifices he has watched his parents make to send him and his siblings to school, his story touched the hearts of those in attendance. The Queallys offered to help Dataram and his family on a continuous basis and encouraged others to do the same.

Celina intended to major in politics, but her advisor suggested a macroeconomics course, and she soon found herself drawn to other classes in the Busch School of Business and Economics. “I liked solving economics problems,” she says. Her professors were challenging, but supportive. “They were really engaging and cared more about us understanding the concepts than giving us a grade.” Catholic University empowers our students to be global citizens, working to improve the conditions of the world around us by creating opportunities for others.

Learn more and register for our open house at discover.cua.edu

Catholic University admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, or disability.
Deacons’ Wives Ministry

Students participate in food drives

By PAT HENNESSY

“Our food bank is very low—we need your help.”

Janie Jennings, who heads the Deacons’ Wives Ministry in the Stamford area, received that plea from St. Joseph Parenting Center in Stamford. The email went on to list the food items desperately needed, from cereal and soup to baby food.

Jennings’ husband, Deacon Paul Jennings, is assigned to Holy Spirit Parish in Stamford. The wives of deacons in the Diocese of Bridgeport were already actively involved in ministries throughout the diocese when they decided to organize more formally for fellowship and ministry. With the blessing of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, DW Ministry, Inc., was formally incorporated as a charitable organization on June 1, 2015.

They decided to meet monthly in each of the three areas of the irregular geographic triangle that makes up Fairfield County and to plan the social outreach most needed in their own communities. “When we all got together, we picked outreach to food pantries. ‘When we all got together, we picked outreach to food pantries. ’ ”

In order to assist local food pantries, DW ministries decided to enlist the participation of students in religious education and Catholic elementary schools. Ianniello spoke to Rose Talbot-Babey, coordinator of childhood faith formation in the diocesan Faith Formation Office, and Dr. Steven Cheeseman, superintendent of Catholic schools. Both gave their enthusiastic support.

“When we are instructing our children and their families in the faith, it’s always important to give them practical and ‘hands-on’ initiatives to bring the point home and help them become true disciples of Christ,” says Talbot-Babey. “The food collection with the Deacon’s Wives Ministries does just that. They experience what it means to serve Christ by serving the poor and less fortunate.”

“Ianniello, whose husband Dan is a deacon at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Fairfield. “Women in each area decided the program that could most use their help, like St. Joseph’s Parenting Center in the Stamford area, because they knew the local situation best.”

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“One of our missions at DW Ministries is to bring awareness to adults as well as children that one of the mandates of the Church is to feed the poor,” adds Ianniello.

She points as an example to Holy Spirit Parish in Stamford. Last year, at the conclusion of their food drive, each child in the religious education program brought a perishable food item to the altar during the offertory procession. Not only the children and their parents but the entire congregation was given concrete witness to the importance of Christian outreach.

DW Ministries is already speaking to directors of religious education, catechists, and Catholic school teachers to help them incorporate support for the poor into their religion classes. “This is one of our missions,” says Ianniello. “This is what we do as a Church.”

‘The Kindest School in America’

FAIRFIELD—The national Think Kindness Organization has recognized St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in Fairfield as the “The Kindest School in America.”

The school had participated in the Think Kindness program, sponsored by this non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire measurable acts of kindness in schools and communities around the world.

The program motivated the school to spark kindness both locally and globally over a period of 15 days. The school was challenged to perform 5,000 acts of kindness within the community and collect 1,921 pairs of gently-used shoes to donate to children in central Kenya. The school came together and not only met but exceeded their goal. 5,668 acts of kindness were performed and 4,038 pairs of shoes were collected!

School Principal Pat Brady exclaimed, “I was so proud of our students and teachers for how they embraced the Think Kindness program. It really had a great impact on our school community.”

In an effort to continue the positive school climate, this year the Think Kindness program challenged the school to form a service group called “Kindness Crew.” This group would serve as a pro-active step in promoting kindness and inclusion throughout the school for the entire year.

Principal Brady was anxious to announce this new peer-to-peer leadership program to her students but asked the organization for permission to rename it “Joey’s Crew” in honor of alumna Joey Kulaga ’15, who died in a tragic car accident in December 2015. Brian Williams, the founder of the program, agreed to the renaming of the program and arrived at the school for an assembly to kick off “Joey’s Crew.” In addition to the new school service group, a commemorative bench was placed on the school playground in honor of Joey’s kind and gentle spirit. The bench, also known as the “buddy bench,” invites any student in need of a playmate to sit on the bench. Others who see someone sitting on the bench will know they are looking for someone to play with and should invite them to play.
Walking Pilgrimage

Our Lady of Czestochowa

By ANNA HARABURDA

We are a young Catholic family from Stratford and members of St. Michael Parish in Bridgeport. We would like to share with you a beautiful experience that happened to us this summer. For the first time as a family we decided to go for a walking pilgrimage. My husband Tomasz and I, with our two-year-old daughter, walked four days to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa. It was an amazing experience that brought us closer together as a family.

Renowned for miracles, the icon of the Black Madonna of Czestochowa in Poland attracts thousands of pilgrims every year. Right before the feast of the Assumption in August, pilgrims from all over the country make the sacrifice and walk to Czestochowa. Some of them walk for two weeks.

The icon of the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus is well known throughout the world. Polish immigrants brought the devotion to America, and in 1955 a small chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Czestochowa was opened in Doylestown. It has grown to become the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

We learned about the walking pilgrimage from our pastor, Father Michael Nowak, at St. Michael’s. He told parishioners, who are mostly from a Polish background, that pilgrims gather in the month of August to walk to the shrine, imitating on a smaller scale the pilgrimage in Poland.

The pilgrimage route is 57 miles long, and walking it takes four days. All pilgrims get together in St. Peter’s and Paul’s Church in Great Meadows, N. J., and begin their walk from there.

This year a bus picked up people from areas in Connecticut, including about 20 people from our parish. Most of them were young couples, some with kids. From the starting point in New Jersey, there were around 2,500 people walking. More joined every day to be a part of the pilgrimage. By the time we reached the National Shrine, we were about 3,000 people who had come to pray together.

Pilgrims differ in age and nationality but there is one thing that unites them all—love for Our Lady. Someone can ask why? Why do people do that? Why leave your comfortable house, car, Internet, phone? Why choose to walk for miles, often in rain or heat and humidity? Why not simply drive there by car or bus?

There are many reasons to join a pilgrimage. Let me share a few. First of all, you unite with others in Christ. We are all brothers and sisters in him. This is a very formative experience for all Catholics because we share the same values and we want to confirm our Christian identity—especially in today’s world.

This is a great experience for families. As young parents, we want to convey our faith to our daughter. Walking as a family, we spent time together. (Not to mention how much fun our daughter had sleeping in a tent!) We had buses ready for people at every stop to stop and provided a first aid dinner, carried our luggage from stop to stop and provided a first aid team. Many who could not walk signed up as volunteers—including the people who made 2000 sandwiches each morning!

Along the way, we had thunderstorms. I learned that, in my life, if God lets that storm come, then that’s his will. He will be with you. You’ll get through it.

By the end of the pilgrimage I was exhausted. I learned that everything, even this walk, depends on God, not on me. Everything in my life is a blessing from him.

(To learn more about the pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, go to www.czestochowa.us.)
St. Vincent’s College

Ministers of Mercy

BRIDGEPORT—“You’re at the frontline of suffering. You enter the rooms of those who are suffering and serve as Ministers of Mercy,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano to 250 students and faculty of St. Vincent’s College.

The bishop delivered his homily at the 2016 Convocation Mass, held in the Hawley Conference Center. The event also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the transition from School of Nursing to St. Vincent’s College.

Dr. Karen Barnett, Dean of Health Services of St. Vincent’s College, delivered the welcome. “We are children of God called to share his mercy and we are citizens of the nation called to serve the community,” she said.

Priests from the St. Vincent’s Pastoral Care Department concelebrated the Mass with the bishop, while students and faculty members delivered the readings and responses. Vince Caponi, newly named CEO of St. Vincent’s Health Services, was also in attendance.

Speaking on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the bishop said that suffering is part of the human condition, but people can choose to transform it through the eyes of faith and mercy.

“In suffering we can choose to surrender ourselves to the will of God and trust in his great love,” said the bishop.

The bishop noted that when Jesus appeared to the Apostles after his death, he had the “wounds of the cross on his hands and in his side. Even in glory, Christ bears the wounds of his passion,” said the bishop.

“The cross reveals a God who is not afraid to stand by his people in their suffering. “God is never closer to the human heart than in the moment of suffering,” the bishop said as an ambulance siren sounded outside the building.

The bishop said that even when healthcare workers cannot reverse the course of suffering, they can help to bring life and healing. “You enter into the wounded-ness of others. Thank you for being ministers of mercy,” he told the future healthcare professionals.

During the ceremony, Bishop Caggiano blessed the new chalice and paten purchased for the St. Vincent’s Medical Center Chapel. He also blessed the St. Vincent’s College flag, which was raised on the Main St. flagpole following Mass.

Mike Gargano, president of St. Vincent’s College, called the convocation “an historic moment,” and asked students to think of the new flag as a symbol of the school’s history, which began with the “vision of the Daughters of Charity to serve the poorest and sickest among us.”

President Gargano said the Sisters didn’t do their work for recognition, and he urged students to always keep in mind that “Nothing matters if we don’t serve others.”

Gregory Norbet, Dan Schutte to appear in concert

FAIRFIELD—Two Catholic musicians and composers who have written some of the most enduring and memorable songs for contemporary worship in the Church will join forces for a rare concert together on Sunday, October 23, at 6 pm at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield.

Gregory Norbet, who spent 21 years as a Benedictine monk and music director at Weston Priory in Vermont, and Dan Schutte, who began his work as a composer of the St. Louis Jesuit Mass, will perform some of their best known songs along with new music.

Norbet is the composer of songs such as Hosanna, All I Ask of You, Wherever You Go, Dona Nobis Pacem, and Peace, Come To Me, while Schutte’s work includes standards such as Here I am Lord, City of God and Only this I Want.

Father John Baran, pastor of St. Anthony Parish, said both men have provided music for liturgies at the parish over the years, but the October 23 event will be the first time the two nationally known composers will come together for a performance.

Father Baran said the concert will also be a special moment because it celebrates the parish’s joining the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport.

“Profits from the concert will be donated to this amazing organization, which under the capable leadership of Rev. Cass Shaw runs many programs that “fill in the gap” for people in need. They are currently trying to raise $25,000 so their 40 food pantries and soup kitchens can continue to provide food through the end of December,” he said.

Eleanor Sauers, director of religious education at St.

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY
CATHOLIC
October 2016
**High School News**

**Immaculate goes solar**

**BY ALEXANDRIA FAIZ**

Anthony Rizzo, Jr., calls Immaculate High School in Danbury a “hidden jewel.” Over the summer, he helped to change that. Now any aerial photograph of the school shows gleaming new solar panels on the roof—topping off numerous other energy efficiency upgrades completed in August.

Rizzo, serving as chair of the school’s advisory board, worked closely with Richard Rapice, project manager in the Diocese of Bridgeport Real Estate Office, and fellow Immaculate board members, Gerry Hatcher and David Cappiello, to replace the 50-year-old roof and the boiler as well as every single light bulb. The renovation also gave the school shows gleaming new solar panels on the roof—topping off numerous other energy efficiency upgrades completed in August.

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The complete project cost $700,000, but it’s projected to save Immaculate 20 percent annually in energy costs. Even with a steadily increasing enrollment and generous contributions from the Immaculate community, raising that amount of money required finding another financial partner. That role was filled by the Connecticut Green Bank, which runs the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program, commonly known as C-PACE. C-PACE enables property owners to gradually pay for certain energy-related improvements with an additional charge on their property tax bills. It was this program, according to Rizzo, that made the major renovations at Immaculate possible.

Rapice’s contacts can also assist in applying for various public programs like C-PACE. Thus far, his office has performed over 30 energy audits. His deep experience gives access to some insider tips. Solar panel installations, for instance, are often based on a twenty-year lease, which costs the parish or school very little.

However, the roof they’re being placed on needs to last that long. So a roof replacement may be needed, which was the case for Immaculate High School. Also, after looking at the whole building and how it is being used, some upgrades may be more useful—and cost less—than others. “Switching to LED lighting and upgrading HVAC controls may offer a far better return than installing low-flush toilets or green roofs,” he says.

This energy-efficiency service formally started just over a year ago, one of the outcomes of the Diocesan Synod. However, Catholic dioceses have been shining a light on ways to better manage their buildings well before Pope Francis’s 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’*. Between 1989 and 1994, dioceses from Baltimore, the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania gathered their facility managers together, an effort that grew into the annual, and national, Conference for Catholic Facility Management or CCFM.

Baltimore and Chicago have really taken the lead in this area,” said Rapice in a recent interview. “We’re looking to do many more energy projects throughout the Bridgeport Diocese.” He’s currently overseeing projects at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull and St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Stamford, along with others.

The Pope advised in his encyclical: “Environmental impact assessment should not come after the drawing up of a business proposition or the proposal of a particular policy, plan or program. It should be part of the process from the beginning, and be carried out in a way which is interdisciplinary, transparent and free of all economic or political pressure.”

Anthony Rizzo from Immaculate agrees. He detailed how the high school’s renovation has been an ongoing focus area for the board for many years, from converting the library into a learning commons, redoing the gymnasium, and expanding the chapel to increasing security measures. Saving dollars on the next energy bill wasn’t the main reason to put cranes on the roof this summer. “Everything we do is for the students,” Rizzo emphasized. “If something helps them learn or perform better, that becomes a priority.”

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Anthony’s said the relationship of both artists to the parish developed in an organic fashion over the last few years.

“Gregory and Dan, at various times, were invited to help the parish celebrate the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent. Through these visits, they embraced the parish, being drawn by the welcoming spirit of the congregation and the collaboration of the staff, led by Father Baran.” Sauers said the parish in turn embraced Gregory and Dan, loving their music and anticipating their return.

She said the idea of singing together in concert developed over the course of this past Triduum, and both artists were intrigued by the idea of doing a benefit for the Council of Churches.

*(Concert tickets available through the Box Office at the Quick Center: 203.254.4010. Cost: $33 for general seating, $50 for preferred seating and a pre-concert wine and cheese reception with the artists. Seats are limited and the concert is open to the entire diocese.)*
Star of the Sea

Fr. Rob Galea has ‘X-factor’

STAMFORD—Father Rob Galea, a young Catholic priest from the island of Malta who gained fame for his performance on the Australian television musical competition show, “The X-Factor,” will perform in concert at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Stamford, on Saturday, November 19, beginning at 7 pm.

Star of the Sea Parish is sponsoring his appearance in conjunction with Malta House to raise money for the parish and Malta House, which helps young pregnant women in need of housing and familial support.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer this concert to our parish and the public at large in our very own church. Father Rob is an incredibly talented musician who helps to show Christ’s love for us all in a fun, family-friendly manner,” said Father Peter Smolik, pastor of Star of the Sea. “We are always looking for different ways to engage with the public and we are excited to partner with Malta House for this benefit concert.”

Father Rob has a significant evangelistic and outreach ministry, speaking and singing at schools, conferences, and churches around Australia and the world, to over 200,000 young people every year. He was chosen to sing in the international version of the World Youth Day song, “Receive the Power,” and has personally written songs for a number of different international conferences and promotions.

Father Rob, who was ordained in 2010, is currently serving as an assistant priest at St. Killian Parish in Victoria, Australia. He is a founding member of the Stronger Youth Program, an initiative that consists of retreats, rallies and small group meetings among Catholic youth in Australia to foster their faith and sense of community.

The evening will get under way with a 5 pm reception to honor longtime Our Lady Star of the Sea parishioner Bob Unwold with the the first Msgr. Edward Surwilo Award. Bob, who joined the parish in 1983, was a member of the parish advisory committee for over two decades and a parish trustee from 2005 until his retirement in 2015, during which time he actively supported the church community as a whole.

“I couldn’t have asked for a more committed, well-connected and talented person to work with over all of his years of service to the parish,” said Msgr. Surwilo.

(Concert tickets are $25; tickets to the VIP reception are $100 ($50 for those 30 and under). For more information and for tickets, go to www.maltahouse.org or ourladystaroftheseastamford.org.)

Respect Life Mass

THE PERRY FAMILY presented flowers to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the unborn.

(STAFF PHOTO BY MICHELLE BABYAK)

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Respect Life Mass

STAMFORD—On October 2, Father Robert Kinnally, chancellor of the diocese, celebrated a Respect Life Mass at Holy Spirit Parish in Stamford. The Mass initiates the observance of Respect Life month every October.

This year the theme is “Moved by Mercy.” Throughout the month, special activities and observances will bring home to Catholics the importance of every human life, assisting women in crisis pregnancies, visiting the sick and homebound, welcoming immigrants and showing in so many different ways “when you do this for the least of these, you do it for me” (Matt 25: 40).

“While all of us are called to respect life from its beginning to natural death, sometimes society and government disappoint us,” said Father Kinnally. “Respect Life Month reminds us to pray, discern—and act. This is what we as a Church are called to do.”
Respect Life

Sister Bernard captures life stories

By Pat Hennessy

“I love my ministry,” says Sister Mary Bernard Wiecezak, CFSN. “I love people. I minister to the elderly, right to the point of death.”

As the pastoral associate for Homebound Ministry at St. Peter Parish in Danbury, Sister Bernard in Danbury, Ridgefield and Bethel. Altogether she may see 80 people a month. “No two days are the same,” she says. “The purpose is simple, to keep people connected to the parish. When I come, it’s a little bit of a social visit, letting them know what’s going on in the parish. It’s a concern visit, ‘How are you, how is the family doing?’ And it’s a spiritual visit that may or may not include the Eucharist. When I go in, I look around. ‘Are there flowers, cards, special baked treats?’ That can get the stories started—who sent you the flowers? ‘Who did the baking?’ Were you usually the baker in your family?”

Initially joining the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth as a teacher, she has taught every age from elementary through high school. As a partial listing of her experiences through the years, she has worked as a nanny, been a principal, taught at Sacred Heart University, served in the Vatican on the secretarial staff of Pope John Paul II, staffed a teen pregnancy center, worked in the Monroe town library, and is certified in therapeutic recreation for nursing homes. Given her variety of interests and experiences, what does she do in her time away from her ministry to the ill and home-bound, depending on their needs?

Sister Bernard is not only filled with a love of people of all ages and stages of life, she brings a wide-ranging background to her ministry. “I’ve seen life in all of its facets,” she says. “She’s not exaggerating.

“In 1998, I learned about volunteer opportunities at Griffin Hospital in Derby,” she recalls. Then working in therapeutic recreation at Southport Manor, Sister Bernard started giving up a free day each week to volunteer at Griffin. She began simply, baking muffins and cookies for patients, visitors and staff. After a short time she felt called to another volunteer prospect, one that remains close to her heart.

Through Griffin’s volunteer services she began writing Vital Patient Stories, usually for hospice patients. “These are not a biography,” she emphasizes. “They are a way to share happy memories with the people you love.” Her greatest skill is not her writing talent, strong though it is. Love of the people who share their stories, a heart filled with compassion, and the ability to listen are her most important qualities.

“When I go in, I look around. ‘Are there flowers, cards, special baked treats?’ That can get the stories started—who sent you the flowers? ‘Who did the baking?’ Were you usually the baker in your family?” Once she has made a friendly connection, Sister Bernard explains what the patient stories are, and offers to write one. She doesn’t take notes, just listens intently. “These are stories that are close to their heart—stories about their children, their life together, their grandchildren.”

Although most of the patients are in hospice care, what matters most to them are the cherished experiences of a lifetime. “I had a woman who enjoyed doing Christmas shopping in July to take advantage of all the sales. She had completed her shopping, and wrapped the presents, before she went into the hospital. A man spent the whole visit talking about the time he first met his wife. Another was the neighborhood handyman. An Italian lady loved to make meatballs. Her husband gave the ultimate compliment of saying they were better than his mother’s!”

“For families, these can become cherished memories,” says Diane Betkoski, director of Planetree Volunteer Services at Griffin. Planetree is an organization dedicated to humanizing health care, “and Griffin is the flagship of the network.” Although they maintain patient confidentiality, if the patients are willing, Sister Bernard will add their story to the medical record. “It helps the doctors, the nurses, the aides to know who they are as a person, not just a patient,” says Betkoski.

By now, Sister Bernard has written over a thousand stories. Although she writes them immediately after her visit, more than once the patient has finished life’s journey by the time she comes back. “I don’t see it as something depressing,” she says. “It’s a joy and a privilege. How much more can you show respect for a life if, at the moment before death, I have them looking backward with joy and forward to the afterlife.”

One story she shares captures that experience exactly. The adventurous teenager who, at fourteen, got a tattoo of an eagle on his arm. “To me it seemed symbolic of who I wanted to be,” he told Sister Bernard. Now, after a full life, he feels like that bird. “Confident, efficient and strong, I have faced many situations that have challenged me,” he went on. “Like an eagle I will fly to the end of my days, knowing that my life has been lived to the fullest.”
Respect Life

A Dream Becomes Reality

By THOM GUTHRIE AND ELLEN MCGINNESS

Nervous … is how Laura Veira described her feelings when she walked into the Catholic Charities of Fairfield County (CCFC) Immigration Services office three years ago at the young age of fifteen. But she had decided to make a leap of faith that Alex Arevalo, an immigration counselor there, would help her achieve her goal to be in the United States without fear of deportation.

Arevalo delivered, successfully registering the undocumented girl from Colombia with the United States government through DACA.

Why did that matter? Because Laura would be eligible to receive a renewable two-year work permit and exemption form. But more on Laura later.

The Catholic Church has always made a point of providing for those in great need, and Catholic Charities of Fairfield County is continuing that tradition with its Immigration Services program in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Created in 2006 to meet the urgent needs of Fairfield County’s 194,000 foreign-born residents, it nurtures the largest such population in Connecticut.

In addition to providing support services within Catholic Charities, the program also coordinates social support from various local communities. Over the past decade, more than 350 people have been helped each year through CCFC’s programs.

One service offered is legal counseling, from consultation to full representation, in family-based immigration services. To facilitate this, the full-time and part-time workers at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport and a part-time trained volunteer at the New Covenant Center in Stamford are accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals, allowing them to act as comprehensive advocates throughout the entire immigration process. With their assistance the Immigration Services program strives to make the experience easier and more understandable for clients.

Another service offered is case management, which addresses the day-to-day needs of clients’ lives such as English as a Second Language instruction, U.S Civics and Literacy for Naturalization interviews, employment services, as well as securing food, clothing, housing, and health insurance for long-term legal permanent residents who seek CCFC’s assistance.

What’s more, in order to create a system that promotes and maintains the goals of peace and justice, fostering the human spirit and aiding those in the direst need, the CCFC immigration program acts to educate clients and the general public regarding laws, policies, and practices that are unfair and inhumane.

In Bridgeport, the office is open five days a week, including evening appointments. Since the Latino community comprises the majority of immigrants in Fairfield County, assistance is available in both Spanish and English. In addition to its existing resources, the immigration program is also closely affiliated with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), which offers access to ongoing training, an attorney help line, program management legal assistance, technical legal assistance, and administrative advocacy support. CLINIC is the nation’s largest network of non-profit immigration programs.

Given the demand for these services—which is projected to increase—CCFC is planning growth beyond Bridgeport. The first expansion is targeted for the CCFC’s New Covenant Center, a soup kitchen and pantry in Stamford. That city has the highest proportion of immigrants in Connecticut and is also one with the largest underserved population. Among the program’s future goals are to develop immigration sites in Norwalk and Danbury, where CCFC has already established offices for other types of programs and services. These two cities also count a high proportion of immigrants among their population.

Back to Laura Veira’s story. This past June, she graduated as valedictorian of Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk. When she took the podium for her valedictorian speech, she stunned the crowd. Laura publicly announced that she was an undocumented immigrant. That she had sacrificed friendships and endured great anxiety harboring her secret. That she decided to stop hiding and reveal her undocumented status.

Laura also shared with the audience that she had joined a statewide organization of youth immigration advocates called Connecticut Students for a Dream (CT4D). They are part of the national organization of DAccented DREAMers, a group whose members could potentially qualify for the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, if it is ever enacted into law. Taking these actions, Laura said, helped lessen her fears of being deported and put her on a better track.

Besides earning valedictorian status, Laura’s impressive academic achievements include outperforming the majority of high school students, immigrant or native, around the country. As if all of this is not enough, she accomplished a feat many would argue is one of the biggest of American dreams: she was accepted into Harvard University this fall and is now studying there amidst the best and brightest from around the world.

That day three years ago when Laura walked into Catholic Charities’ immigration office was one she’ll never forget. This undocumented, talented young woman sees it as the beginning of her journey to play by the rules, alleviate her fears, and rely on her current school’s motto, Veritas—or truth—to make her dream a reality.

(For more information on this program, contact Alex Arevalo: aarevalo@ccfc-ct.org. To support it through a donation, contact Bill Moran: wmoran@ccfc-ct.org.)
CAPP Communion Breakfast

Dr. John Murphy to speak at Fairfield U

FAIRFIELD—Dr. John Murphy, president and chief executive officer of the Western Connecticut Health Network, will be the featured speaker at the 10th Annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, November 6, at Fairfield University. The annual breakfast is sponsored by Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice (CAPP) of Fairfield County and by Fairfield University’s Center for Faith and Public Life.

The morning will begin at 9 a.m. at Fairfield University’s Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola with the celebration of Mass by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. Immediately following the Mass, breakfast will be served in the nearby Oak Room in the Barone Campus Center. There Murphy will deliver his talk, “Is Healthcare Simply a Commodity? The Risks of Commercializing Our Healthcare Delivery System.”

Dr. Murphy is a neurologist who joined Danbury Hospital as executive vice president in 2008 and became the hospital’s president and CEO in July 2010. As president and CEO, he establishes the vision, strategy and key priorities for the Western Connecticut Health Network, ensuring their realization by overseeing the direction for clinical development, new program offerings and system expansion. Dr. Murphy works with the network’s clinical leadership and community physicians to establish collaborative care delivery models that have improved patient outcomes, lowered costs, and grown the Network’s physician portfolio. His thoughtful leadership is advancing the Network to become an integrated health care delivery system focused on accessible, efficient, accountable care and population health management.

This year’s CAPP Business Leadership Award will be presented to Gail Berardino for her philanthropic work for the American Association of the Knights of Malta. Before joining the American Association of the Knights of Malta, Berardino’s career in management at the McCall Pattern Company, spanned 30 years. In 2010, Berardino retired as vice president of advertising and promotions and publisher of Vogue Patterns Magazine. During her time at McCall Pattern Company, she pioneered mass-market promotions for Vogue, Butterick and McCall patterns to national multi-channel retailers including Wal-Mart, QVC, and Jo-Ann Fabrics. She also authored the Super Sweater Idea Book. Berardino and her husband Joe have actively supported Catholic and Jesuit missions, including establishing scholarships at Fairfield University, Boston College, and Georgetown University. In 2010, Berardino co-chaired the Order of Malta’s 25th annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

(Seating is limited. Tickets are $35 and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact Michelle Ross: 203.254.4000, ext. 3415, or mross@fairfield.edu, or visit www.fairfield.edu/communion-breakfast.)
Diocesan Pilgrimage Preparation

Consecration of the Diocese of Bridgeport to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday, November 5, 2016
St. Augustine Cathedral, 1:00-5:00 pm

I. The Meaning of Christian Pilgrimage

This is the first of four preparatory essays for the Consecration of the Diocese of Bridgeport to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Hearing the word “pilgrimage” might bring to mind images of men and women of long ago, trekking over difficult, hilly terrain, on their way to a distant destination, making the pilgrimage to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. But pilgrimages are not just from times past. They are still very much part of the Church’s life. Pilgrimages are privileged, spiritual opportunities for all of us to grow in our faith.

Just as our whole lives are a journey through time, with the goal of that journey being to reach safely the presence of Christ Himself, so too a pilgrimage is a journey made by a person of faith to a site which holds some deep spiritual significance.

When Pope Francis called the whole Church to observe the Jubilee Year of Mercy which is now underway, explaining why making a pilgrimage is especially appropriate for this Year. He wrote: “The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a visitor, a pilgrim travelling along the road … May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God’s mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us” (Misericordiae Vultus, 14).

Our diocesan family of faith will have the opportunity to make such a pilgrimage on Saturday, November 5. Rather than traveling to a far-off place, the destination of our diocesan pilgrimage will be St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport so that as many people as possible may take part. At the Cathedral that day, each pilgrim will have the opportunity to pass through the Holy Door and receive the Jubilee Indulgence, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to be present as Bishop Frank J. Caggiano consecrates the Diocese of Bridgeport to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

II. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

This is the second of four preparatory essays for the Consecration of the Diocese of Bridgeport to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Together with Pope Francis, who reminds us that “mercy is a goal to reach, and requires dedication and sacrifice,” let us pray that we, together with our brothers and sisters across our diocese, will respond enthusiastically to this invitation, so that our diocesan pilgrimage and consecration on November 5 will be a day of joy, and of lasting grace, for this local Church in this Jubilee Year of Mercy.
Diocesan Pilgrimage Preparation

by man’s indifference to this love. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus involves both acknowledging Him as our Creator, Redeemer and King, and also by repenting, turning away from sin and renouncing all that does not love and serve Him more faithfully. Jesus promised to those who practice and encourage devotion to His Sacred Heart: 1) He will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life; 2) He will establish peace in their homes; 3) He will comfort them in all their afflictions; 4) He will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death; 5) He will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings; 6) Sinners will find in His Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy; 7) Lukewarm souls shall become fervent; 8) Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection; 9) He will bless every place in which an image of His Heart is exposed and honored; 10) He will give to priests the gift of touching hearts, so that they may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

O my Jesus, you have said: “Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.” Behold in your name, I ask the Father for the grace of … (here name your request).

As you pray the novena, please include with your intentions the needs of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Novenas

O my Jesus, you have said: “Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.” Behold in your name, I ask the Father for the grace of … (here name your request).

As you pray the novena, please include with your intentions the needs of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Novena Prayers

O my Jesus, you have said: “Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.” Behold in your name, I ask the Father for the grace of … (here name your request).

As you pray the novena, please include with your intentions the needs of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Holy See grants Plenary Indulgence for Diocesan Pilgrimage

The Decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See grants a Plenary Indulgence to all those who on November 5, attend the pilgrimage personally at St. Augustine Cathedral or participate in the day through communication technologies: the Mass will be live streamed on Periscope (@dioceseofbridgeport) and Facebook Live (DioceseofBridgeport).

A plenary indulgence is the full remission of the temporal punishment due to those sins which have already been absolved in Confession. To obtain this indulgence, one must also go to sacramental Confession, receive Holy Communion and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.
Sports

Congratulations Ryan Boyle

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—Ryan Boyle, former Monroe resident and St. Joseph High School Car Club, founding president of the St. Joe’s Car Club, where he became Student Council President, was elected to the student council, enjoyed working with the video production club and was a student ambassador.

Ryan’s parents, Matthew and Nancy, and older brother Matthew were on hand at the Olympic Stadium in Rio.

Upon learning of his silver, Ryan came to tears knowing how hard he had worked to achieve his goal of winning his first Paralympic medal. “My family is here and my parents are the first people I saw when I crossed the line,” he said. “When I saw them and then heard the news I couldn’t stop my emotions.”

Among his other achievements, Ryan wrote a book of his experience: When the Lights go Out: A Boy Given a Second Chance.

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT: OCTOBER 16—NOVEMBER 19

October
16 Msgr. John V. Horgan Kung ................................. 2009
17 Msgr. Benedict Tighe ......................................... 2004
18 Bishop Walter W. Curtis ................................. 1997
19 Rev. Cornelius J. Looney ................................. 1974
22 Msgr. David F. Bannon ........................................ 1979
27 Rev. Robert C. Franklin ........................................ 1991
28 Deacon Donald Fonseca ...................................... 1989
29 Rev. Gerard C. Mason ......................................... 1994
30 Rev. Leo M. Finn .............................................. 1960
31 Rev. Francis D. McKenna ...................................... 1989

November
6 Rev. Bernard Dolan .............................................. 2010
9 Rev. Stephen A. Grinvalsky ...................................... 1972
10 Rev. Gerard C. Mason ......................................... 1993
11 Msgr. Victor J. Torres-Frias ...................................... 1995
13 Msgr. Alphonse J. V. Pieczurczak ........................ 1987
15 Rev. John P. Ocie ............................................. 1999
17 Rev. M. Steven Barrett, S.S. ...................................... 2000
19 Rev. Rocco D. Nadile .............................................. 1978

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Shelton-born Archbishop Gerety dies

TOTOWA, N.J.—Shelton-born and raised Archbishop Peter L. Gerety, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Newark, died Sept. 20 while in the care of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Totowa, N.J. He was 104.

Archbishop Gerety was the world’s oldest Catholic bishop at the time of his death. By 2007, when he was merely a young 95, he was already the oldest living U.S. bishop.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Archbishop Gerety in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on September 26.

The archbishop had maintained a strong connection to his hometown and diocese throughout the years. “Archbishop Gerety grew up in St. Joseph’s, has been in contact with Archbishop Gerety over the years. She says that his days at Shelton High left the football team with a longstanding tradition. “To this day, before a game, the team has a tradition of attending Mass at St. Joseph because of Archbishop Gerety,” she said. “Of course it’s optional—some members of the team aren’t Catholic. But the parish provides sandwiches for the team afterwards, and that custom began with Father Gerety.”

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One hallmark of his service in the Archdiocese of Hartford was ministry to black Catholics in New Haven. He founded an inter racial social and religious center, the St. Martin de Porres Center, which gained parish status in 1956 with then-Father Gerety as its first pastor. In the 1960s, he founded the New Haven chapter of the Urban League and was a member of the National Catholic Conference on Interracial Justice.

He was appointed coadjutor bishop of Portland, Maine in 1966 and became the eighth bishop of Portland in 1969, where he was active in pro-life and social justice causes.

In 1974 he was named Archbishop of Newark. There, Archbishop Gerety expanded outreach to black and Hispanic Catholics, and shored up a deteriorating archdiocesan financial base.

“He led a most remarkable life in so many ways,” said Bishop Caggiano, “including his longevity. When he returned to St. Joseph Parish to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2013, he was the only person who was there at both the Church’s opening and its 100th anniversary. He is remembered as a man of wit and humor with a great love for the poor and a sense of the importance of community in the life of the Church and in our neighborhoods.”

Msgr. McCormick, St. Birgitta chaplain

Msgr. Robert F. McCormick, resident chaplain of the Convent of St. Birgitta in Darien, died on September 23 at St. Birgitta. He was 95 years old.

Raised in New Rochelle, N.Y., Msgr. McCormick was the youngest of eight children. He received a B.A. from Fordham University before completing his theological studies at Dunwoodie Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y. Upon his ordination in 1947, Msgr. McCormick served at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel at the Military Academy at West Point, for 28 years until 1975. In 1975 he was appointed pastor at St. Augustine Parish in Ossining, N.Y. and was elevated to Monsignor during his tenure there. He served as pastor until his retirement in 1994.

In 1997, Msgr. McCormick became the chaplain at the Convent of St. Birgitta, located in the Tokeneke section of Darien, where he served the community with daily Mass and frequent discussion groups. His homilies affected people for their simplicity and wisdom and he will be remembered by many for his trademark line “Only good lovers go to heaven.” Msgr. McCormick had tremendous admiration for the work of the Bridgettine Sisters who run the convent. Throughout his 69 years in the priesthood, Msgr. McCormick was known for his quick wit and keen sense of humor.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Augustine Church on September 30. His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, was the principal celebrant. Burial followed at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in New Rochelle.
Santa Ana acoge a los vecinos hispanos

POR MARICARMEN GODOY

El vecindario de Black Rock, ubicado en la frontera de Fairfield y Bridgeport, ha visto crecer durante este último año la comunidad hispana de la Parroquia de Santa Ana (Saint Ann), gracias a que el grupo de Consagrados de María solicitó al Padre Peter Lynch que oficiará una misa dominical y los sacramentos en español debido a que notaron que la agrupación estaba creciendo y requería de atención urgente.

Al inicio, cuenta César Vertiz, de origen peruano y presidente del Grupo Hispano de la comunidad de Santa Ana, el Padre Lynch estuvo preocupado porque creía que, a pesar de haber vivido varios años en España, su español sería insuficiente como para tratar asuntos hispanos. Pero poco a poco los feligreses le fueron dando confianza, y al mediodía del domingo 2 de agosto del 2015, celebró la primera Misa en español con treinta feligreses y dio por fundado el primer movimiento hispano en la parroquia. Con el apoyo del Diácono José Vásquez y Erika Rivera, encargados de la liturgia, y del grupo de Consagrados de María, Santa Ana, situada en 481 Brewster Street, abría sus puertas a los feligreses hispanos y ofrecía no solamente misas en español, sino que habría una reunión ampliada para formar un comité para acrecentar el ministerio hispano con lectores, monaguillos, catequistas, cantores, etc.

“Queríamos darle a nuestra iglesia un sentido de pertenencia y por eso todos los que vivimos en este vecindario y que formamos el grupo Consagrados de María optamos por salir a las calles, pegando afiches en las tiendas y lavanderías y contándonos a nuestras amistadas y vecinos que Santa Ana se volvió hispana”, dijo Vertiz, quien reconoce que la labor del Padre Lynch ha sido invaluable porque ha logrado mantener la atención a los feligreses hispanos, porque ha logrado fortalecer un movimiento católico que se dedica a velar por los niños a través del catecismo, a fomentar la fe a través de los cursillos sobre la fe y los sacramentos y a encontrar la unidad entre sus miembros que se reúnen para orar, comulgar, confesarse y para cocinar y repartir comidas, ensayar las canciones de la misa y para los eventos artísticos.

El Padre Lynch, con la responsabilidad a cuestas, se reunió con el Obispo Frank Caggiano, quien inmediata- mente le dio el visto bueno para que desarrollase el “Ministerio Hispano”. El siguiente paso fue solicitar al Padre Jesuita, Gerald Blaszczak, SJ, director espiritual de Fairfield University, apoyo para celebrar dos veces al mes la misa dominical; e iniciar la búsqueda de familias con niños para que acudan a la catequesis y sirvan de monaguillos en las homilías.

El Padre “Jerry”, por su parte, hace lo suyo. Con apuntes escritos a mano prepara todo el sermón que va a predicar en su misa dominical y aparta un glo- sario de palabras que las llama “vocabulario” para asegurarse que cada palabra que dice sea correcta, tanto en su pronunciación como en su significado.

“Empiezo a preparar la misa desde el lunes. Poco a poco voy leyendo las lecturas, los salmos, las oraciones, el evangelio del día y armo mi hoja de vocabulario porque el español no es mi lengua materna”, cuenta.

Al preguntarle al Padre Jerry porqué le gusta trabajar en Santa Ana, en forma simple reconoce que Santa Ana representa el corazón estadounidense porque es el reflejo de la inmigración y la calidez con que el pueblo debe acogerlos.

“Yo soy nieto de un polaco. Mi abuelo, en su momento, abandonó su país buscando una mejor vida, este fenómeno de la inmigración se repite una y otra vez, pero ahora en estos tiempos estamos viendo que algunos líde- res reaccionan en contra de los inmigrantes olvidándose de que esto ha dado fuerza a nuestra nación”, dijo.

Durante este primer año de vida hispana en Santa Ana ya se han podido notar varias fiestas propias de Latinoamérica. Los mexicanos del Grupo Tepeyac celebraron la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe, se impulsaron las posadas de Navidad, y el próxi- mo 16 de octubre la comunidad peruana realizará una Misa de Acción de Gracias en honor al Señor de los Milagros, patrono del Perú.

De las cien familias hispanas registradas que asisten regularmente a la parroquia, la mayoría son oriundos de México, Guatemala y Honduras; seguidos por El Salvador, Ecuador, Perú, Colombia y Puerto Rico. Mensualmente en el salón comunitario feligreses del Grupo Hispano venden comida que preparan en sus casas con el fin de ayudar a pagar los gastos de la parroquia. La próxima venta de comida será el 23 de octubre.

En este año el Padre Lynch ha realizado siete bautizos y se encuentra preparando a 60 niños para que hagan el próxi- mo año su Primera Comunión, de los cuales un 40 por ciento son hispanos. Los viernes a las 7 pm se reza el Santo Rosario en inglés y español; los confe- siones se ofrecen cada sábado a partir de las tres de la tarde y 15 minutos antes de cada Misa. El primer viernes de cada mes se cumple la Adoración al Santísimo y se reza el Rosario. Y cada segundo sábado del mes desde las 7:30 pm se efectúa un evento especial llamado “Catholic Underground”, dispuesto para acrecentar la fe.

“La Iglesia quiere que a través del Señor haya unidad entre nosotros y que el corazón de Jesús se junte con el corazón de nosotros; eso se logra estan- do cerca de los sacramentos y viviendo en la misericordia de su amor”, sintetizó en su mensaje el Padre Lynch para entender por qué aceptó el reto de apoyar un movimiento hispano en su parroquia.
I sometimes think that God gave us the mystics to remind us that the Church has a heart as well as a head, and that the heart of the Church is the heart of Jesus.

Mysticism is one of those subjects that can only be trivialized by writing about it. Yet when you are in the presence of the mystical heart it is an unmistakable witness to the presence of God. The Selected Poetry of Jessica Powers (Sister Miriam) is one such manifestation of the mystical.

Jessica Powers was a Discalced Carmelite nun who lived from 1905-1988. She entered the convent in 1941 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and took the name Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit. Her life in the rugged beauty of the Wisconsin countryside was outwardly unremarkable. During her long years of prayer and service she wrote about 400 poems. Many of these poems are astonishing. They are the portrait of a soul so alive with ecstasy and despair, longing and surrender, in the beauty of nature and in the depth of the human heart. The mystic seeks union with God who only can come upon her abject nothingness, and in that nothingness to know that God is there. The mystic will always talk of her own emptiness and God’s immensity. The mystic is spoken to by God, but not in the language of man. The experience is one of deep listening and long silences, bouts of darkness and sudden bursts of light.

Quite often the poems take natural form from the seasons and the particular splendors of creation—a kildeer’s cry, a cedar tree, ice storms and ordinary moments.

“In Everything Rushes, Rushes,” a lyric reminiscent of Hopkins, she writes,

“The brisk blue morning whisped in with a thought: everything in creation rushes, rushes towards God—tall trees, small bushes, quick birds and fish, the beetles round as naught…”

In another lyric she prays to God to be as strong and cheerful as a chickadee:

“The small perennial singer of the earth
who makes the weed of a December day
the pivot of his mirth.”

Sister Miriam finds God in a meadow through the song of a lark, and in a winter cedar tree carrying its burden of cold and snow. While her images may be earthy and simple, her poetry is subtle and well-wrought. The poems have a complexity of thought and experience within the everyday world she portrays as shining with the existence of God. The suffering of human life and the heart in search of God are also represented with poems of stunning honesty and immense compassion. She is always aware of her own human frailty. “Christ is my only trust/ I am my fear since, down the lanes of ill/my steps surprised a dark Iscariot/plotting in my own will.” She is in the company of Emily Dickinson with lyrics like this that plumb the darkness of the soul.

She also tells us about the day she learned to love God. “It was the day I began to see truly/that I came from nothing and ever toward nothingness trend/that the works of my hands are foolishness.” All true mystics find God only when the vanity of their own egos are burned off.

The mystics are crucial for the soul because they teach us that we can have a fierce and loving relationship with God, not just a polite, hands-off acquaintance that enters no further than our weekly obligations and our unchallenged sense of ourselves. Sister Miriam’s poems are filled with light and love.

Her poems take us into the meadows and forests of our belief, and they render images of God as fresh and verdant as the psalms. They also explore the deserts of desolation and the wounded soul crying for the mercy of God and the gift of love that breaks out from behind the clouds and illuminates our hearts. The Holy Spirit is surely alive in these works of grace and vision from the pen of a recluse who embraced the world in the midst of her silence.
Column: Thomas Hicks

All Things Fold

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

"There was a time, late in August, when the trees were rich with leaves, but these become, suddenly one day, strangely still, as if in expectation and aware. They knew it was ending, all that one loved was at risk" (James Salter, All That Is).

Every island of joy is shot through with the realization that it cannot last; nothing lasts, and the greater the happiness, the more tragic is its inevitable passing.

Buddhism has a great sense of how everything is transitory. It regards the events in this life:

"As a star at dawn. A bubble in a stream/A flash of lightning in a summer cloud/A dream." (Vimalakirti, 32)

Buddha analyzed human existence as "pain" and "transient," and considered them to be interchangeable words. Life is painful because it is transient and we can find no enduring peace here. Buddhism realizes the radical insufficiency of this changeable world.

Human beings can have a false sense of the ownership of time. Weather forecasters speak of "your day tomorrow," or "your weekend." A human being can neither make nor retain one moment of time. It all comes to us as a pure gift.

When I was a boy, time moved at a glacial pace. In June, the glorious thing about summer vacation was that it would last practically forever. Some of June, all of July, all of August, and some of September. That used to be a long, long time. Remember? Time seemed to stand still for a little while—that boyhood sense of time.

Now I have a sense of the tyranny of time. There is no way that we can hold back time and call it our own. Time will not relent; it is unyielding. Life goes on. I can become angry with time for passing—that we must grow up and grow sad, that we must age and weaken. I sigh for lost years. How fragile everything is. Nothing stays, all changes. All is on loan. We are only on loan for each other, for a short time. We cling and clutch for some permanence. We search for that one person or thing that will fulfill us perfectly. Like everything else, I am not sufficient for myself, neither am I sufficient for others. There is the loneliness in the very experience of love.

By and large the world's offer—ing—every earthly good is limited, their loves and hates, their anxieties and longings, their pride and dark doubts, their fears of death. Everything has an end.

Whether we make it explicit or not, there is a longing for the infinite. We discover what St. Augustine expresses so timelessly in his Confessions. "It all passes. How many of our and our fathers' years have flowed away through your 'today'? Man is born for eternity." (Book One)

October is well advanced. The flood of summer light has almost ebbed. The melancholy autumn days will slowly slip into winter. The shadows are lengthening.

We partake of our particular fragment of time and try to treat it carefully, treasure it, appreciate it, fragment of time and try to treat it carefully, treasure it, appreciate it, fragment of time and try to treat it carefully, treasure it, appreciate it.
I t’s the time of year when parents sit their kids down and have heart-to-heart talks about “The Future.” The “what do you want to be when you grow up?” talks that generally scare young people, who are more concerned about partying, chasing Pokemon, shopping at the mall and finding love.

Many of them are past the age when they want to be President of the United States or super models—although the super model obsession, like some viruses, can last a long time and preoccupy young women well into their 20s. (I know because I have four daughters.) As far as president, history has shown anyone can apply.

I dreaded these talks with my dad, who often have their hearts set on retiring comfortably some time this millennium.

Most parents, myself included, are pleased if their children want to pursue careers that come with a hefty compensation package, including a generous base salary, lavish fringe benefits and a semi-annual bonus—or at least an annual bonus tied to company performance. English and theology majors need not apply.

I often encouraged my daughters to make career choices that could give me bragging rights on the train platform and support me in old age, if not entirely, at least partially. Take your pick: Doctor, Lawyer, Supreme Court Justice, President of Yale, CEO of Citibank.

I had to fight long and hard to dissuade two daughters from careers in the fashion industry, and they hold it against me to this day because, as their logic goes, if Kendall Jenner can do it, so could they. Job requirements: be undernourished, pout a lot, take countless “selfies,” and walk around with a vacuous stare that suggests you’re suffering from chronic narcissism or may have been abducted by aliens.

I remembered all those family debates when I was at Mass recently and the priest read Matthew’s Gospel about finding a pearl of enormous value ... otherwise known as the Kingdom of Heaven. Needless to say, the values they consider important in the Kingdom of Heaven aren’t the values they consider important in the offices of Vogue magazine or on Wall Street.

Christ doesn’t judge success the way the world judges success, the priest said. God doesn’t care about possessions, power, prestige or wealth—precisely the things that we’re usually obsessed with.

The week before, I was suffering a bout of self-pity over choices I made in my life, comparing myself to friends and associates who have it better off. They’re rich, they’re prominent and they’re recognized. They have academic honors, long resumes, large bank accounts, big houses, and their obituaries will probably appear in the New York Times. The problem is I was looking at life the way man does, not the way God does.

On the other hand, if I had some assurance that I was working hard for Christ all those years—or at least some of those years—I might feel a little better. But that’s the kind of thing you have to take on faith. Most of all, it’s important to keep your focus on Christ, not just during crises or when you need something, but all day.

I try to begin with the Morning Offering so that my “prayers, works, joys and sufferings” are offered up. And during conversations and activities, I’ve been asking myself, “What would Jesus want me to do in this situation?” And it generally has little to do with my self-advancement.

The lessons we teach our kids will last a lifetime, so we better get it right. Do we want them motivated by greed or by generosity, by cruelty or by kindness, by duplicity or by honesty, by fantasies or by faith?

As the priest said, the most important thing we can do is commit our lives to Christ, strive to become holier a day at a time, and bring other souls into the Kingdom. Those are the standards by which we’ll be judged in the end. It’s a fundamental lesson that we heard as kids in catechism class, and yet it’s so easy to forget when we get mired in worldly pursuits.
Bits and Pieces

AL’S ANGELS Holiday Toy Drive needs 10,000 toys this year. If you, your company, retail business, school, etc. would like to host a toy drive, contact Al Diguido at adiguido@yahoo.com.

CONCERTS IN THE CHAPEL, a musical series at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside, featuring different guest artists, hosts “An Hour of Jazz” directed by Dr. Ron_petrides, jazz guitarist; Esriet Essiet on bass; and Emmanuel Harrold on drums. Concert will be performed Sun., Oct. 21, 7-10:30 pm at St. Ann Parish, 181 Clapboard Ridge Rd, Danbury. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or join us on Facebook at “Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury.”

STEPHEN MINISTRY, a one-to-one interfaith lay caring ministry to help people who are hurting, will be holding an introductory workshop at Jesse Lee Methodist Church in Ridgefield on Sat., Oct. 22, from 9 am-1 pm. For more info, call Jack Hughes, Stephen Ministry leader at St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield: 203.655.0054 or go to www.stephenministries.org/website.

EVENING OF REFLECTION FOR MEN will be held Sun., Oct. 30, at 6:15 pm at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, immediately following the 5 pm Mass. Todd Ingersoll, president and CEO of Ingersoll Automotive, will speak on “God’s Guiding Hand in Business and Life.” For more info or to register, call the parish: 203.426.1014.

CARDINAL SHEHAN CENTER’S 8th Annual “Stump the Schwab.” Can Howie Schwab, formerly of ESPN, stump your sports trivia knowledge? Register a team for the contest, held Mon., Oct. 24. Check-in and dinner at 5:30 pm; contest begins at 6:30. Location: Cast Iron Chop House, 6540 Main St., Trumbull. For more info or to register, call 203.336.4468.

VENDORS WANTED for the Holiday Craft Fair and Bazaar at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield. Fair will be held Sat., Nov. 12, from 10 am-4 pm. Vendor registration deadline: Fri., Oct. 28. To download a vendor application, visit www.stmarguerite.org or call Pat Spritzerden: 203.775.9236.

JOIN IN PRAYING the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary for Persecuted Christians the first Tues. of every month (Nov. 1) at 7 pm with a conference phone number. How? Before 7 pm, call 877.216.5269 and type in the pin number 96869.

CELEBRITY BREAKFAST for Danbury Catholic Charities will feature speaker Susan Comroy, who worked with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, on Thurs., Nov. 3, at 7:30 am at the Amber Room Colonnade, 1 Stacey Rd., Danbury. For reservations or more info, go to www.2016celebritybreakfast.eventbrite.com.

RAKE n’ BAKE 2016 is accepting registrations for the Sat., Nov. 12, event. Registration closes at midnight on Fri., Nov. 4. To register, go to www.hdhm.org/rake-n-bake-2016-registration. To volunteer as a food server, email Randi Convertito: randiconvertito@gmail.com. For more info or for large groups (12 or more), contact Sheila Kulb: teachsmk@gmail.com or 203.775.3368.

THE LITTLE MERMAID will be presented by the students of Sacred Heart Academy on Fri.-Sat., Nov. 4, at 8 pm, Nov. 5, at 2 and 8 pm at the Shubert Theatre in New Haven. Tickets: $27.50 for orchestra; $22.50 mezzanine; and $12.50 balcony. For tickets and more info, call 203.562.5666 or visit www.shubert.com.

ST MARGARET SHRINE is celebrating “St. Margaret Shrine, Bridgeport, on Sat., Nov. 5, at 12:15 pm. For more info, call 203.345.3244.

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS is celebrated at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, the first Sun. of each month (Nov. 6) at 4 pm. For more info, call the parish: 203.775.5117.

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

GOSPEL OF LIFE SOCIETY meets at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, the second Sat. of each month (Nov. 12) from 10 am-12 noon, after the 9 am pro-life Mass. For more info, contact Eileen Bianchini: 203.847.5727 or stmarygols@aol.com.

CHRISTMAS FAIR at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, Fairfield on the first and third Fri. of every month (Nov. 4; Nov. 18; Dec. 2; Dec. 16) from 10 am-4 pm. Vendor registration deadline: Fri., Nov. 11. For more info or to register, call 203.336.4468. Register online to secure your seat today! www.hdhm.org/rake-n-bake-2016-registration.

RAKE n’ BAKE 2016 is accepting registrations for the Sat., Nov. 12, event. Registration closes at midnight on Fri., Nov. 4. To register, go to www.hdhm.org/rake-n-bake-2016-registration. To volunteer as a food server, email Randi Convertito: randiconvertito@gmail.com. For more info or for large groups (12 or more), contact Sheila Kulb: teachsmk@gmail.com or 203.775.3368.

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VETERANS’ MASS and blessing will be held at St. Margaret Shrine, Bridgeport, on Sat., Nov. 5, at 12:15 pm. For more info, call 203.345.3244.
Bridgeport, will be held Sat., Nov. 12, from 9 am-4 pm. Vendor tables available for $25 each. For more info or to reserve a table, call Johanna: 203.372.3740.

WOMEN’S CONFERENCE will be held Sat., Nov. 12, at the St. Catherine of Siena Family Center, Trumbull. Check-in 9:30 am; Mass 5:30 pm. The conference will feature keynote speakers, Mass and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and private Eucharistic Adoration. Cost: $45 includes breakfast, lunch, snack and hospitality bag. Financial assistance is available. For scholarship information, contact Maureen Ciardiello: mciardiello@diobpt.org or 203.416.1445. For more info, visit www.bridgeportwomenconference.org/.

Harvest Table to benefit New Covenant Center will take place Sun., Nov. 13, from 11 am-2:20 pm at the Italian Center of Stamford, 1620 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Harvest lunch, food demonstrations and guest speaker John Barrielli, owner of The SoNoBaking Company. Admission: $75, plus one non-perishable food item. For tickets, go to www.501auctions.com/harvestable.

Vendor applications are now being accepted for St. Margarette Bourgeois Parish, Brookfield, Holiday Craft Fair & Bazaar, held Sat., Nov. 12, from 10 am-4 pm. To download an application, visit www.stmarguerite.com. For more info, call Pat Spitzfaden: 203.775.9236.

Catholic Underground will meet the second Sat. of every month (Nov. 12), from 7:30-10 pm at St. Ann Parish in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport. It’s an evening of Adoration, Reconciliation, prayer, music, and fellowship. For more info, go to CONNected Catholics: www.conncatholics.org.

Women’s Group at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, will meet on Mon., Nov. 14, at 10 am. Arthur Gottlieb will speak on “The Golden Age of Hollywood Stars.” All are invited. For more info, call 203.261.8020.

Inspirational Talk with Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury (CYAD), ages 18-35. “Why is There Evil in the World?” given by Fr. John Inserra, Tues., Nov. 15, 7:30-9:30 pm at the Newman Center, 7th Ave., Danbury. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or join us on Facebook at “Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury.”

MOMs+DADs prayer/support group for those with Down Syndrome, their family and friends, meets the third Thurs. of every month (Nov. 17), at 7:30 pm at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, parish center. For more info, contact strapostolate@optimum.net.

“COME AND SEE” if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order at St. Emery Church, Fairfield, on Sat., Nov. 19, at 9:30 am. For more info, call Pat Heile, OFS: 203.255.8801 or pheile5713@aol.com.

Maroon and Gold Gala for St. Joseph High School will be held on Sat., Nov. 19, at The Waterview, 218 Roosevelt Drive, Monroe. Proceeds benefit the SJ scholarship endowment. For more info and for tickets, contact Dawn Handwerker, special events coordinator: dhandwerker@sjcadets.org or 203.378.9378, ext. 444.

Encourage apostolate for friends and family of loved ones with same sex attractions or gender ID issues, meets the third Sat. of the month (Nov. 19) at 10:30 am and is strictly confidential. For more info contact the Norwalk Chapter: EncourageNorwalk@gmail.com.

Car Raffle: St. Mary Parish, Bethel, is raffling off a 2016 Buick Encore AND a 2016 GMC Canyon pickup truck from Ingersoll Auto of Danbury. Tickets: $100 each; one ticket wins both cars. Drawing will take place Sat., Nov. 26, at 6:45 pm. For more info, call the parish: 203.744.5777.

Spiritual Pilgrimage: Join Fr. Marcel Saint Jean on a spiritual journey to Mexico and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mon., Nov. 28, through Sat., Dec. 3. Cost: $1,695/person. For more info and for reservations, contact Fr. Marcel: 203.434.7208, or marcelsjean@gmail.com.

Vendors/Crafters wanted for the Holly Fair sponsored by the Women’s Group of St. Margaret Mary Church, Shelton. The fair will be held on Sat., Dec. 3, from 9 am-4 pm. Table rental is $30. For more info, call Sharon: 203.305.6503 or email smwspicer@gmail.com.
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