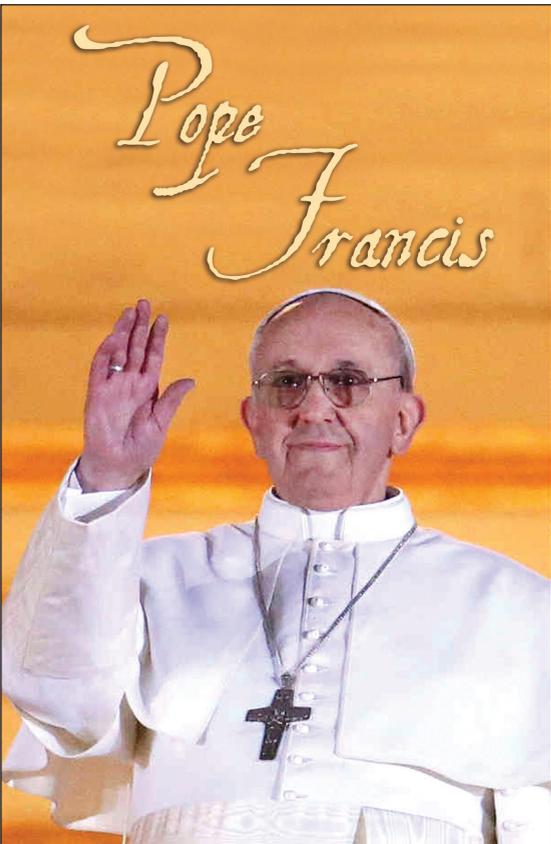




FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

MARCH 2013 | VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3 | EASTER ISSUE

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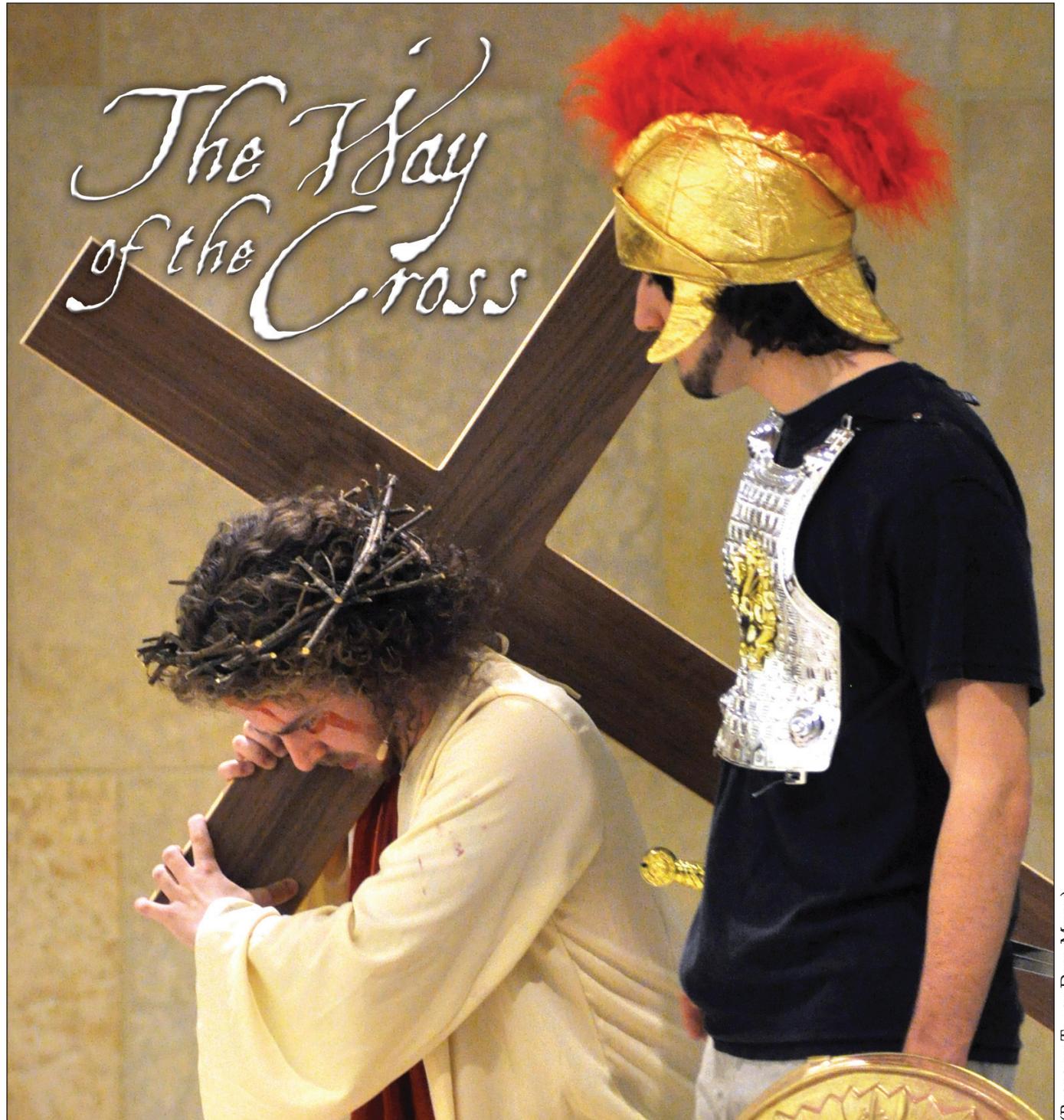
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(PHOTO BY TRACY DEER-MIREK)

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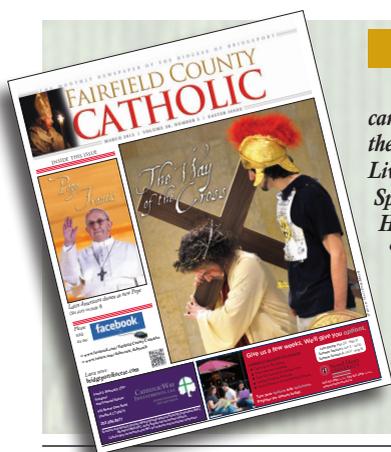
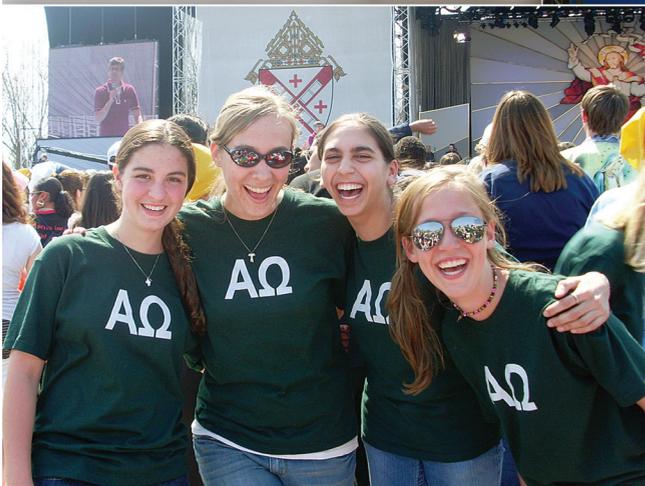
Spring 2008

was an exciting time for Catholics throughout the diocese and left them with very personal memories of Benedict XVI.

Youth gathered at Dunwoodie in Yonkers for a joyful Youth Rally with the Pope; our priests gathered at St. Patrick Cathedral for a special Papal Mass, and then the world watched as 57,000 faithful treated Benedict to a thunderous ovation at the old Yankee Stadium as he completed his historic visit to the United States.

"May you find the courage to proclaim Christ, 'the same yesterday and today and for ever' and the unchanging truths which have their foundation in him. They are the truths which alone can guarantee respect for the inalienable dignity and rights of each man, woman and child in our world—including the most defenseless of all human beings, the unborn child."

Papal Mass Homily, Yankee Stadium April 20, 2008



ON THE COVER

Sacred Heart University students Trevor Kelly '13, carries the cross while Nick Gaulin '15 takes the part of the Roman soldier as they reenact the Passion during the Living Stations held recently in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Bringing the Living Stations of the Cross to Sacred Heart University was the brainchild of Vincent Ebenau '14, who says the impact of the stations can be "so strong, so powerful, that individuals witnessing them can almost feel that they are actually going through it." Twenty students joined in the production to celebrate their faith. (Full story page 17).

ABOVE THE FOLD: Benedict bids farewell.

COVER PHOTO: TRACY DEER-MIREK

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Local News

New Catholic Academies plan for Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT—A new elementary school model known as the “Catholic Academies of Bridgeport” has been announced by Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator, and James L. Bailey, chairman of the Bridgeport elementary school’s Advisory Board.

The academies will include the new Cathedral Academy serving grades Pre-K through third grade at St. Raphael School, 324 Frank Street, and grades four through eight in a middle school in the nearby St. Augustine School at 63 Pequonnock Street.

St. Ann School in Black Rock and St. Andrew School in the North End of Bridgeport will continue in their current PreK-eighth-grade configuration as a part of the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport structure. The model includes plans for advanced academic opportunities for students and services for their families.

The buildings at St. Ambrose School in the East End and St. Peter School on the West Side of Bridgeport will not be used in the



new model.

“This is a plan forward that will enhance and sustain Catholic education for Bridgeport students of all faiths who wish to attend a Catholic school,” Bailey said. “We know parents value Catholic education, and it’s a lifeline for young people in the city. We

want it to be here forever, and that’s why we’re taking these steps now to make sure we will have a home for all of our students as we continue to grow.”

At present, more than 2,000 Bridgeport youth are enrolled in Catholic elementary and high schools in the city and surrounding

suburbs. The growing enrollment of Bridgeport students in Catholic schools has been made possible by outstanding administrators, faculty and staff, and the leadership of committed board members and donors who have supported the Catholic education in Bridgeport.

As part of the plan, Jo-Anne Jakab, principal of Kolbe-Cathedral High School, will serve as the first president of Cathedral Academy while continuing in her current role as principal of Kolbe. Both schools will share the Cathedral Campus, which will become a center for co-curricular opportunities and other programs in conjunction with Kolbe.

Sr. Joan Magnetti, rscj, executive director of the Cathedral Cluster schools, said that the formation of the Cathedral Academy allows the Diocese of Bridgeport to “invest in our students, rather than in aging buildings in need of significant repairs. Financial resources used for facilities at some of our existing schools can now be dedicated to the education of our students. “

Students at St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. Peter and St. Raphael will have first priority for registration in Cathedral Academy. All students currently enrolled will have the option to attend a Catholic elementary school in the fall.

The new model enables the diocese to plan for growth and to improve facilities and classroom space. It also reflects the strong philanthropic support and vision of donors to support Catholic education for Bridgeport families. Last year the diocese awarded \$1.3 million in scholarships and financial aid to Bridgeport students. Approximately 60% of Bridgeport students enrolled in Catholic schools receive some financial assistance; that number grew from 48% in 2011.

(A website for Cathedral Academy, www.cathedralacademy-bridgeport.org, has been launched to provide important information and address questions. Parents can also email info@cathedralacademybridgeport.org or call the school their child is presently attending for enrollment information.)

Sr. Mary Grace is interim superintendent

BRIDGEPORT—Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, A.S.C.J., Ph.D., has been named interim superintendent of schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The announcement was made by Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator.

She succeeds Dr. Margaret Dames, who left her Bridgeport post on March 1 to become superintendent of schools and director of the Office of Catechetics for the Diocese of Newark, New Jersey.

Msgr. Doyle said that Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, who has served as deputy superintendent of schools alongside Dr. Dames for the past seven years, is a veteran educator who has served as a teacher or administrator in diocesan, parochial, regional and private schools owned by her religious congregations, giving her a wide range of experience in seven dioceses.

“It is with a great deal of confidence that we name Sr. Mary Grace Walsh as



the interim superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport. She has worked closely with Doctor Dames on all school matters. I believe that Sister will make a seamless transition to the leadership of our schools as Dr. Dames departs. May God bless both Margaret and Sister as they begin their exciting new ventures,” Msgr. Doyle said in making the announcement. “Her tireless dedication to Catholic education will serve the Diocese of Bridgeport well.”

Sr. Mary Grace is a member of the religious congregation of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and has served as deputy superintendent of schools for the diocese from July 2006 until the present. During that time she also functioned as interim principal at St. Thomas Aquinas School, Fairfield from 2007-08. In the past

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Dr. Margaret Dames to lead NJ schools

NEWARK, NJ—Affectionately dubbed “Dynamo Dames” by Archbishop William E. Lori for her energetic and tireless leadership of diocesan Catholic schools, Dr. Margaret Dames, Ed.D., officially stepped down on March 1 after nine years as superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport. She has already begun work in her new post as superintendent of schools and director of the Office of Catechetics for the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, where she will be responsible for 104 schools serving 34,000 students.

Before leaving for Newark, she was honored at a Catholic Center reception of educators and friends who celebrated her energy, positive spirit and commitment to Catholic schools.

Dr. Dames served as superintendent of schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport since her appointment by Bishop Lori in

September 2004. Under her leadership, the diocese developed and implemented a new governance plan to revitalize its 38 schools and secure the academic and financial future of an educational program serving some 11,000 students in Pre-K through Grade 12.

Under the leadership of Dr. Dames, 40% of Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport have received the National Blue Ribbon of Excellence, while standardized test results show diocesan elementary students consistently exceeding national reading averages in math and reading. Additionally, 99% of high school graduates from the diocese pursue higher education.

Dr. Dames moved diocesan schools forward with curriculum mapping, interactive white boards, iPads, laptops,

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Local News

Cathedral principals named

BRIDGEPORT—The Diocese of Bridgeport has announced the principals who will lead the two campuses of its new Cathedral Academy in downtown Bridgeport.

Sr. Deborah Lopez will serve as the principal of the St.



Raphael Campus for students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3. Lawrence DiPalma will serve as the principal of the St. Augustine Campus for students from Grades 4-8.

“As we continue to plan for the opening of the new Cathedral Academy for the 2013-14 academic year, we welcome two principals who bring extensive educational experience, leadership and a commitment to Catholic educa-

tion to this new initiative,” says Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, interim superintendent of schools.

The new campus principals will coordinate with Jo-Anne Jakab, president of the Cathedral Academy, for the smooth transition from four buildings to two campuses. Jakab will continue to serve as principal of Kolbe-Cathedral High School.

Sr. Deborah Lopez has been the principal of St. Raphael's since March 2011. Prior to that she was an elementary principal in New York City; Middlesex, NJ; and St. Louis, MO. She also served two terms as provincial superior of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Under Sr. Deborah's leadership, St. Raphael School moved ahead with a strong program emphasizing mastery in reading, writing and mathematics, and faculty collaboration on literacy and math plans. St. Raphael's is equipped with laptop computers, as well as networked classroom computers and a fully-equipped science lab. Beyond the academic subjects, students enjoy classes in art, music, computer, physical education and Spanish.

Lawrence DiPalma of West Haven will serve as the principal



of the St. Augustine Campus for students from Grades 4-8. Early in his career, he served as principal of the former Sacred Heart/St. Anthony School in Bridgeport and St. Bernadette School in New Haven. He was a middle school math teacher for nine years before becoming a director of curriculum and instruction and then principal of Highville Charter School in Hamden.

He was later the restructuring principal of Prendergast School in Ansonia. In 2011 he received the CT Elementary Principal of the Year Award and the National Distinguished Principal Award. For the past year he has been at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield as a math teacher and director of the Teaching and Learning Center. ■

SR. MARY GRACE FROM PAGE 3

she has served as principal in the Archdiocese of New York and the dioceses of Metuchen, NJ, and Providence, RI, and as a teacher in grades K-12 in the Archdioceses of New York and St. Louis and in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

She earned her Ph.D. in educational administration and supervision/Church leadership from Fordham University, New York, and an M.A. in education administration and supervision

DR. DAMES FROM PAGE 3

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) problem-based learning, advanced High School Engineering Academy courses and extensive development for faculty. She recently introduced lessons in Mandarin Chinese.

“This is certainly an exciting opportunity for Dr. Dames, who has been a critical change agent in our diocese during years of transformation in our school sys-

tem, achieving academic excellence in a faith-based environment. We thank her for her dedication to our mission of Catholic education and wish her continued success in this new challenge,” said Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator.

In the past Dr. Dames had served as Superintendent of the Cornwall (NY) Central School District, overseeing five public schools and 3,100 students, and

est and research include Catholic School governance, mission effectiveness, institutional leadership, Catholic identity, school change, strategic planning, administrator and teacher formation, curriculum design.

(For more information about Catholic schools in Fairfield county, go to www.exceeding-expectations.com, visit the website of the Diocese of Bridgeport at www.bridgeportdiocese.com or phone 203.416.1380.) ■

as teacher and administrator in New York and Massachusetts. She has degrees from the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, NY; Assumption College; and Columbia University, where she earned her doctorate in educational administration.

Dr. Dames and her husband, Thomas, a professor at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY, have three children. ■

Charities answers Newtown's call

By DON HARRISON

When the term First Responders comes to mind, most of us conjure up images of EMTs, firefighters and police officers, and not necessarily in that order.

The people at Catholic Charities of Fairfield County belong in a similarly admirable category, too, as evidenced by their rapid response to the mass shooting in

Newtown on the morning of December 14.

“We went up there as a diocesan team, and we were there for the better part of three days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, to create a supportive presence,”

says Michael Tintrup, LCSW, a 29-year member of Catholic Charities and its chief operating officer since November 2012.

Tintrup was joined on this mission of mercy by Melissa Glaser, LCSW, Catholic Charities' director of behavioral health and related services; Diocese of Bridgeport Chancellor Anne McCrory, and Erin Neil, director of safe environments for the diocese.

“Melissa and I are both trained counselors, but we went to St. Rose of Lima Parish on Saturday morning not knowing what the need would be,” Tintrup says. “What we found were hundreds of people who wanted to go somewhere and feel connected. People who were traumatized or vicariously traumatized by what had happened on December 14.”

Twenty first-grade students and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School were fatally shot on that morning by Adam Lanza, a 20-year-old Newtown resident, who then committed suicide before he could be apprehended by police.

Tintrup estimates that he and Glaser counseled dozens, if not hundreds, of people during their three days in Newtown. The majority of those they helped were unrelated to the deceased

children and teachers, but there were notable exceptions, he explains. “I worked directly with one of the families that had lost their son, and hadn't yet told their other children,” Glaser said.

Tintrup recalled sitting in St. Rose Church with an elderly gentleman “who was just confused ... he couldn't make sense of the depravity.” The man was comforted by the thoughts of his



“own precious grandchildren.”

Tintrup also counseled an immigrant couple—“I think they were Indonesian—and they were weeping. They talked about the greatness of this country. They felt weakened by what had happened.”

He spoke glowingly of Msgr. Robert Weiss, the St. Rose pastor who was “omnipresent to the families who had lost children” in the massacre.

Tintrup found the experience “very powerful and humbling. I was very encouraged by the faith I saw in the St. Rose community.”

Although nearly three months have passed since the tragic events in Newtown, Tintrup says that Catholic Charities will continue its outreach to the families of the slain children and teachers, and others who were affected. “We're working with the four Catholic schools in the area. We've counseled teens who had babysat for some of the slain children,” he says.

“This tragedy will be long in the recovery process. Our diocese stands ready to respond to the needs. Our mental health services will do every bit we can to help in whatever way we can.”

(To donate to Catholic Charities, send checks payable to “Trauma Relief Fund,” to The Catholic Center, 238 Jewett Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606.) ■

Ethics through the Eyes of Faith

Healthcare workers honored at White Mass

TRUMBULL—Healthcare workers bring the love of Christ to the sick and the poor, even if they never mention his name, said Dr. John Haas, president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, at the annual White Mass Brunch.

Speaking to over 125 physicians and health professionals at Tashua Knolls in Trumbull following the annual White Mass

Dr. Haas said that 50 years ago there was very little or no discrepancy between the Catholic understanding of moral law and the views held by most medical societies. However, in recent years, there has been a growing gap between the directives of Catholic health care, the use of new technologies, and practices that interfere with human life.



FR. RUFFIN COMPASSIONATE CARE AWARDS were given to Andrew Sama, MD, of Greenwich and Sr. Mary Ellen Genova, C.S.F.N. of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

held at St. Augustine Cathedral, Dr. Haas said healthcare workers “manifest Christ in a concrete way.” He said that whether health workers have faith or none at all, their vocation is a call to love and healing that respects human dignity and the sacredness of life.

Dr. Haas, who is an internationally recognized lecturer and consultant on the technical aspects of bioethics, focused his talk on “Bioethics through the Eyes of Faith.”

“In this country, the Catholic Church is the largest provider of healthcare after the government,” he said, noting that Catholic healthcare directives are based on reason and natural law. Church Fathers, he explained, taught that a person did not have to be a believer to understand natural law because “reason unaided by grace is written in the heart of everyone.”

“There is an interplay between reason and grace in the Catholic world view,” because Catholics believe moral law is also a reflection of divine intervention.

“Catholic health care is truly catholic because it never asks the faith of anyone it treats. There is no religious or doctrinal test. It is rooted in the commitment to promote and defend human dignity.”

Dr. Haas, the former John Cardinal Krol Professor of Moral Theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, said that all medical healing is a prelude to spiritual healing that comes through faith and the sacraments. Quoting from Pope Benedict XVI’s World Day of Health Address in 2012, Dr. Haas said the Pope referred to the sacraments as “medicine” because of their healing power.

“The sacraments never fail in their healing power. The ultimate medicine is the body and blood of Jesus Christ. The Eucharist is the medicine of immortality and the antidote to death,” he said. “Your faith has saved you. The love of God will never fail.”

Dr. Haas said the Gospel stories are filled with the “inter-

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



Beacon of Hope 2013

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT ANNUAL BISHOP’S APPEAL

DID YOU KNOW

- 1.3 million** Meals are served through Catholic Charities and food pantries
 - Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport
 - New Covenant House in Stamford
 - Morning Glory Program in Danbury
- 22,000** Nursing home residents and hospital patients receive spiritual care
 - Saint Camillus Health Center in Stamford
 - Saint Joseph Manor in Trumbull
 - Pope John Paul II Center for Health Care in Danbury
 - Bridgeport Hospital
 - Danbury Hospital
 - Greenwich Hospital
 - Norwalk Hospital
 - Stamford Hospital
 - St. Vincent’s Medical Center – provides its own pastoral care
- 15,000** Counseling sessions are provided by Catholic Charities
 - Social work
 - Medication management
 - Marriage and family therapy
- 1,323** Financial scholarships are provided to inner-city Catholic elementary school students
- 48** Retired priests are supported including 17 in residence at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence in Stamford
- 36** Men are discerning for the priesthood at St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford and major seminaries



In advance, thank you for participating in the 2013 Annual Bishop’s Appeal. Through your generosity and God’s grace, I am confident that we will present our next bishop with a local Church that serves as a beacon of hope for many across Fairfield County.

May God bless you and your family,

Jerald A. Doyle

Reverend Monsignor Jerald A. Doyle, J.C.D.
Diocesan Administrator

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Local News

Biomedical students go to PTEI

By PAT HENNESSY

In February, John Cook, deputy superintendent for the Diocese of Bridgeport, took 16 students from the five diocesan high schools to the University of Pittsburgh for an intense week-end of biomedical engineering. Students in diocesan high schools have the opportunity to study engineering both in their own schools and at the High School

Engineering Academy held week-ends at Fairfield University.

Regenerative medicine was the focus of the Connecticut High School Scholar Challenge at the Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Institute (PTEI), a center for research, education, and commercial development of tissue-related medical therapies.

During their time at PTEI, the teens from this diocese had the chance for in-depth,

hands-on work with regenerative engineering. They cultured cells, explored different growth mediums, implanted cells into a tissue scaffold, incubated them and analyzed the results of their procedures. They performed heart surgery, using the heart of a pig, measuring the strength of its aorta and considering alternatives from synthetic material—actually making and testing synthetic arteries and charting the results.

“Their research was extraordinary, and the kids loved it,” says Cook. “Using these techniques, you could actually grow organs like a liver, or heart.” He and other adult chaperones, science teachers and coordinators at their schools, had the chance to take part in the experiments.

Students met and worked with their near-contemporaries, PhD bioengineering candidates at the University of Pittsburgh. They took part in a discussion of the bioethics of human trials, stem cell research and organ transplant waiting lists, and considered the factors in mak-



ing ethical decisions.

“It definitely went beyond just learning things,” says Diler Haji, a senior at Kolbe-Cathedral High School in Bridgeport. “It was one of the best experiences of my life.”

The trip included a visit to the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, where tissue regeneration is already being used in wound

healing therapies, most notably with wounded war veterans, and regeneration of organs.

“The trip definitely impacted my future career aspirations,” says Jonathan Highland, a senior at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull. Interested in studying biology and doing pre-med in college, he is now planning to study bio-engineering. ■



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Appeal reaches \$2.3 million

BRIDGEPORT—As the diocese awaits word of a new Pope and looks forward to the appointment of the Fifth Bishop of Bridgeport, the 2013 Annual Bishop's Appeal is underway in all parishes.

“This is an unusual moment in the Church,” says Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator, “however, even as we await a new Holy Father and a bishop, the work of the Church goes on both internationally and in our own diocese.”

Msgr. Doyle says that the work of the Church is feeding the poor and homeless, educating children, evangelizing, nurturing vocations and reaching out to those in need is an expression of faith that will inspire and reassure the next bishop.

“Upon his resignation, Pope Benedict XVI taught us that the Church is first and foremost the People of God. It is within this communion of faith and charity that the Church

brings healing and wholeness to so many people.”

Parishioners throughout the diocese have received letters from their pastor thanking them for last year's participation and encouraging them to respond generously to this year's campaign.

To date, over 5,000 donors have pledged more than \$2.5 million to support the ministries and services now reaching out to people throughout Fairfield County.

“We're grateful to those who have responded early and have already made their gifts,” says Jeff Machi, chief development officer of the diocese. “We've made every effort to seek efficiencies in the appeal and to be cost effective in our solicitations. People can support us in this effort by responding as soon as

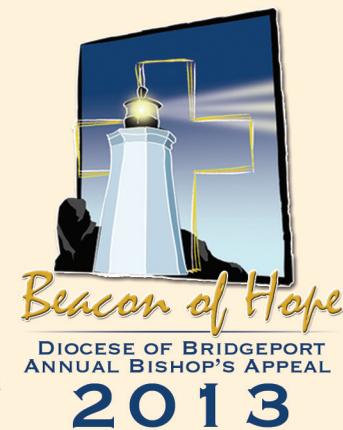
possible.”

Pam Rittman, director of the Appeal, says that she was pleased to see that many donors are taking advantage of the opportunity to share prayer requests and special intentions with Msgr. Doyle, who will remember them specifically in his Masses and prayers.

“We are continuing to see many prayer requests coming in. People ask for prayers for a wide range of concerns, from family and job issues to coping with illness and concern for others,” says Rittman.

“What's so nice about it is that even as they make a financial contribution to help many people they don't even know, they also take the time

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



Promoting Catholic Social Teaching

Educators help build a loving community

FAIRFIELD—Catholic educators can bring their faith and a sense of hope to the “deep pain and suffering young people can be exposed to,” said writer and researcher Michael James, Ph.D., at the Fifth Annual Educator’s Communion Breakfast held recently at Sacred Heart University.

Speaking before a gathering of more than 200 educators at the University Commons, Dr. James said the “highest aim of Catholic education should be to live out a spirituality of communion” that creates a community of faith and love for others.

The Annual Communion Breakfast began with Mass in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit and included the presentation of the CAPP Education Leadership Award to Donna Spigarolo, a special education teacher at Ludlow Middle School and a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Fairfield.



EDUCATION LEADERSHIP—CAPP President Bill Fox (center left) presents the CAPP Educational Leadership Award to Fairfield special education teacher Donna Spigarolo, while Jackie Musante (l) and Master of Ceremonies Ralph Burke, Ed.D., former Fairfield Public School administrator look on.

“As educators our thoughts run to technique in the form of action and assessment, but before practice we need to make a spirituality of communion a guiding principle, contemplating the mystery of the Trinity dwelling in ourselves and

our neighbors,” said Dr. James, who is a Notre Dame University graduate and a Fellow at the Boston College Roche Center for Catholic Education. “This is not a prescription for success but a description of vocation that is

lived and understood.”

Referring to the writings of Blessed John Paul II, Dr. James said that education must always both teach individuals and build community because “a person discovers his or her deepest and most authentic identity only in relationship with the other. We find ourselves by losing ourselves.”

He said that the “art of loving” in the Catholic sense is to “love others as yourself, love everyone, share others’ joy, love your enemy, and be the first to love.”

In his talk, Dr. James praised CAPP Award recipient Spigarolo as a “thoughtful teacher who leads her life informed by faith and Catholic social teaching. She is an example of our belief that we are connected to one another in the Body of Christ.”

Spigarolo, who is a member of the Thomas Merton Center board, was presented the award by William J. Fox, president of

Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice, for her work as a community volunteer and “her passionate commitment to serve her students and to recognize their dignity.”

Upon accepting the award, Spigarolo took the opportunity to honor the six Newtown educators who were killed as they tried to protect the children from the mass shooting at Sandy Hook School. “They taught kids not only their lessons but what it means to be a good citizen of the world. I accept this award in honor of them as teachers who went to school every day with love for the children,” she said.

“The children I taught have been my greatest teachers,” added Spigarolo, who served as director of religious education at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Fairfield and St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown before beginning work as a special education

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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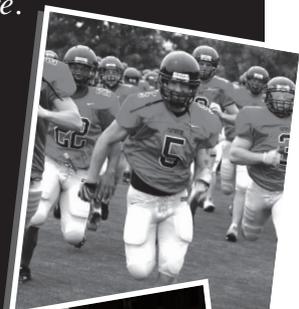
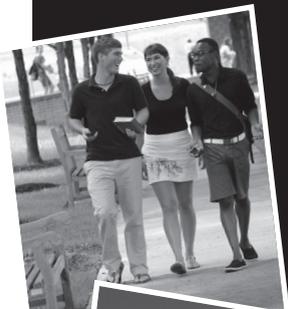
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Cardinal Visit Days

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We have a Pope!

Latin American chosen as new Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Argentina's Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 76, was elected the 266th Pope and took the name Francis.

The election March 13 came on the first full day of the conclave on the conclave's fifth ballot. It was a surprisingly quick conclusion to a conclave that began with many plausible candidates and no clear favorite.

The Latin American pope, a Jesuit, was chosen by at least two-thirds of the 115 cardinals from 48 countries, who cast their ballots in secret in the Sistine Chapel. His election was



announced in Latin from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, to a massive crowd in the square below and millions watching around the world.

White smoke poured from the Sistine Chapel chimney at 7:05 pm local time, signaling that the cardinals had chosen a successor to retired Pope Benedict XVI. At 7:07 pm, the bells of St. Peter's Basilica began pealing continuously to confirm the election.

At 8:12, French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the senior cardinal in the order of deacons, appeared at the basilica balcony and read

out in Latin: "I announce to you a great joy: We have a pope! The most eminent and most reverend lord, Lord Jorge, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Bergoglio, who has taken for himself the name Francis."

The crowd in the square responded with cheers, applause and the waving of national flags.

A respected Italian journalist said that Cardinal Bergoglio had been the cardinal with the second-highest number of votes on each of the four ballots in the 2005 conclave, which chose Pope Benedict XVI.

Cardinal Bergoglio has had a growing reputation as a very spiritual man with a talent for pastoral leadership, serving in a region with the largest number of the world's Catholics. Since 1998, he has been archbishop of Buenos Aires, where his style is low-key and close to the people. He rides the bus, visits the poor, lives in a simple apartment and cooks his own meals. To many in Buenos Aires, he is known simply as "Father Jorge."

He also has created new parishes, restructured the administrative offices, led pro-life initiatives and started new pastoral programs, such as a commission for divorcees. He co-chaired over the 2001 Synod of Bishops and was elected to the Synod Council, so he is well-known to the world's bishops.

The cardinal has also written books on spirituality and meditation and has been outspoken against abortion and same-sex marriages.



In 2010, when Argentina became the first Latin American country to legalize same-sex marriage, Cardinal Bergoglio encouraged clergy across the country to tell Catholics to protest against the legislation because, if enacted, it could "seriously injure the family."

He also said adoption by same-sex couples would result in "depriving children of the human growth that God wanted them given by a father and a mother."

In 2006, he criticized an Argentine proposal to legalize abortion under certain circumstances as part of a wide-ranging legal reform. He accused the government of lacking respect for the values held by the majority of Argentines and of trying to convince the Catholic Church "to waver in our defense of the dignity of the person."

His role often forced him to speak publicly about the economic, social and political problems facing his country. His homilies and speeches are filled with references to the fact that all people are brothers and sisters and that the Church and the country need to do what they can to make sure that everyone feels welcome, respected and cared for.

While not overtly political, Cardinal Bergoglio did not try to hide the political and social impact of the Gospel message,

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particularly in a country still recovering from a serious economic crisis.

Since becoming archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998, Cardinal Bergoglio has created new parishes, restructured the administrative offices, taken personal care of the seminary and started new pastoral projects, such as the commission for divorcees. He has mediated in almost all social or political conflicts in the city; the newly ordained priests are described as “the Bergoglio generation;” and no political or social figure misses requesting a private encounter with him.

Jorge Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina’s capital city, Dec. 17, 1936. He studied and received a master’s degree in chemistry at the University of Buenos

Aires, but later decided to become a Jesuit priest and studied at the Jesuit seminary of Villa Devoto.

He studied liberal arts in Santiago, Chile, and in 1960 earned a degree in philosophy from the Catholic University of Buenos Aires. Between 1964 and 1965 he was a teacher of literature and psychology at Inmaculada High School in the province of Santa Fe, and in 1966 he taught the same courses at the prestigious Colegio del Salvador in Buenos Aires.

In 1967, he returned to his theological studies and was ordained a priest December 13, 1969. After his perpetual profession as a Jesuit in 1973, he became master of novices at the Seminary of Villa Barilari in San Miguel. Later that same year, he was elected superior of the Jesuit

province of Argentina.

In 1980, he returned to San Miguel as a teacher at the Jesuit school, a job rarely taken by a former provincial superior. In May 1992 he was appointed auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires. He was one of three auxiliaries and he kept a low profile, spending most of his time caring for the Catholic university, counseling priests and preaching and hearing confessions.

On June 3, 1997, he was named coadjutor archbishop. He was installed as the new archbishop of Buenos Aires February 28, 1998. Cardinal Bergoglio, was elevated to the College of Cardinals on February 21, 2001.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), congratulated the newly elected Pope. “Pope Francis I stands as the figure of unity for all Catholics wherever they reside. The bishops of the United States and the people of our 195 dioceses offer prayers for our new leader and promise allegiance to him,” Cardinal Dolan said. “Intense prayer from all around the world surrounded the election of Pope Francis I. The bishops of the United States thank God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the inspired choice of the College of Cardinals.” ■



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Young Author

Kiernan Black has a winner

By PAT HENNESSY

“How many of you go home and have a snack every day?”

Dozens of young hands shoot up from the second grade Brownie troop at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Fairfield.

“What did you have? Do you eat chips and stuff?”

But Kiernan, a junior at Lauralton Hall in Milford who was once a Brownie herself at St. Thomas, puts them at ease as she talks about the “magical, colorful fruits and vegetables.”

“Kiernan has a wonderful blend, a sense of humor and an easy way of talking to people,” says St. Thomas’ principal, Patricia Brady. “She knows how to speak to adults, how to speak to peers, how to speak to younger children.”

She knows how to write for young children, too. The magic of healthy food is the theme of Kiernan’s

perfectly targets this grade level.

Kiernan is a Girl Scout Ambassador, the highest level in Girl Scouting. This year she will receive Girl Scout’s greatest honor, the Gold Award, the equivalent of the Boy Scout’s Eagle Award.

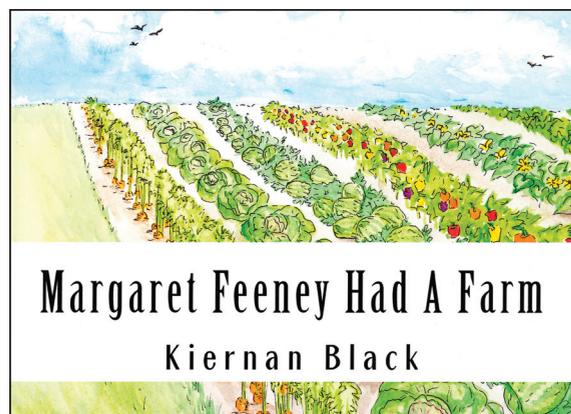
The award recognizes Kiernan’s effort to make a difference by inspiring young people to see healthy eating through a brighter lens. *Margaret Feeney Had A Farm*, with illustrations by Kiernan’s cousin, Courtney Victoria Vining, is available on Amazon.

Kiernan’s book began with a bit of serendipity. She and other members of her troop were working on “Sow What” a Scouting program that encourages them to investigate food sourcing—the economic footprint of the food we buy—and explore the complex issues of land use. “We were at Starbucks, because it’s a central meeting place, talking about a healthy eating program,” Kiernan recalls. “Margaret Feeney was there. She heard us talking and came over.”

Margaret, also a St. Thomas parishioner, is scarcely ten years older than the Scouts. When her father was diagnosed with cancer, she began learning about the importance of a healthy diet in preventing disease. After he died in 2006, she honored his memory by growing fruits and



“IT’S AS YUMMY AS ICE CREAM,” Kiernan Black tells Brownies at St. Thomas Aquinas School as they put together a parfait of yogurt, granola and blueberries. The “recipe” is included in a book Kiernan wrote. (PHOTO BY PAT HENNESSY)



The Brownies wiggle, shuffling their feet. A few tentative hands flutter up. They know that the guest speaker at this meeting, Kiernan Black, has written a book about healthy eating.

book, *Margaret Feeney Had A Farm*. Based on the true story of a young woman who began growing fresh, organic food in her mother’s garden to make her sick father feel better, the lively book

vegetables in her mother’s backyard and donating them to local cancer survivors, searching out groups like those in the Yoga for Cancer Survivors program of St. Vincent’s Medical Center.

As Kiernan’s book tells the tale, Margaret’s little farm behind her mother’s house couldn’t grow enough to help all the people who needed healthy food. So she began to talk to farmers and local grocers, who were happy to donate excess produce to local food pantries. Volunteers helped pick, pack, and deliver the food.

“Our troop would go picking apples on weekends,” Kiernan recalls. She and her friends, along with other volunteers, picked 1,500 lbs of golden apples. Among other destinations, colorful baskets of fruits and vegetables went to Mercy Learning Center, which gives literacy and life-skills training to low-income women in Bridgeport, Operation Hope

food pantry in Fairfield, and the Thomas Merton Center.

Eventually “Feeney Farm,” as Margaret called her project, encompassed multiple growers and food pantries all across Connecticut. When it grew too large for her to manage, Margaret handed control of her enterprise to the Connecticut Food Bank.

Margaret and Kiernan together visited Caroline House, an education center for immigrant women and children run by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, in February. Both the mothers, who were learning to read English as adults, and their children were able to read the book aloud.

“I saw them getting really excited about reading,” Kiernan says.

As she did at St. Thomas, Kiernan brought along the ingredients for the simple “recipes” that conclude her book. The kids’ favorite was “Ants on a Log.”

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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The Southern Cross

FR. FREDERICK L. SAVIANO

We are all familiar with the constellation called "The Big Dipper" which marks our night skies in the northern hemisphere. Most of us can identify the stars which form this constellation and by which we locate the North Star, our navigational guiding light.

However, most of us are not aware of another constellation, "The Southern Cross" in the southern hemisphere which essentially serves the same purpose and whose lower foot points directly south.

Well, in the southern hemisphere, in northern Peru, the Diocese of Bridgeport is proud of one of our own priests who has been working in the parish of St. John the Apostle in the City of Chiclayo. Fr. Francis Posluszny has been laboring tirelessly among the poor for the better part of 31 years. I consider him one of the shining stars in the Southern Cross for his pastoral labors.

Fr. Posluszny's efforts for the betterment of the people have also been recognized by the Peruvian civil authorities.

The first prestigious award was given to Fr. Posluszny on November 7, 2012 by The Order of National Awards of Peru. It is called the "Gold Medal of Three Precious Stones," and includes a corresponding sash. Fr. Posluszny received this medal as pastor of St. John the Apostle Parish in Chiclayo for his "brilliant contribution to the fight against poverty and the development of peace in the nation."

The award recognized "his genuine selfless efforts through his great vocation of service to families in extreme poverty, thus acting in his life as a leader and noble religious pastor in the prestigious Region of Lambayeque." The award concludes, "Be it resolved: the Gold Medal of Three Precious Stones and the Diploma of Honor from the Council of Awards of the National Union of Peru will be placed on him and homage paid to Fr. Francis Posluszny."

The second award was given to him on January 30, 2013, by the National Council of Awards and the Institute of Social Action and Development in Peru. This award was given "in recognition of him as an outstanding person, and his labor benefitting

the poor both in and outside the Department of Lambayeque" (to which Chiclayo belongs).

The setting for this award was in the Cathedral of Chiclayo at the end of a Solemn Mass of Te Deum, in the presence of dignitaries both from the national circles and the heads of foreign

organizations laboring in favor of the development of Peru.

Well done, Fr. Posluszny. You are truly one of the shining stars in the Southern Cross and we in the Diocese of Bridgeport join with the whole of Fairfield County in acclaiming your generous and faith-filled work. ■



FR. FRANCIS POSLUSZNY, a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport, has been laboring tirelessly among the poor in Chiclayo, Peru, for 31 years. He was recently honored for his efforts by the Peruvian government.



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EDITORIAL

“Habemus Papam”

News of the selection of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio as the 266th pontiff to lead the Roman Catholic Church comes as great surprise to many Catholics and perhaps to people around the world. However, we have quickly learned that he is well known and respected among his brother bishops as a man of great spiritual intellectual and cultural depth.

We are grateful that he has answered the call to serve as “Bishop of Rome.” Along with the 78 million American faithful and more than 1.2 billion Catholics across the globe, we celebrate the news and the international nature of our Church.

This is an historic and exciting moment in that Francis is the first Pope from the Americas. We look forward to his leadership as he represents the faith and aspirations of people across the globe. With a new Pope comes a new beginning and an opportunity for all of us to be renewed in the faith.

It is reported that he is a man of deep humility, commitment to the poor, and passion for evangelization. He is also known to his brother bishops for his extraordinary intellectual and cultural strengths in the Jesuit tradition, and as a man who will not only provide great personal witness but also be a voice for justice, peace and human dignity.

In his homeland of Argentina, he is celebrated as a humble man who rides the bus, visits the poor, lives in a simple apartment and cooks his own meals. To many in Buenos Aires, he is known simply as “Father Jorge.”

Those of us who eagerly awaited the announcement and watched the dramatic moment covered by the media were deeply proud of the beauty and tradition of the Church as it reflects the deep faith and aspirations of so many. As successor to Peter, our first Pope, Pope Francis stands as the figure of unity for all Catholics wherever they reside.

Intense prayer from all around the world surrounded the election of Pope Francis, just as we continue to pray for his well-being and for the blessings of the Holy Spirit on his leadership as the Church faces many challenges and opportunities ahead.

The Path to Easter

God made us fully-fleshed, with senses, memories, emotions. The Church recognizes our humanity, giving us stained-glass windows, incense, music and a rich cycle of religious ritual to mark the changing rhythms of the Church year. Just as somber winter gives way to April’s joyous spring, the solemn penitence of Lent gives way to the rich religious drama of Holy Week. Everyone rejoices in Easter. But Easter joy is more intense if we join in the rituals the Church offers during this holiest week of the year.

The Church opens the week with Palm Sunday. Catholics know going in that this Mass is long—the Church does not race through the rituals of Holy Week. The Gospel reading provides the congregation with an intense re-enactment of Jesus’ last hours on this earth.

One of the most beautiful Masses of the Lenten Season is the Chrism Mass set for Wednesday, March 27, at 10 am at St. Augustine Cathedral. The priests and deacons of the diocese join in procession, their voices filling the Cathedral to the rafters with song. In a centuries-old ceremony, holy oils for Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick are blessed and taken from the Cathedral to every parish, emphasizing the unity of the Church. Catholics throughout the diocese are invited to attend the Mass, which will be celebrated by Archbishop Henry J. Mansell, Metropolitan Archbishop of Hartford.

To be in your own parish church on Holy Thursday and watch your pastor wash the feet of parishioners—the real people, real feet, the quiet and intense humility of the priest—is an experience to shake even the most offhand soul. In a Living Stations of the Cross offered in many parishes on Good Friday, the crack of a hammer on nails drives home the depth of Jesus’ sacrifice. Then the Easter Vigil itself: a cauldron of flames shooting into the dusk; flame from the Christ candle passed from person to person until the entire church is brimming with light; the triumphant Gloria! expressed for the first time since Ash Wednesday. Senses, memories, emotions, all engaged in celebrating the triumph of Easter.

God’s Church knows human nature. She offers all this to enrich our life of faith. Take as much of it as you can, and rejoice to the fullest. ■

Teach Me

By **SR. FRANCES
SMALKOWSKI, CFSN**

Assorted Beauty
Everywhere I look.
To see this daily
In every moment;
To look as You—
To see and celebrate always
The deepest beauty—
To call it forth
From its center
Simply by a loving glance.
Teach this to me.

God’s Face in a
Powerful Waterfall

Mighty,
Passionate,
Thunderous,
You claim me!
While offering
(At the same time)
Frequent delicate invitations—
Ever reminding
That though You
Desire my all
You will never take my love
Per force.

(Sr. Frances is part of the ministry team at Pope John Paul II Center for Health Care in Danbury.)

EDITOR’S CHOICE

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS



Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, JCD, Diocesan Administrator, has made the following clergy appointments in the Diocese of Bridgeport:

ADMINISTRATOR

FATHER PETER J. LYNCH, Parochial Vicar, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull, to Administrator, Saint Ann Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date was February 11.

FATHER JOHN PÉREZ, Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary and St. Benedict/Our Lady of Montserrat Parishes, Stamford, to Administrator, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Danbury. Effective date was February 11.

FATHER ELIO SOSA, IVE, New to the Diocese, to Administrator, Saint George Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date was February 28.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

FATHER JOSÉ MONTOYA, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Danbury, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary and St. Benedict/Our Lady of Montserrat Parishes, Stamford. Effective date was February 11.

MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL

MONSIGNOR DARIUSZ J. ZIELONKA, full-time graduate studies at Catholic University of America, to full-time in the Marriage Tribunal, Catholic Center, Bridgeport. In residence at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull. Effective date was February 11.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FATHER PETER J. TOWSLEY, Pastor, Saint Ann Parish, Bridgeport, to Spiritual Director, Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford. In residence at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Stamford. Effective date was February 11.

CHAPLAIN

FATHER FRANCIS LUKE NAMPIAPARAMBIL, Chaplain at Danbury Hospital, Danbury, to Chaplain at Bridgeport Hospital, Bridgeport. In residence at St. James Parish, Stratford. Effective date was March 1.

FATHER REMIGIUS NWABICHIE, Chaplain at Bridgeport Hospital, Bridgeport, to Chaplain at Danbury Hospital, Danbury. In residence at St. Joseph Parish, Danbury. Effective date was February 1.

ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

FATHER JOHN INSERRA, Assistant Chaplain at Greenwich Hospital and Part-time Parochial Vicar at St. Mary Parish, Greenwich, to Assistant Chaplain at Stamford Hospital. He will remain Assistant Chaplain at Greenwich Hospital. Effective date was February 24. In residence at St. Benedict/Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Stamford.

*Rev. Msgr. Kevin Royal, Delegate for Clergy Personnel
March, 2013*

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Editorial



Meeting Pope Benedict XVI

A WOMAN'S VIEW

BY ANTOINETTE BOSCO

Antoinette Bosco is a member of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield.

I wasn't feeling very happy this February as I read the news that Pope Benedict XVI would become the first pope to resign in almost 600 years. Reading the reasons why our beloved spiritual leader felt he had to make this decision was beyond sad. He told us honestly that he no longer has the strength to carry out the tremendous duties of the papacy, and so he made this decision "in full freedom for the good of the Church."

I found myself thinking back to April 19, 2005, that day after the news came out that the

Catholic Cardinals had elected Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger to be the new Pope, when so many opinions about him were being put forth. I had had a very personal reaction myself. I felt hopeful that our new pontiff would emerge as a leader who would gain much respect.

I had met this man, now Pope Benedict XVI, at an incredible conference in Israel in February 1994. In fact, I had shaken his hand, asked him to pray for me, and had been moved by his gentle, almost radiant smile.

I'll never forget how it came

about that I got an invitation to "cover" the conference. An acquaintance, knowing I was a newspaper editor who also wrote for Catholic News Service, had given me an invitation to that conference because the organizers hoped to get some publicity in the American, and especially the Catholic, press. The word was that this would be the largest assembly of high level Christian and Jewish religious leaders from around the world ever to come together in Israel. It had come about, Rabbi David Rosen, the conference chairman, told me, to emphasize that the relationship between Christians and Jews must be "brotherly." For, he said, "With all our differences we share uniquely common roots and profound human values."

I'll always remember the reception he was given by the huge numbers of high level religious leaders and educators who attended that conference, the first ever of its kind to be held in Jerusalem. Full attention

was given to him that day. That didn't surprise me, for Cardinal Ratzinger was a very high-ranking Vatican official. His very first words brought the entire, huge audience to rapt silence:

"The history of the relationship between Israel and Christendom is drenched with blood and tears. It is a history of mistrust and hostility, but also, thank God, a history marked again and again by attempts at forgiveness, understanding and mutual acceptance. After Auschwitz the mission of reconciliation and acceptance permits no deferral..."

Certainly, when this man—who would become our Pope Benedict XVI—spoke, there wasn't even a hint of what some call "conservatism." This was made even more clear when he concluded his talk by reaffirming the importance of Christian-Jewish relations and then got personal, saying, "Already as a child, I could not understand how some people wanted to derive a condemnation of Jews from

the death of Jesus." This was a German-born man speaking, one who in his youth had been drafted into Hitler's Army!

Hearing the news when Cardinal Ratzinger was chosen to be our new Pope, I was also moved by the choice of his name—that of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XV, who served from 1914 to 1922. He is the forgotten Pope. The only ones who remember him are people like myself, who have studied World War I and learned how truly this Pope tried to get the nations killing millions in this horrible war to stop. Somehow I have seen Pope Benedict XVI to be a peace-seeker, like his namesake.

As he steps down, our beloved Pope leaves us a message. "Thank you. In these days which have not been easy for me, I have felt almost physically the power of prayer—your prayers—which the love of the Church has given me. Continue to pray for me, for the Church and for the future Pope. The Lord will guide us." ■



Catechism begins at home

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

The Pope's retirement distresses me. All things equal, I'd prefer the secular world didn't spend time analyzing and opining on the inner workings of the Catholic Church.

But I am glad of it for at least two reasons. For one thing, we will be blessed with a new Pope, and that is exciting. For another, it provides an unprecedented teaching moment for the kids. This kind of thing happens twice, maybe three times, in a lifetime. We have to make the most of it.

Of course, Mr. and Mrs. Hennessey do their best to raise their children in the faith even when papal succession is not

leading the news, but it's not always easy to know how we're doing. Things occasionally fall through the cracks.

For example, Paddy turned to his mother recently and, with the shock of revelation in his eyes, said, "You mean, Jesus... is a boy!?" The child is only four, so certain gaps in his understanding are to be expected. But I couldn't have guessed that the gender of the *son* of God would have been among them.

It only goes to show how attentive we have to be about instructing the next generation. There was a time when being a Catholic meant you could acquire certain cultural and theological

information by osmosis. Those days are gone. Now it takes a little work.

I was poorly catechized myself. My parents gave up on the Church when I was a teenager, so I was forced to fill in a lot of the basic facts when I returned to it on my own as an adult. There were—and are—some holes in my vocabulary.

For instance, I don't think I ever heard the word "transubstantiation" once in 10 years of religious education. The Magisterium? Not sure what that is. The College of Cardinals? Isn't that the really good school out in California? What's it called—Stamford?

My wife was brought up in a solidly Catholic home and went to a solidly Catholic high school. Nevertheless, she, too, had her blind spots. Like all Mets fans of a certain age, she loved slugger Dave Kingman. For the best part of her childhood, she says, she recited the relevant passage in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingman come, thy will be done."

I find there is a generation gap at work here. Older Catholics

often can't fathom how us younger folks don't know what we don't know. They marinated in this stuff as kids, and they presumed we'd become Catholics the way they did: by proximity.

But the world changed in the '70s and '80s. The "traditional" cultural Catholicism that produced our parents and grandparents—the Pat O'Brien priests and the Ingrid Bergman nuns—fell victim to some of the same cultural forces that swept through the larger culture. Be yourself. Follow your bliss. Live your truth.

Now, some will say, "Good. Catholicism needed some fresh air. It wasn't all The Bells of St. Mary's." Which is fine, but I can't help but think that the baby was thrown out with the bathwater.

As a young adult, I overheard a conversation between my father and an aunt in which one of them made mention of the Paraclete. I thought for sure I had heard them wrong.

"You mean parakeet, right?"

"No," they said. "The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit." They were bewildered by my igno-

rance. How could I not know what the Paraclete was? This was something they had learned as kids. It was as familiar to them as the air they breathed.

Their shock was legitimate, but it was misdirected. It wasn't my fault that I didn't know what the Paraclete was. It was theirs.

You see this kind of thing almost everywhere. Older people are prone to complaining about the state of the world—specifically what they think young people have done with it. But if things ain't what they used to be, it's usually because someone dropped the ball. Someone failed to keep faith with tradition. Centuries' worth of hard-won cultural information doesn't just pass itself along. It requires active stewardship.

All is not lost. We can revive tradition and educate ourselves. The dedicated catechists of this diocese and the larger Church who volunteer their time and energy to prepare the young people to receive the sacraments are truly inspiring.

A true catechism, however, must begin in the home. ■

Stopping the Violence

Breaking the Cycle at St. Joseph High School

TRUMBULL—You might think getting shot would be a life-changing event. Not Hashim Garrett. And he would know: at fifteen, Garrett was shot six times in a gang-related incident. That's twelve holes, as he explains—six in and six back out—and none of them changed his life at all. For Garrett, the shooting was only a symptom of a much larger problem.

Picked on relentlessly and feeding a growing anger, Hashim joined a gang—facing violence with violence. In truth, his shooting was almost inevitable. He was destined to be on one side of the gun or the other.

But moving past Hashim's shooting, his near death, and the dawning realization that he would forever be paralyzed, Hashim's reality was this: doctors could not fix him. They could not fix the symptoms; they could close the wounds and make his body whole again. Yet no pill or procedure could make what was wrong, right. In an emotional talk with the full student body of St. Joseph High School, Hashim explained: "What changed my life was not getting shot. What changed my life was forgiveness."

Breaking the Cycle, an award-



CONFLICT RESOLUTION through forgiveness was the focus of speakers Hashim Garrett (left, front) and Charlie Williams (far right), shown here with St. Joseph High School students. (PHOTO COURTESY OF BREAKING THE CYCLE)

winning nonprofit organization now in its fifteenth year, works to bring an end to the cycle of violence through the very simple, yet never easy, process of forgiveness. The organization was invited to speak at St. Joseph's in recognition that we need to face violence head on. As St. Joe's Dean of Students Martin Dempsey said, "Newtown changed the way we look at everything. At children, at schools, at laws...every aspect of life as we know it has changed. There is no better time to address

these issues than now."

St. Joseph's spiritual director, Fr. Michael Novajosky, summed this up perfectly in his opening prayer: "Let us hear the words that we so need to hear today."

In addition to Garrett, speaker Charlie Williams, deputy commandant for the New York Military Academy and veteran of the police department since 1985, addressed the students. Williams pointed out to the assembly, "Hashim and I are a lot alike. We both carried an anger inside.

We both carried guns. And there was a time, when if we had met, we may have been pointing our guns at each other." The deputy commandant then challenged the St. Joseph's students, "Don't ever think that you know what your life is supposed to be. I may not understand what it's like to live here or go to school here in Trumbull, but I do understand hate and I do understand anger. Some wounds you can see but others you can't. Depression is anger turned inwards. The majority of my life I carried hate and anger...and I enjoyed it. For me,

I felt there was no other option. It took me 35 years to let go."

But letting go was exactly what yesterday's assembly was all about. Letting go of anger; forgiving others—not just once, but time and again. Forgiveness is a way of life. Said Hashim: "You are going to have to embody forgiveness because you are the future of this world. If you are going to have a successful life, you are going to have to learn how to forgive."

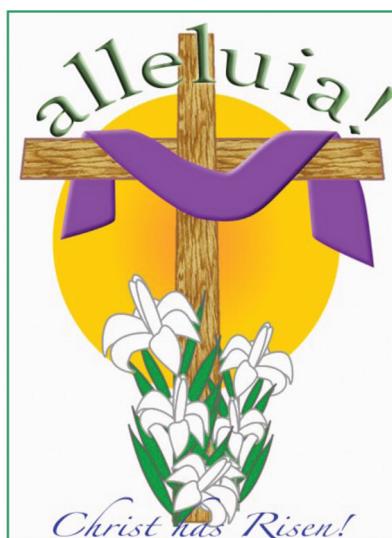
As the presentation drew to a close, perhaps the most sobering question of all was asked of the students: "Be honest: who of you is angry right now. Who is holding on to words that someone else has said to you? Who is holding on to that hurt?" Hands went up—not just a few, but hundreds. Their reaction recalled the words of Robert Kennedy: "Violence affects all of us no matter how old or young, white or black, male or female, rich or poor."

To those raised hands, Garrett's response was definitive: "You may be successful on paper but make sure you are successful in life. Have the courage to forgive and transform your life."

(For more information on *Breaking the Cycle*, visit www.breakingthecycle.com.)

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Easter Season

The Faculty, Staff,
Parents & Students
of GCS



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471 North Street Greenwich Connecticut 06830
www.greenwichcatholicschool.org e-mail: info@gcsct.org

==== KIERNAN FROM PAGE 10

a celery stick (the log) stuffed with peanut butter. Raisin "ants" march along the top of the log, held in place by the peanut butter.

"They had peanut butter on their clothes and hands and peanut butter on the table—it meant a lot to me to see the kids discover that healthy eating can be fun," says Sr. Peg Regan, SSND, executive director of Caroline House.

Caroline House moms, too, enjoyed their own visit with both Kiernan and Margaret Feeny. The mothers learned about foods—like apples—that don't grow in their home countries and saw new ways of offering familiar foods as snacks for their children.

"The women were really interested, but some of the mothers did not want to eat the vegetables," recalls Sr. Peg. "In their culture, people simply did not eat food that was raw."

Just as Margaret became a

mentor to Kiernan and the members of her Scout troop, through her book and her encouragement of healthy snacks Kiernan has become a role model for younger children.

"Maybe someday you'll write a book, too," Sr. Peg told the immigrant youngsters at Caroline House.

"With Kiernan, the Brownies at St. Thomas saw that Scouting, like the attitude of service they learn here, isn't something that ends when you graduate grammar school," says Principal Brady.

The Girl Scout Gold Award that Kiernan has so justly earned is, in the end, a symbol of something far more important. Her drive, energy and enthusiasm will not only change kids' snack habits. It will give girls an image of what they can become in the years to come.

(*Margaret Feeny Had A Farm* is available on Amazon.com.)

Welcoming New Catholics

Rite of Election held at St. Theresa Church

TRUMBULL—On February 17, the First Sunday of Lent, the Diocese of Bridgeport held the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. These are special rites for those adults and children at the age of reason who are preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at Easter Vigils in parishes throughout the diocese.

Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator, presided over the Liturgy of the Word for over 600 people. “They have heard the Lord’s call,” said Msgr. Doyle. “Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.”

The ceremony was held at

Saint Theresa Parish. Thirty parishes were represented, with 70 catechumens (people preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation) with their godparents and 152 candidates (baptized Christians preparing to enter the Catholic Church from another denomination or baptized Catholics who never received the sacrament). Both groups attended the ceremony along with their sponsors. Pastors, RCIA coordinators, catechists, friends, and family were all there to show their support.

The Cathedral Parish (St. Augustine and St. Patrick churches) was proud to have the single largest group in atten-

dance. Second in numbers was St. Charles Borromeo Parish, also in Bridgeport. Highlighting the diversity of the Church in Fairfield County, the Cathedral Parish is home to English, Spanish and Vietnamese communities. St. Charles had English, Spanish and Brazilian communities represented at the Rite of Election.



(PHOTOS BY MIKE DONNARUMMO)



HOLY WEEK & EASTER GUIDE

SAINT MARY’S CHURCH

“The Mother Church of Norwalk” | 669 West Avenue, Norwalk | Est. 1848
www.stmarynorwalk.net | 203.866.5546

Pastor: Fr. Greg J. Markey • Parochial Vicar: Fr. Richard G. Cipolla • In Residence: Fr. Paul N. Check, Director of Courage • Deacon Stephan Genovese • Choirmaster: David J. Hughes

Music for the 9:30am Sunday Solemn High Latin Mass

March 17: Passion Sunday - *Missa Aspice Domine* (Morales); *Tribulationes civitatum* (Byrd)

Palm Sunday - *Missa super In die tribulationis* (Lassus); *Passio Domini Nostri Jesu Christi secundum Matthæum* (Guerrero); *O Jesu Christe* (Jacquet de Berchem); *Improperium* (Palestrina); *In monte Oliveti* (Bruckner); *Vexilla Regis* (Roman tone) (Victoria)

Tenebræ - The complete plainsong Office of Matins & Lauds; Lamentations I & II (Tallis); Lamentations II (White); Tenebræ Responsories (Lassus); *Miserere* (Allegri)

Maundy Thursday - Plainsong Mass for a Mean (Sheppard); *Ubi caritas* (Durufié); *Ave verum corpus* (Mozart); *Pange lingua gloriosi* (Byrd)

Good Friday - *Passio Domini Nostri Jesu Christi secundum Joannem* (Byrd); *Ecce lignum/Crux fidelis* (Willaert); *Maria plena virtute* (Fayfax); *Salvator mundi I* (Tallis)

Easter Vigil - *Cantus Missae* for double choir (Rheinberger); *Maria Magdalena* (A. Gabrieli); *Regina caeli* (Aichinger); *Dum transisset* (Taverner); *Final* from *Symphonie Romane* (Widor)

Easter Sunday - *Missa Regina caeli* (Palestrina); *Hæc dies* (Pérotin); *Christus resurgens* (Richafort); *Congratulamini mihi omnes* (Willaert); *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (Bach); *Final* from *Symphonie Romane* (Widor)

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.: Mass for St. Joseph’s Day: *Missa Quam pulchri sunt* (Victoria); *Veritas mea* (Palestrina); *Te Joseph celebrent* (plainsong); organ music of Bach and Tournemire.

Friday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.: Recital by Paul M. Weber, organ, Associate Professor of Music at Franciscan University, Steubenville. Music of Bach, Rheinberger, and Durufié. More information at stmarynorwalk.net/recitals.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

Confessions for Holy Week:

Monday: 11:30-12 noon
Tuesday: 11:30-12 noon, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 6:30-6:50 p.m.
Thursday: 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Friday: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Saturday 3:00-4:30 p.m.

March 24: Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m. (Solemn High Extraordinary Form) - Beginning with an outdoor procession; **11:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m.** (Spanish); **6:00 p.m.** Adoration and Rosary, **6:30 p.m.** movie: Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*

March 27: Spy Wednesday

8:00 a.m.: Ordinary Form Mass; **6:45 p.m.** Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form – St. Luke’s Passion; (in the Chapel); **8:00 p.m.** The Solemn Office of Tenebræ

March 28: Holy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Solemn High Extraordinary Form Mass of the Last Supper - followed by adoration until midnight
9:00 p.m. Stripping of the Altars/ “Visit to the Seven Churches”

March 29: Good Friday

9:00 a.m. Matins & Lauds; **11:00 a.m.** Spanish Stations of the Cross; **12:00 noon** English Stations of the Cross; **3:00 p.m.** Lord’s Passion; **7:30 p.m.** Seven Last Words
8:00 p.m. Outdoor Procession

March 30: Holy Saturday

9:00 a.m. Matins & Lauds; **12 noon** Blessing of the Food; **8:00 p.m.** Easter Vigil – Solemn High Extraordinary Form Mass

March 31: Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of the Lord
8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m. (Solemn High Extraordinary Form); **11:30 a.m.; 1:15 p.m.** (Spanish)

April 7: Divine Mercy Sunday

8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m. (Solemn High Extraordinary Form); **11:30 a.m.; 1:15 p.m.** (Spanish); **3:00-4:00 p.m.** Adoration, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Sacrament of Confession

SAINT MARY’S BOOKSTORE 203.854.9013

Offering a wide selection of books, crucifixes, rosaries, sacramentals from Italy and the Holy Land, First Communion and Confirmation gifts, and more.

HOURS: Saturday 10am-4pm | Sunday 9-9:30am, 11am-2pm | Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12:45-2pm
Tuesday 11-11:30am and 12:45-2pm | Thursday 12:45-2pm and 3:30-5:30pm

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

Bible Quest

St. Matthew's wins

NORWALK—With cold weather and a threat of snow, three teams of middle-schoolers from surrounding parishes arrived at St. Matthew Parish in late January to participate in a "Bible Challenge." Hosted by Msgr. Walter Orłowski, and organized by Fr. Sudhir D'Souza, the teams were from St. Philip, St. Mary and the home team of St. Matthew's.

After spending weeks polishing

their Bible history and catechetical knowledge, the teams faced eight rounds of questions from throughout the Bible along with a final round of rapid-fire questions. The questions required the teams to recall answers, complete quotes, find answers in particular verses, true or false, multiple choices and matching items. The audience and the host staff from St. Matthew were all impressed with the



knowledge of the teams and their immediate recall.

"I did this because I wanted to learn more about Jesus Christ through an interesting activity," St.

Mary team member Mary Collias said during team introductions.

Other participants agreed that they had joined their teams because they thought a Bible Quiz would be fun.

Not only did the participants learn, but the audience did, too.

After refreshments and time for socializing, the judges tallied the scores. The winner was St. Matthew's, who took home a \$300 cash prize, followed by St. Mary's and St. Philip's. Congratulations to all who participated. ■

HOLY WEEK & EASTER GUIDE

St James Parish

COMMUNITY OF FAITH
2110 Main Street, Stratford, Connecticut
203-375-5887

Rev. Thomas Lynch, Pastor

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 24

Mass Schedule - Saturday Vigil 4:30 pm
Sunday - 7:00 am, 9:15 am (Children's Liturgy),
11:00 am, 12:45 pm & 6:00 pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday thru Wednesday
9:00 am to 7:00 pm - Parish Center Chapel

HOLY THURSDAY - MARCH 28

8:00 am - Morning Prayer

**7:30 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper and
the washing of the feet**

GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 29

8:00 am - Morning Prayer

12:00-2:00 pm - Personal Way of the Cross - Chapel

3:00 pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

5:30 pm Novena of Divine Mercy - Chapel

7:30 pm - Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY - MARCH 30

8:00 am - Morning Prayer

10:00 am - Blessing of Easter Food

3:00 pm Novena of Divine Mercy - Chapel

7:30 pm - The Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY - MARCH 31

Mass Schedule - 7:00 am, 9:15 am, 11:00 am, 12:45 pm

There will be no 6:00 pm Mass

3:00 pm Novena of Divine Mercy - Chapel

Novena will be recited daily at 3:00 pm in the Chapel
concluding on Divine Mercy Sunday, May 1 at 3:00 pm

Please note: There will be no 6:00 pm Eucharist

Join us in celebrating the Sacred Triduum

Saint Theresa

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Mother Church of Trumbull

Rev. Brian Gannon, Pastor

Deacon Salvatore M. Clarizio

Rev. Michael Flynn, Parochial Vicar

Dr. Carolina Flores, Director of Music

Rev. Karol Ksiazek, Parochial Vicar

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE - 2013

PALM SUNDAY - March 24

Blessing and Palm distribution at all Masses

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30pm

Sunday Masses - 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am and 12:00noon

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY - March 25, 26 & 27

Daily Mass - 8:00am, 12:00noon and 5:30pm

Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30pm - Tenebrae Service

HOLY THURSDAY - March 28

Morning Prayer - 8:00am

Celebration of the Lord's Supper - 7:30pm

Adoration at the Altar of Repose - 8:30pm to Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY - March 29

Morning Prayer - 8:00am

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion - 3:00pm

Solemn Stations of the Cross - 7:30pm

Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence from meat

HOLY SATURDAY - March 30

Morning Prayer - 8:00am

Blessing of Easter Food - 12:00noon

Easter Vigil - 8:00pm (Attendance at Vigil satisfies Sunday Obligation)

EASTER SUNDAY - March 31

(Please note change from regular Sunday schedule)

7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am and 12:30pm

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Tuesday - 7:00pm-9:00pm

Holy Thursday - 3:30pm-4:30pm

Good Friday - 11:00am-12:00noon and 4:30pm-5:00pm

Holy Saturday - 11:00am-12:00noon and 3:30pm-4:30pm



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Adult Catechism

BRIDGEPORT—To make the Year of Faith meaningful, the Adult Formation Ministry of the Diocese of Bridgeport has invited Catholics to learn more about the rich heritage of our Faith. One of the ways that is being offered is a discussion of the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*.

Held at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport on Friday mornings from 10:30 am to noon, it offers time for information, discussion and meditation.

"This is a good way for us as Americans to look at the Catechism in a different way," says Gina Donnarummo, facilitator of the group. "We get Catholics and non-Catholics, not only from this diocese but from Westchester County in New York. We gather to learn and discuss a chapter from the book, and the sessions are directed by the interests of the participants. It makes for good conversation."

Although it draws on the better-known *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, which came out in 2006, is set in a different format. Its sections cover the Creed: "The Faith Professed;" Sacraments, "The Faith Celebrated;" Christian Morality: "The Faith Lived;" and Prayer: "The Faith Prayed."

(Contact Gina Donnarummo: gdonnarummo@diobot.org or 203.416.1446. She would also be happy to help parish groups set up their own study of the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*.) ■

Easter

SHU students perform Living Stations of the Cross

FAIRFIELD—Students of Sacred Heart University launched their Lenten observance with a powerful “Living Stations of the Cross” in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. The dramatic presentation included music, hymns and psalms performed by students who are part of Sacred Heart’s rich campus ministry program.

Tracy Deer-Mirek, assistant director of public relations, says about 20 students took part in the dramatic and prayerful reenactment of Jesus Christ carrying the cross to his crucifixion. “The event was meant to help start that period of deep reflection, prayer and repentance.”

Bringing the Living Stations of the Cross to Sacred Heart

University was the brainchild of Vincent Ebenau '14, whose father had staged a similar production at their home parish in Toms River, NJ. Ebenau approached Fr. Jerry Ryle, director of campus ministry, about the idea of bringing the Living Stations to campus because he believed it would bring Scripture alive to the Sacred Heart community.

“The impact of the Stations can be so strong, so powerful and moving that individuals witnessing them can almost feel that they are actually going through it,” says Ebenau.

Fr. Ryle was inspired to see students spending so much time working with the story of our Lord’s passion and death “in

such a way as to dramatize it and share their faith with others. They are experiencing one aspect of our Catholic spirituality, namely, our devotions.”

For freshman Martine Szanto, who participated in the Living Stations, the event was a chance to enrich her own faith. “My faith is extremely important in my life and bringing the fundamental saving act of Christ to life is a reminder of God’s unconditional love for us,” says Szanto, who is from Roswell, GA. “I hope I’m doing my part to spread the Good News. Seeing a story performed is always different than reading it. The Living Stations make Christ’s passion real and present for the audience.”



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a Blessed and Happy Easter.



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EASTER

*May the blessings of the Risen Christ
be with you and your loved ones
during this joyful season
and throughout the year.*

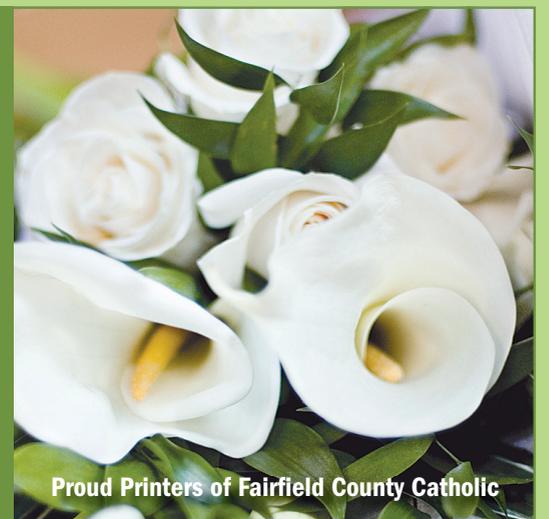


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Defending Life

40 Days for Life

BRIDGEPORT—Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 13, and continuing until March 24, the Diocese of Bridgeport became one of many communities nationwide joining together for a faith-filled coordinated pro-life witness. The campaign is a nationwide movement taking place in over 260 cities. The “40 Days for Life” campaign consists of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil outside local abortion and Planned Parenthood facilities and community outreach.

The movement takes its inspi-

ration from the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark: “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting” (Mk 9:29).

“This is the third year 40 Days of Life has been observed in the Bridgeport area and the number of participants increases every year. Thus far, 30 Catholic Parishes, 20 Evangelical, Protestant, and Orthodox Churches along with 10 men’s, women’s and prayer groups have adopted time frames to participate in pray vigil,” says George Meagher, one of the Bridgeport

40 Days for Life committee members and a parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull.

The emphasis in the Diocese of Bridgeport will be a Pro-Life Prayer Vigil at the Summit Women’s Center, 3787 Main St., Bridgeport, held each day from 10 am-6 pm. “The vigil is peaceful,” emphasizes Maureen Ciardiello, director of the Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Participants are asked to conduct themselves in a Christ-like man-



THIS BILLBOARD was placed near the Summit Women’s Center, thanks to the St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield, Respect Life Committee.

ner and to confine their witness to prayer and presence.

“God’s love does not distinguish between the infant in the mother’s womb or the child or the youth or the adult or the older person,” says Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. “In each one God sees his image and likeness.

Human life is a manifestation of God and his glory.”

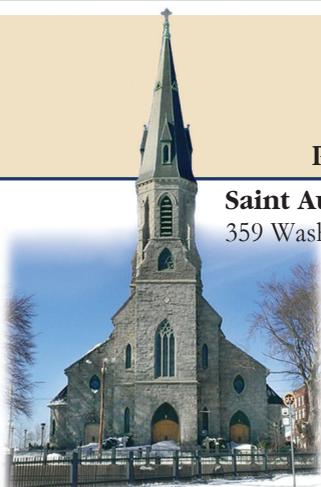
(For more information or to sign up for a prayer vigil time slot, visit the Bridgeport 40 Days for Life website at www.40daysforlife.com/bridgeport or contact the 40 Days for Life coordinator Christine Murphy: 203.438.4866 or 40dfbridgeport@comcast.net.) ■

HOLY WEEK & EASTER GUIDE

The Cathedral Parish

170 Thompson Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

Parish Offices 203.368.6777 and 203.335.0106 • Rectory 203.690.1491 • Fax 203.368.6386 and 203.335.0107



Saint Augustine Cathedral Church
359 Washington Avenue

Rev. Peter F. Lenox, *Administrator*

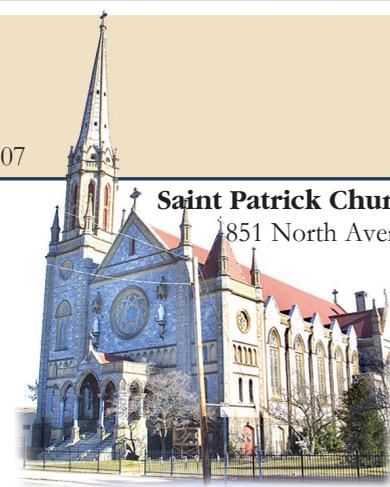
Rev. Peter Ha Dinh-Dang, Rev. Sean R. Kulacz, Rev. John Pius Mwago, *Parochial Vicars*

Rev. Gustavo A. Falla, Rev. Jean-Ridly Julien, Rev. F. John Ringley, *In Residence*

Rev. Mr. Alix Africot, Rev. Mr. William J. Bissenden, Rev. Mr. Santos Garcia,

and Rev. Mr. William A. Koniers, *Deacons*

David F. McCaffrey, *Director of Music*



Saint Patrick Church
851 North Avenue

Holy Week and Easter Mass and Service Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24th

At the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine:

Confessions: Saturday, March 23rd - 3:00pm to 3:45pm

Masses: Vigil Mass: Saturday, March 23rd at 4:00pm

Sunday Masses: 7:00am, 8:30am & 10:00am (*English*),
12:15pm (*Spanish*), 2:30pm (*Vietnamese*)
and 5:30pm (*English*)

Concert: 7:30pm - Dubois: The Seven Last Words of Christ -
David F. McCaffrey, Organist and the Diocesan Choir

At the Upper Church of St. Patrick:

Confessions: Saturday, March 23rd - 2:30pm to 3:30pm

Masses: Vigil Mass: Saturday, March 23rd at 4:00pm

Sunday Masses: 9:00am and 12:10pm

Tuesday, March 26th - Parish Penance Service

7:00pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine

(*Confessions heard in English, Spanish & Vietnamese*)

Wednesday, March 27th - Chrism Mass

10:00am in the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine

The Most Rev. Henry J. Mansell, Archbishop of Hartford,
Principal Celebrant

Holy Thursday, March 28th -

Mass of the Lord’s Supper

7:00pm at the Upper Church of St. Patrick (*English*)

Rev. Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, J.C.D., Principal Celebrant

8:00pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine (*Spanish*)

Rev. Gustavo A. Falla, Celebrant

9:00pm at the Upper Church of St. Patrick (*Vietnamese*)

Rev. Peter Ha Dinh-Dang, Celebrant

*Adoration of the reposed Blessed Sacrament will take place
in both the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine and the Lower
Church of St. Patrick after Mass until 12:00Midnight*

Good Friday: March 29th - The Passion of the Lord

Multi-lingual Stations of the Cross Procession

11:00am to 12:30pm (approximately)

*Leaving the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine
and arriving at the Upper Church of St. Patrick*

Liturgies of the Passion of the Lord:

3:00pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine (*English*)

Rev. Peter F. Lenox, Principal Celebrant

3:00pm at the Upper Church of St. Patrick (*Spanish*)

Rev. Gustavo A. Falla, Celebrant

3:00pm at the Lower Church of St. Patrick (*Vietnamese*)

Rev. Peter Ha Dinh-Dang, Celebrant

Tenebrae - 8:00pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine

Holy Saturday: March 30th - Vigil of Easter

Blessing of Easter Food: 3:00pm at St. Patrick’s Parish Center

Easter Vigil Masses:

8:00pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine (*English*)

Rev. Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, J.C.D., Principal Celebrant
(*Elected Catechumens and Candidates from The Cathedral
Parish will receive their sacraments in English
from Msgr. Doyle at this Mass*)

8:00pm at the Upper Church of St. Patrick (*Vietnamese*)

Rev. Peter Ha Dinh-Dang, Celebrant
(*Elected Catechumens and Candidates from
The Cathedral Parish will receive their sacraments
in Vietnamese from Fr. Dang at this Mass*)

11:00pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine (*Spanish*)

Rev. Alfonso Picone, Celebrant (*There will be no
Baptisms or Confirmations celebrated at this Mass*)

Easter Sunday: March 31st -

The Resurrection of the Lord

Masses at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine:

7:00am, 8:30am and 10:00am (*English*), 12:15pm (*Spanish*),
2:30pm (*Vietnamese*) and 5:30pm (*English*)

Masses at the Upper Church of St. Patrick:

9:00am and 12:10pm (*English*)

Youth Column

Youth seek true friendship

By MEREDITH STOOPS

Is true friendship possible? Why, surrounded by people, do I feel so lonely? What does Jesus mean when he calls us his friends? These and other questions about our life as humans and Christians were asked by over 250 high schoolers gathered on the campus of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield from March 8-10 for Convivio, an annual high school congress, now in its fourth year in Connecticut.

"Convivio started many years ago by a group of young people who wanted to change the world," shares Sr. Florencia Silva, director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Bridgeport, adding "They got together to start to find answers," which is the essence of Convivio.

The conference is divided into four main blocks in which the participants examine the current state of the world; ask why things are the way they are; discover the answer to the problems they see; and, lastly, consider how they must respond. Each section includes a talk and may also make use of skits, videos or other means to more deeply consider the question at hand, followed by small group discussions and activities. This year, the questions centered around the theme of true friendship, reflecting throughout the weekend on Christ's words in John 15:15: "I have called you friends."

"This theme is relevant for youth today," says Sr. Florencia, "who often feel they are alone even in the midst of a society that is connected like never before by means of social media." In fact,

she adds, social media can "distract them from real friendships." This serves to compound the difficulties presented by a culture that already "encourages them not to be dependent on others."

As they examined the often-distorted view of friendship presented by the world, the participants considered the characteristics of true friendship. "'Authentic' was a really popular word this weekend," says Isabelle Baker, a sophomore at Danbury High School and a first-year participant. But the focus was not just on human friendships; she shares the importance of "knowing that Jesus will always fit into that authentic friend category for you, but you have to fit into that category for him and be authentic and open with Jesus."

This pursuit of friendship with Christ was a main element of the



congress. "Up until now I'd always thought I had a very solid and good relationship with God" shares participant Sam DeMattio, a parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Weston, "but there was something about this weekend where I really felt like 'wow' there's just so much I could keep doing and so many ways I could still grow."

Students were offered many opportunities to deepen their friendship with the Lord, including Sunday Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation,

and Eucharistic Adoration throughout the weekend.

These moments of prayer were very important for sophomore Victoria Vas: "It's so amazing that we receive the Sacrament of Confession and of Mass and Adoration and get to spend time with Jesus with other teens."

Last year, Vas was "dragged by my sister" to Convivio, but this year she was the one inviting her friends to come, including Baker and others from her youth group at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield.

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

HOLY WEEK & EASTER GUIDE



Saint Thomas Aquinas R.C. Church

1719 Post Road • Fairfield, Connecticut 06824
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Rev. Victor T. Martin, Pastor

Holy Week Services

Confessions

Saturday, March 23 - 4:00-4:45pm

Passion (Palm) Sunday Masses

Saturday, March 23 - 5:00pm

Sunday, March 24 - 7:00am, 9:00am (Family Mass), 10:30am & 12:00 noon (Palms distributed at ALL Masses)
Evening Prayer & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:30pm

Confessions

Monday-Wednesday following the 7:00am & 12:10 Masses

Lenten Penance Service

Tuesday, March 26 - 7:30pm

Holy Thursday - March 28

Morning Prayer - 8:00am
Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the Mass until Midnight

Good Friday - March 29

Morning Prayer - 8:00am
Confessions - 11:00am-12:00 noon
Stations of the Cross - 12:00 noon
Passion of our Lord - 3:00pm
Tenebrae Service - 7:30pm

Holy Saturday - March 30

Morning Prayer - 8:00am
Blessing of Food - 2:00pm in Church

Easter Vigil Mass - March 30

8:00pm (Fulfills Sunday obligation)

Easter Sunday Masses - March 31

7:00am, 9:00am (Family Mass), 10:30am & 12:00 noon

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MASS SCHEDULE

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SUNDAYS AT 7:00, 9:00, 10:30AM, 12:15 & 5:15PM
WEEKDAYS AT 7:00, 8:00AM, 12:05 & 5:30PM
SATURDAYS AT 8:00AM

CONFESSIONS

TUESDAYS OF LENT, 7:00-9:00PM
SATURDAYS OF LENT, 2:45-3:45PM
HOLY THURSDAY, 1:00-4:00PM
HOLY SATURDAY, 3:00-5:00PM

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LENT 2013



THE EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY

MORNING PRAYER AT 8:00AM
MIDDAY PRAYER AT 12:00NOON
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT 7:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY

OFFICE OF TENEBRAE AT 8:00AM
STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 12:00NOON
CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION AND DEATH AT 3:00PM
CELEBRACIÓN DE LA PASION GLORIOSA DEL SEÑOR AT 7:30PM

HOLY SATURDAY

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER AT 7:30PM

EASTER MASSES

7:00, 9:00, 10:30AM, 12:15, 5:15PM



Sports

Stags celebrate early NIT teams

By **DON HARRISON**

Sweet memories of two long-ago seasons enveloped Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport as a group of men—most now in their late fifties or beyond—trotted onto the court at halftime of the Fairfield University-Albany game on February 23.

George Groom. John Ryan. Ray Kelly. Ralph Rehn. Craig Moorer. Names once synonymous with basketball excellence took their place at midcourt as the university recognized its first two teams to play in the then-prestigious National Invitation Tournament at Madison Square Garden.

Indeed, on March 18, 1973, the Stags became the first college team from Connecticut to win a game in the nation's oldest post-season tournament when they dispatched favored Marshall University, 80-76, before a crowd of 13,904. Groom, long-range shooter par excellence, generated 19 of his game-high 23 points in the second half to spearhead Fairfield's come-behind triumph.

Coach Fred Barakat's Stags would earn a return trip to the NIT the following March, too, but lost a 66-65 heartbreaker to Hawaii before 17,739.

"We had a closely-knit team, and all of those memories came flooding back," says Groom, now 61, who lives with his wife, Marilyn, in Westbury, NY, and works in medical sales. "Everybody got a little bit bigger, lost some hair, but I recognized them. I treasure the times we had together."

Groom still holds Fairfield's

records for points in a single game (41) and a career scoring average of 19.8, but he wonders what he might have averaged had the three-point goal been in effect during his era.

"My daughter (Lauren, who also played basketball at Fairfield) saw that I had 41 in a game," he relates. "I told her, 'It could have been 50 if we had the three-pointer.'"

Nine members of the Stags' 1972-73 and 1973-74 NIT teams were among 54 former Fairfield players, many accompanied by their spouses, who attended what is expected to become an annual event. Groom and Bob Bogad played on the school's inaugural NIT squad in 1972-73, Ryan, Kelly, Rehn and the 6-foot-11 Moorer were integral members of both tournament teams, while Pete Holland, Joe Finn and Steve Diaz joined the 1973-74 team.

"We had a super day. The university did a super job," said Ryan, 60, the ebullient playmaker who still holds all of Fairfield's assists records—game, 23; season, 301; career, 675. "It's a shame the weather postponed it from the original date (the Saturday blizzard of February 9). We all left with the feeling, 'Let's stay in touch and get together again.'"

Ryan and Kelly, also 60, a guard who scored 1,167 points across three varsity seasons and captained the 1974-75 team, settled in Fairfield following graduation and raised their families in town. John and Joanne Ryan are the parents of twins, Sarah and Will. Ray and Maureen Kelly have a son, Colin.

Both have done well professionally. Kelly earned a law degree from the University of Bridgeport and now has offices on Black Rock Turnpike, while

players.

The event began at noon with a reception and prayer service in the Stags Club at Webster Bank Arena. Names of deceased players and

and Barakat, who died in 2010—were read during the service.

"We're looking to make this an annual event," says Pat Murphy, the senior associate athletic direc-



NIT MEMORIES—Fairfield University became the first school from Connecticut to win a game in the National Invitation Tournament in 1973. The university recently recognized its NIT teams from 1973 and '74: (l-r) '74 co-captain John Ryan, Ray Kelly, Ralph Rehn, Pete Holland, Joe Finn, Steve Diaz, '73 captain George Groom, Craig Moorer, Bob Bogad, Fairfield President Jeffrey von Arx, S.J., and Director of Athletics Gene Doris.

Ryan spent many years on the business side of local radio and print, and now operates JSR Advertising in Trumbull.

Ryan, who nearly made the NBA New York Nets roster, has remained in the game as a youth coach at his parish, St. Thomas Aquinas in Fairfield.

Most of the attendees lived within driving distance of the picturesque campus they once called home; Rehn (Atlanta, GA) and Moorer (Washington, DC) were among the notable exceptions.

George Bisacca, who, as athletic director and basketball coach, was the architect of the university's rise to the NCAA Division-I ranks in 1964, also attended. Later, he and his wife hosted a dinner at their Fairfield home for many of his former

coaches—including Jerry Lademan, a sophomore guard on the 1972-73 NIT squad who was killed in an auto accident in Italy in June of '73,

tor, who coordinated the affair with Ryan, Kelly and Art Kenney, a 6-8 center who played for Bisacca in the late 1960s. ■

EDUCATORS FROM PAGE 7

teacher in 1988.

The morning began at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit with Mass celebrated by Msgr. Jerald Doyle, diocesan administrator, and Fr. Rick Ryscavage, S.J., CAPP chaplain and director of the Center for Faith and Public Life at Fairfield University.

In his homily, Msgr. Doyle said that biblical history is a story of how God reveals himself and makes himself fully known to people he calls to salvation.

"We're here not just to celebrate people who can teach science or math but to remem-

ber that every Catholic educator must see himself or herself as a revealer of the mystery of Jesus Christ in everything he does. Every Catholic who forms the mind and soul of another is faced with the same challenge: to reveal the promise of God in the life of everyone you teach," he said.

(Centesimus Annual Pro Pontifice (CAPP) was founded in 1993 to encourage business people, academics and other professionals to study and promote Catholic social teaching. For more information, email wfox@capp-usa.org.) ■

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Obituaries

Sr. Margaret (Maggie) Gay, OSU, died at 79

Sr. Margaret Gay, OSU, died February 1 at Brookhaven Hospital, Long Island, NY.

Margaret Gay was born in Hartford on May 26, 1933. Two of her three brothers later became priests. She entered the congregation of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk on September 8, 1952, taking the religious name of Sr. David, and professed her final vows six years later.

Sr. Margaret taught in New York before coming to Connecticut, where she taught at the former St. Maurice

School in Stamford from 1971-1977. After completing her years of teaching, she served her community for many years by providing housekeeping and meal preparation in the province's retreat centers in Oyster Bay, NY and Blue Point, NY.

In 2003, Sr. Margaret retired in Blue Point, where she continued in a ministry of prayer.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sr. Margaret on February 5 at the St. Ursula Center Chapel in Blue Point, followed by internment at the



cemetery of the Ursuline Sisters in Blue Point.

WHITE MASS FROM PAGE 5

action between spiritual and physical healing, but the ultimate healing is always spiritual because it brings a person toward to the wholeness offered by faith."

In the White Mass before the brunch, Diocesan Administrator Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle reflected on healing in the parable of the Prodigal Son. "We're observing a special day to recognize and celebrate healers, but just as in Luke's Gospel, what needs to be healed is not always obvious to the physician or the individual. We must always look deeper."

In his homily, Msgr. Doyle said "It's not always great sin that separates us from God's will. There are little things within ourselves like the jealousy of the older brother in the parable. He's not responding to God's will, he's even resenting it, like us when we think we don't get as much as we deserve in life."

Msgr. Doyle presented this year's Fr. Ruffin Compassionate Care Awards to Andrew A. Sama, MD, of Greenwich and Sr. Mary Ellen Genova, C.S.F.N. of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown.

Dr. Sama, a noted orthopedic surgeon, and his wife Liza are the parents of five boys, all in Greenwich Catholic School. As a family they reached out to help families affected by Super Storm Sandy, and Dr. Sama has been involved in the community and recently participated in "40 Days for Life."

Sr. Mary Ellen was praised by Msgr. Robert Weiss, pastor of St. Rose, for bringing "God's grace and one-on-one care" to individuals and families after the Sandy Hook School shootings in Newtown. She serves as coordinator of the St. Rose Parish Nurse Program and is active in the parish's social concerns outreach.

ABA FROM PAGE 6

to remember family and friends through the Prayer Request. It shows that the diocese is a big family and people really care about each other."

Rittman says that among the highlights of services are the 1.3 million meals to the poor and homeless, 36,000 children who participate in religious education programs, 3,500 prisoners who receive spiritual counseling, 11,000 students in diocesan elementary and high schools, 22,000 patients receiving pastoral care in health facilities, and 600 couples who attended week-

end retreats as they prepared for marriage.

Checks may be made payable to the Annual Bishop's Appeal, and a credit card gift may be payable online or by pledge card. All gifts will be acknowledged by the diocese and are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

(For more information, go to www.2013ABA.com or, to make your gift early, pledge by emailing: 2013ABA@diobpt.org. The mailing address is: Annual Bishop's Appeal, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606.)

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT MARCH 17—APRIL 13

MARCH

17	Rev. Daniel F. Golden	1955
	Msgr. John F. Murcko.....	1975
	Msgr. Francis X. McGuire.....	1993
18	Msgr. Donald M. Paolucci	1990
	Rev. John Fay.....	2006
19	Rev. Bartholomew J. O'Shea	1959
20	Msgr. Francis A. Campagnone	2003
24	Rev. Jon C. Bokron.....	1993
27	Rev. Bertrand E. Parent.....	1973
30	Msgr. Patrick F. Donnelly	1993

APRIL

2	Rev. Richard R. Dunn	1999
3	Rev. Francis C. Metro.....	1957
4	Msgr. John F. Jazowski	2010
5	Rev. Hugh F. Gallagher	1980
7	Rev. Stephen E. Opra.....	1992
8	Rev. Joseph V. Kazlauskas.....	1968
	Rev. Edward M. Horan.....	1978
9	Rev. John A. MacNeil	1994
13	Msgr. Henry M. Callahan	1956

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Healthcare News

St. Vincent's 3-D mammography

BRIDGEPORT—St. Vincent's Medical Center recently cut the ribbon on its new "3-dimensional" breast tomosynthesis unit, which is a new technology, recently approved by the FDA

of the new technology, was joined by St. Vincent's Health Services CEO Susan L. Davis, RN, Ed.D.; Women's Imaging Center Medical Director Kelly Harkins, MD; Radiology Director Rachel

cancer is key to good outcomes and survival, and this new unit will be a boon to women throughout the area as it pinpoints small tumors that might not be seen in certain women on a regular mammogram."

Breast tomosynthesis technology images the breast digitally at various depths to obtain several thin slices of each breast. This allows the radiologist to find more breast cancers that may have been missed on standard breast imaging due to overlapping breast tissue. Breast tomosynthesis allows the radiologist to get a clearer picture with the ability to examine the breast tissue one layer at a time.

"While digital mammography is still one of the most advanced technologies available today, it is still only a two-dimensional picture which can make it difficult to pick up small abnormalities that may be obscured by overlapping breast tissue," said Dr. Harkins. "This is especially helpful in the patients that have dense breast tissue."

In addition to improved cancer detection, breast tomosynthesis decreases the number of patients who need to return for additional

images after their screening mammogram. "Most of the patients that return for additional images after a screening mammogram are due to the inability to see the breast tissue clearly on the 2-D images. This will in turn reduce patient anxiety," said Dr. Harkins.

"Breast tomosynthesis is a real breakthrough in breast imaging and is now considered best practice in the field of mammography," he continued. "Multiple recent studies all found a higher cancer detection rate with tomosynthesis compared to standard 2-D digital mammography."

According to Dr. Harkins,

breast tomosynthesis does not eliminate the need for ultrasound technology in women with dense breasts. Breast ultrasound is an additional test done in conjunction with a woman's annual screening mammography. Ultrasound, which is different than an x-ray, is used to evaluate the breast tissue for masses and cysts, whereas digital mammography evaluates for areas of distortion and calcifications and changes from year to year.

"Utilizing these screening tools together, we have the best chance to find breast cancer at its earliest, most curable stage," Dr. Harkins said.



to detect breast cancer. The new unit, Hologic's Selenia Dimensions, is located in St. Vincent's SWIM Women's Imaging Center located on level four of St. Vincent's Elizabeth M. Pfriem SWIM Center for Cancer Care adjacent to St. Vincent's Medical Center.

Benefactor Elizabeth Pfriem, who made possible the purchase

Giliotti, MBA, RT(R)(T); and staff members in cutting the ribbon.

"We are so grateful to our benefactor Elizabeth Pfriem for once again stepping up to help improve the health of the community through the purchase of this state-of-the-art tomosynthesis technology," said Susan Davis. "Early detection of breast

Mariandale Retreat Conference CENTER

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the Soul

Preview Summer Retreats Save the Dates!

JUNE

Artists' Contemplative Retreat
Coordinator: Lucianne Siers, OP
Thursday, June 6 – Thursday, June 13
Fee: \$475 – \$500 (as you are able)

**Seasons of the Heart:
Embracing Life's Changes**
Presenters: Gaynell Cronin and Jack Rathschmidt, OFM Cap.
Sunday, June 16 – Friday, June 21
Fee: \$400 – \$425 (as you are able)

**Adult Faith Development in the
21st Century**
Presenter: Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC
Friday, June 21 – Sunday, June 23
Limited space; register early!
Fee: \$325 – \$350 (as you are able);
Commuter: \$225 – \$250 (as you are able)

Healing the Hole in the Heart
Presenter: Don Bisson, FMS, D.Min
Thursday, June 27 – Sunday, June 30
Fee: \$325 – \$350 (as you are able);
Commuter: \$225 – \$250 (as you are able)

Directed Retreat
Directors: Aedan McKeon, OP; Elizabeth Anne DiPippo, SU; Nancy Ertz, OP and Judy Schiavo
Sunday, June 30 – Saturday, July 6
Fee: \$450 – \$475 (as you are able)

JULY

**Crafters' and Quilters' Retreat:
Leaf Your Worries, Come on Get Happy**
Prayer Facilitator: Nancy Ertz, OP
Craft Instructor: Patricia Werner
Wednesday, July 10 – Sunday, July 14
Fee: \$350 – \$375 (as you are able);
Commuter: \$250 – \$275 (as you are able)

**Discovering a New Window
of Opportunity**
Presenter: Beverly Musgrave, Ph.D
Sunday, July 14 – Friday, July 19
Fee: \$400 – \$425 (as you are able)

Directed Retreat
Directors: Ned Coughlin, SJ; Nancy Ertz, OP;
Rose Marie Harkins, OP and Judy Schiavo
Sunday, July 21 – Saturday, July 27
Fee: \$450 – \$475 (as you are able)

Directed Retreat
Directors: Dianne Carlson, RSM;
Mary Kay Flannery, SSJ; Francis Gargani, CSSR;
Justine Lyons, RSCJ; Beverly Musgrave, Ph.D.;
Honora Nicholson, RSM; Nancy Pluta and
Anne L. Simmonds, D.Min
Sunday, July 28 – Sunday, August 4
Fee: \$500 – \$525 (as you are able)

AUGUST

The Healing Power of Christian Virtue
Presenter: Michael Laratonda, FMS
Sunday, August 4 – Saturday, August 10
Fee: \$450 – \$475 (as you are able)

Pausing to Grow in Awareness
Presenter: James Friedel, OSA
Sunday, August 11 – Friday, August 16
Fee: \$400 – \$425 (as you are able)

**Becoming Earth-Wise: Through the
Books of Nature and Scripture**
Presenters: Carol DeAngelo, SC and Nancy Ertz, OP
Sunday, August 18 – Friday, August 23
Special Fee: \$325 – \$350 (as you are able)

Mariandale Retreat Center is available for private and group retreats. Contact Linda Rivers, OP, 914-941-4455, lrivers@ophope.org for inquiries or to arrange private retreats.
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CATHOLIC COMPOSERS AND MUSICIANS—(l-r) Steve Angrisano, Curtis Stephan (piano) and Dan Schutte performed recently at the "Age to Age, Generations of Faith" concert held in the Egan Chapel of Fairfield University. The trio received a standing ovation from the diverse audience that included parishioners, university students and people of all ages throughout Fairfield County. "They offered two hours of music and prayer, creating a wonderful entry into the season of Lent," said Fr. John Baran, Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, which co-sponsored the concert with Fairfield University.

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Holy Land/Italy: Apr. 1-14, Apr. 8-21, Apr. 15-28 ...

Italy South: Apr. 27-May 9, May 4-16, May 11-23 ...

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Nuestra Voz

Radio María: una misión de feligreses

Por SONIA BURNS

¿Aburridos de no encontrar un canal de televisión que no sea telebasura? ¿Agobiados de no poder escuchar mensajes positivos por las redes sociales? La respuesta está en la estación de Radio María en español. Una estación de radio conducida por la gente y disponible para todos. Radio María está disponible por el Internet, su teléfono inteligente, o por su radio en la frecuencia de 620 AM o 99.5 FM de acuerdo a la región, incluso por teléfono.

A Radio María se le conoce como “un medio de comunicación basado en la pobreza” porque su transmisión se realiza a través del 10% de una señal FM y su frecuencia es captada por un “sub carrier”. Radio María de la ciudad de Nueva York transmite en la 95.5 FM Sub-Carrier 2 y, para escucharla, es necesario comprar un radio con un transmisor especial. La antena transmisora de la emisora está en la torre del edificio Empire State en Manhattan. Radio María se encuentra localizada en Manhattan, uno de los cinco condados de la ciudad de Nueva York. Las ondas de Radio María cubren la ciudad de Nueva York, parte del estado del mismo nombre y partes de los estados de Nueva Jersey y Connecticut.

La programación de Radio María es transmitida por voluntarios. Con la excepción de unas pocas personas, todos los que trabajan en esta estación religiosa lo hacen de manera voluntaria.

La estación de Radio María nació en Italia en el año 1983 con el fin de informar a los creyentes acerca de las actividades parroquiales en Arcellasco d'Erba, Italia, y para enviar un mensaje de alivio a los enfermos. En 1987 la Asociación de Radio María fue introducida con el fin de engrandar la evangelización y en 1990 su transmisión comenzó a hacerse a nivel nacional. En el presente, esta estación de radio se puede escuchar en más de cincuenta países por varios continentes y en veintiséis idiomas. En los Estados Unidos se transmite en Louisiana, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania y Nueva York. La radio en Nueva York se transmite en italiano, inglés y espa-

ñol, donde cada programación responde a la cultura de cada grupo étnico.

De acuerdo al Padre Gustavo Falla, Director del Ministerio para Católicos de habla Hispana de la Diócesis de Bridgeport, Radio María Nueva York hizo contacto con el entonces obispo



de Bridgeport, William E. Lori y le ofreció sus servicios. El obispo Lori pidió al P. Falla explorar esta iniciativa y así fue como “su equipo de radio vino a la Catedral de San Agustín en Bridgeport, y explicaron su misión y cómo funciona la programación”, explica el Padre Falla.

Radio María es primordialmente una estación de radio cuya finalidad es evangelizar y llevar mensajes de la Buena Nueva de Jesucristo, y es fiel al magisterio de la Iglesia Católica. Este medio de comunicación permite a toda la gente que se encuentra en diferentes lugares, ya sea en la casa, en el trabajo, en camino a su trabajo, o en cualquier lugar durante su vida diaria, escuchar una programación de música religiosa tradicional, charlas, discusiones e instrucción de temas relacionados con la fe católica, el rezo del Santo Rosario, novenas, la Santa Misa, el Viacrucis. Esta forma de transmisión es también un medio de comunicación que busca llegar a todos los corazones necesitados de Dios. Es un medio de llevar consuelo a los enfermos, y a las personas de avanzada edad, a los solitarios y deprimidos.

En la Diócesis de Bridgeport, la estación de radio se ha extendido a varias parroquias donde los feligreses contribuyen a la transmisión diaria. De acuerdo al Padre Falla, la Parroquia de

la Catedral en Bridgeport (que comprende las iglesias de San Agustín y San Patricio y que ha dado la bienvenida a la comunidad de San Rafael), la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Danbury y la Parroquia de Saint Benedict-Nuestra Señora de Montserrat en Stamford tiene feligreses que donan su tiempo a esta causa de evangelización. Estas personas se han responsabilizado de tres programas: los lunes y martes de 6 a 8 de la mañana con liturgia de 6 a 7 y de 7 a 8 el Santo Rosario. Los jueves de 9 a 10 de la mañana el Padre Falla transmite una hora de programación sobre la historia de la Iglesia. Este programa es interactivo, donde los radioescuchas dentro y fuera de los Estados Unidos pueden llamar y hacer preguntas.

“Uno de los aspectos más importantes de Radio María es que es interactivo, las personas llaman y hacen preguntas. Es admirable, yo he hablado con personas de Houston, y de Chicago” dice el Padre Falla. El contacto con el oyente es uno de los fundamentos más importantes de su programación. Por lo tanto, participa siempre a través del teléfono, cuando el oyente afirma que ha encontrado a Dios, Radio María llega a ser su continua compañía.

“Cuando visité a mi familia en Colombia el pasado mes de julio, nos reunimos en casa de mi madre junto con familiares, vecinos y amigos madre y nos conectamos con Radio María, a eso de las 4:00 am, hora de Colombia por medio de ‘Skype’. Varios oyentes que llamaron compartieron sus deseos de poder estar con sus familias también. Fue tan asombroso, no podía imaginar lo que estaba sucediendo”, dice el Padre Falla.

En febrero el Padre Arthur Molenhauer, párroco de la Santa María y administrador de la Saint Benedict-Nuestra Señora de Montserrat, ha acordado unir sus feligreses a la lista de voluntarios de la radio. El Padre José de Jesús Montoya, quien organizará al equipo de Danbury, estará trabajando con el nuevo equipo de Stamford. “Al grupo de voluntarios se le llama ‘hormiguitas’ porque todos contribuimos algo, y juntos hacemos el trabajo”,

agrega el Padre Falla.

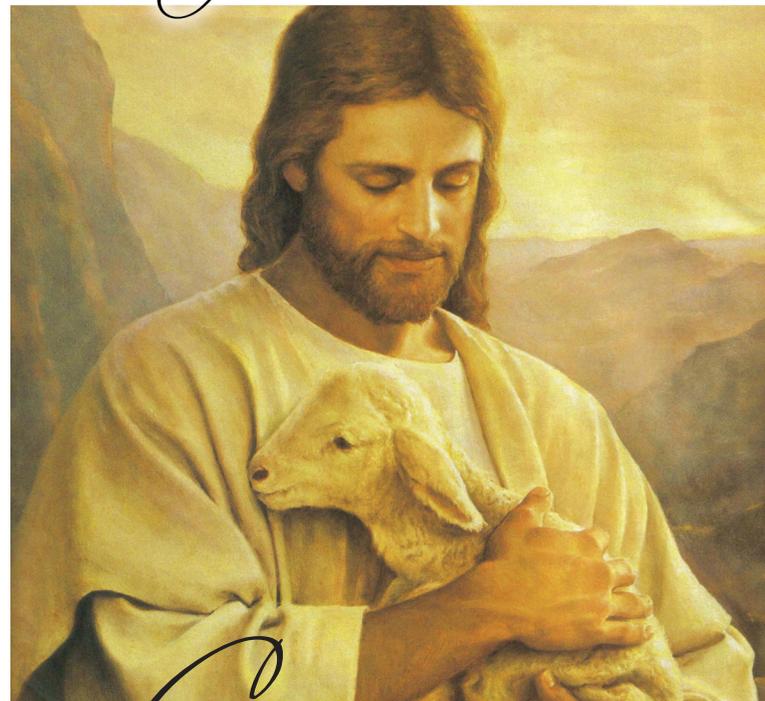
Ser voluntario de Radio María es un apostolado, una misión que incluye laicos, sacerdotes y religiosos que se sienten sujetos activos y responsables a la difusión del evangelio en el mundo. Esta estación de radio no recibe publicidad y se sostiene sólo con la ayuda de personas generosas que quieren colaborar en este objetivo al servicio de los hermanos.

Según un feligrés de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, la Señora Adriana Molina, ser “una hormiguita”

de radio María ha aumentado su fe. Como voluntaria de la radio ella participa con las oraciones en el horario de su parroquia. “En un mundo tan ocupado, esta programación permite al hispano instruirse en la fe, en cualquier lugar que se encuentre”, ella dice.

(Se puede escuchar a Radio María en español de Nueva York por internet: Radio María NY en español (<http://nys.radiomaria.us>); por la estación de radio 99.5 FM; o llamando al teléfono 212-901-5323 y cuando escuche las instrucciones marque el 3).

Expressions of Sympathy



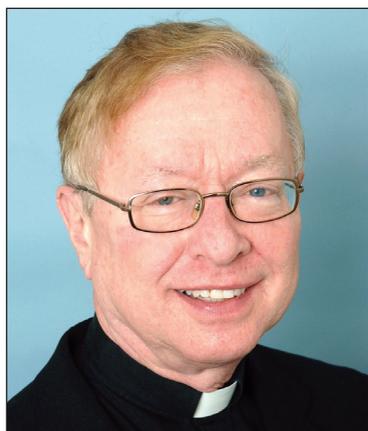
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Column



A personal reflection on Benedict XVI

GUEST COLUMNIST

BY FR. RICHARD RYSCAVAGE, SJ

Fr. Ryscavage is the director of Fairfield University's Center for Faith and Public Life and a professor of sociology.

During the 1990s when I was working for the U.S. Catholic Bishops, one of the cardinals who knew I would be stopping in Rome on my way to Vietnam asked me to hand deliver some documents to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, then head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith.

At that time Cardinal Ratzinger had a formidable reputation as Pope John Paul II's "enforcer," protecting Catholic doctrinal teachings from unorthodox interpretations. I expected to meet a severe hard-edged intellectual. As I was escorted into his office, I was more than a little nervous.

The man I met that day sur-

prised me. The cardinal was exceedingly gracious and kind, almost shy. When he found out that I was head of the U.S. Bishops' Office for Migration and Refugees and that I was headed to Vietnam, he had me sit down. He asked some excellent questions about the Church in Vietnam, especially about the Vietnamese Jesuit Provincial who was still in prison. He listened carefully to what I had to say and he asked me to stop in Rome on my return to brief the Cardinal Secretary of State.

I never saw Joseph Ratzinger again until after he was elected Pope. I accompanied an American cardinal to a brief meeting with Benedict XVI. I was impressed that he still

remembered me, although he thought I was still at Georgetown University, not Fairfield.

In 2011 and 2012 as ecclesiastical councilor for the Fairfield County Chapter of Centissimus Annus Pro Pontifice (CAPP), I joined in private audiences with the Holy Father. CAPP is a lay organization based in the Vatican and founded by John Paul II to promote Catholic Social Teaching. Last year I noticed how visibly tired and frail the 84-year-old Pontiff seemed.

After his dramatic resignation, a Jesuit friend in Rome told me that in 2009 visiting the town of Aquila after the earthquake, Benedict had made a point of stopping at the grave site of Pope Celestine V and placing his pallium on the tomb. The pallium is a wool cloth that symbolizes the papal office. Celestine was a pope who resigned hundreds of years ago. So perhaps Pope Benedict

was thinking about resigning even in 2009. We do know that John Paul II refused his request to resign when he had turned 70. Perhaps he has long been yearning for this day.

He leaves behind a formidable intellectual legacy as a theologian and Pope. His encyclicals had an unexpected emphasis on Catholic Social Doctrine and globalization, which will be discussed for many years to come. His books are essential reading for every student of Catholic theology.

The Pope ended his papacy during the Year of Faith. Benedict asked Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, to lead the annual Lenten week-long retreat for the Pope and the Vatican. The Pope thanked Ravasi for taking him and the others on "a walk through the mysterious universe

of faith" in preparation for Easter. The need for faith, the Pope said, is "even more necessary in this particular moment that I, personally, and the Apostolic See are living." So the timing is perfect. His papacy concludes on a strong note of faith and prayer in anticipation of the Resurrection and a fresh beginning for the Catholic Church.

In the *Catalogs of Jesuits* around the world we list our location and our apostolic work. When a man retires and is no longer working, the *Catalog* simply says "praying for the Church." For Pope Benedict, too, prayer for the Church is now his work. Leaving the ministry of St. Peter and the leadership of 1.2 billion Catholics around the world is a profound act of humility, an act fully in keeping with the gentle modest man I met many years before. May God bless him deeply. ■

YOUTH FROM PAGE 19

Convivio is unique among high school conferences because "It accompanies kids through a question and answer process," Sr. Florencia says. This is greatly aided by the small groups during the weekend.

"The small groups really stuck out to me," shares Isabelle Baker. "You get to see all these different opinions on different things and look at things from a different point of view that you wouldn't necessarily think of."

The theme of friendship wasn't limited to the participants, but

extended to the one hundred-plus adult volunteers who helped with countless behind-the-scenes details. Mike Kachuba of St. Joseph's Parish in Shelton has volunteered at Convivio all four years. The experience, Kachuba says, has "strengthened our friendship as well."

But the heart of Convivio continues to be a conference "run by the youth and for the youth." Sr. Florencia emphasizes, "It's the young people who lead the discussions and give the talks and the witnesses." Approximately 70

youth volunteered as small group leaders throughout the weekend. In preparation for the conference, they attended meetings to discuss the theological underpinnings of the weekend, as well as a step-by-step walk-through of the congress.

Since its first occurrence in Peru in 1977, Convivio has spread across Latin America and beyond, including England, Australia, Africa, Philippines and the United States.

(Meredith Stoops, a group leader at Convivio, recently graduated from Benedictine College in Kansas.) ■

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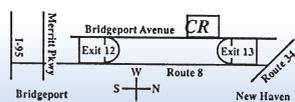
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Column



The Providence of Books

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

“I could not be happy if I did not have a new book to read.”
(Teresa of Avila)

“Books, books, books! I felt the heat Under my pillow, in the morning’s dark As hours before the sun would let me read! My books!”
(Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*)

One of the dramatic and, I think, frightening changes in students from the time I was in college, and even from the time I first taught college, is that not many students today read for pleasure or enlightenment. Reading is no longer one of the ways they spend time. It seems that reading is being crowded out by other media. As a French writer named Louis-Ferdinand Celine put it: “Books can’t compete with cars, the movies, television, the computer or liquor.” The famous academic, Harold Bloom, put it this way: “A childhood largely spent watching television yields to an adolescence with a computer, and reading falls apart.”

My reading life began when I was a high school student and a great English teacher brought about my collision with the writer Thomas Wolfe. He spoke glowingly about Wolfe and occasioned my reading *Look Homeward Angel*. I was enchanted by Wolfe’s lyrical flow of prose; I found his poetic, rhapsodical writing simply amazing. Here’s a small clip about lost love:

“Come up into the hills, O my young love, Return! O lost, and by the wind grieved ghost, come back again, as first I knew you in the timeless valley, where we shall feel ourselves

again, as first I knew you in the month of June... O my young love, return.

“O lost and by the wind grieved ghost, come back again.”

Wolfe’s prose is a bit too lavish for some, but I loved it. I mark the reading of *Look Homeward Angel* as one of the pivotal events of my life. Wolfe’s writing gave me a taste for language and books. He brought about my breakthrough into the delights of reading. It is the one fire of youth that never went out.

I’ve come to think there is a special Providence of books which brings one the right book at the right time. Henry David Thoreau stated: “How many a

man has dated a new era in his life from the reading of a book.” I honestly think there are books I was born to read.

Graham Greene’s *The Power and the Glory* was such a book for me. I entered into Greene’s bleak and chaotic world of sin and redemption and met the outlawed priest as he literally staggers into the first scene—disheveled and slightly drunk. He is a “whiskey priest.” The book has to do with the Great Love that catches up with the priest.

The Power and the Glory led me to read the rest of Greene’s so-called Catholic novels: *Brighton Rock*, *The Heart of the Matter*, *The End of the Affair*, where I recognized that the main character was God.

I went on to read Bernanos’ *Diary of a Country Priest*, that grave, lovely tale of a dying young priest, anguished by his impending loss of the world’s beauty.

Catholicism began to fascinate me. I read Mauriac, Claudel, Bloy, Waugh. It was literature, more than philosophy and theology, that lighted my way to a sense of faith as a great adventure, a

sense of how the supernatural completes the picture, gives reality its true flavor. The Catholic novelist, Walker Percy, observed: “Whatever else the benefits of the Catholic faith, it is of particular felicitous use to the novelist. Indeed, if one had to design a religion for novelists, I can think of no better.”

During my twenties, I binged on books by Thomas Merton. I

was effortless and smooth, eloquent verbal music. At one time, I wanted to be John Updike. I used to think why would anyone want to be president of the United States, if he could write like John Updike?

Like Teresa of Avila, I could not be happy without a book. I like nothing better than an evening alone in a copious recliner, one book in my hand, and a stack of others on the floor beside me. To read, fall asleep, then to wake and read again—a delectable way to spend an evening.

There may be some truth to the idea that books are my narcotic. Yet if I hadn’t been an insatiable reader, I feel I would have lived a smaller, meaner life. I feel sad about people who miss the excitement and satisfaction of having books in their lives. I regard books as one of my life’s greatest blessings. Reading has been my sustenance, my companion. I believe that the teacher who makes the arrangement of words on a page an exciting affair is giving a student a better gift than a gold mine.

To be continued. ■

“I like nothing better than an evening alone in a copious recliner, one book in my hand, and a stack of others beside me.”

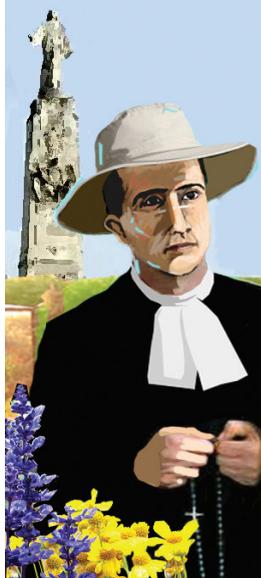
still return to them. *The Catcher in the Rye* resonated with me.

I have almost overdosed on John Updike, the chronicler of suburbia and its spiritual and cultural crises. His descriptive powers were extraordinary. His prose

SAINTLY LIVES

BY ED WALDRON

Saint Jaime Hilario



b. 1889 ~ d. 1937

COMBINED FORCES OF COMMUNISTS, ANARCHISTS, AND FREEMASONS, FUELED BY THE NEWLY ELECTED LEFTIST GOVERNMENT IN SPAIN IN THE MID 1930s, IDENTIFIED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AS THE ENEMY. WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE, 13 BISHOPS, 4,152 PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS, 2,365 RELIGIOUS AND 283 NUNS WERE EXECUTED. ONE OF THESE WAS BROTHER JAIME HILARIO.



JAIME WAS ARRESTED FOR BEING A RELIGIOUS WHILE ON HIS WAY TO VISIT FAMILY. HE WAS JAILED FOR FIVE MONTHS, THEN TRANSFERRED TO A PRISON SHIP AND SENTENCED TO DEATH.



JAIME WAS A CHRISTIAN BROTHER, REGARDED AS AN OUTSTANDING TEACHER, BUT WHEN HIS HEARING BEGAN TO FAIL, HE RETIRED FROM THE CLASSROOM TO SPEND HIS DAYS IN PRAYER, WORKING AS A GARDENER AT THE FORMATION HOUSE IN SAN JOSE IN SOUTHERN SPAIN.



JAIME REFUSED TO DENY HIS VOCATION IN TRIAL. THE NEXT DAY HE WAS TAKEN TO A CEMETERY WHERE HE DIRECTED HIS FINAL WORDS TO THE EXECUTIONERS, “TO DIE FOR CHRIST, MY YOUNG FRIENDS, IS TO LIVE”. THE FIRING SQUAD FAILED TWICE TO MEET THEIR MARK, SO THE ENRAGED COMMANDER SHOT HIM AT POINT BLANK RANGE.



Bits & Pieces

YEAR OF FAITH: Every Fri., from 10:30 am-12 noon at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport, discuss a chapter from the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. For more information, contact Gina Donnarummo: 203.416.1446 or gdonnarummo@diobot.org.

IGNATIAN HERITAGE WEEK will take place **Mar. 17-22** at Fairfield University. All events are free. "Jesuit Education: Some Awkward Questions," lecture by Philip Endean, S.J., takes place at 8 pm Thurs., **Mar. 21**, at the Dolan School of Business Dining Room and is open to the public. To learn more about the week's events, visit www.fairfield.edu/ignatianweek.

LENTEN MISSION: "A

Personal Relationship with Jesus" with Fr. Bill McCarthy of My Father's House, will be held at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, Mon.-Wed., **Mar. 18-20**, at 7 pm. All are welcome. For more information, call the parish office: 203.268.8695.

CONNECTIONS! for Catholic singles 35 and older invites you to an "Evening of Reflection" with Fr. Peter Cipriani, spiritual director of Notre Dame High School in Fairfield, on Mon., **Mar. 18**, at Notre Dame. Mass at 7 pm, followed by talk and refreshments. For more information or to RSVP, call Fr. Norm Guilbert: 203.336.1835.

MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE sponsored by the

Charismatic Renewal Office will be offered Mon., **Mar. 18** at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, with Fr. Bob Kwiatkowski. For more information, call 203.268.8253.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP is forming at St. Stephen Parish, Trumbull. A series of ten weekly meeting will be held starting Wed., **Mar. 20**, from 4-5:30 pm or 6:30-8 pm. For more information and to register, call the parish office: 203.268.6217.

MARIAN LADIES of St. George Parish, Bridgeport, meet the first and fourth Wed. of the month (**Mar. 20, Apr. 10**). Mass at 9 am; "Catholicism" is the current area of discussion. For more information, call Pat: 203.261.8020.

"CATHOLIC. DIVORCED. Now what?" an evening for anyone interested in understanding what the Church teaches, as well as learning about the annulment process, will be held Wed., **Mar. 20** from 7-9:30 pm at St. Jude Parish, Monroe. For more information, contact Angela Mantero, director of Family Life: 203.416.1627 or amantero@diobpt.org.

YEAR OF FAITH: St. Philip Parish, Norwalk, is holding a Vatican II discussion group the third Thurs. of each month (**Mar. 21**) from now through June, from 7:30-9 pm. The Mar. topic will be the decree on the Vatican II document *Dei Verbum*, on Divine Revelation. For more information, call the parish: 203.847.4549.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS are held at locations around the diocese: Thurs., **Mar. 21**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel at 7:30 pm; and Mon., **Apr. 1**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, at 7 pm. For more information, contact Jeanette: jkovac@snet.net.

"FOOD OF THE HOLY LAND, A Taste of the Middle East," will be offered Sat., **Mar. 23**, at 5:30 pm at St. Theresa School, Trumbull. Catering by Layla's Falafel. Cost: Adults \$20; \$5 for children 12 & under. For more information or for tickets, call 203.268.3236.

A TASTE OF GOD'S GRACE, a day retreat for women featuring Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle and Allison Gingras will be held at the Holiday Inn, Danbury/Bethel, from 9 am-4 pm on Sat., **Mar. 23**. For more information or to register, call 508.243.1133 or visit

www.reconciledtoyou.com.

"CATHOLIC AMERICA," a pilgrimage to the birthplace of Catholicism in the U.S. with Dr. Joan Kelly and Fr. David Leopold, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Georgetown, will take place Sun.-Mon., **Apr. 28-29**. Visit America's first Cathedral, and the shrines of St. Elizabeth Seton and Mother Drexel. Cost: \$219. Registration deadline: Mon., **Mar. 25**. For more information and to register, contact Gina Donnarummo: 203.416.1446 or gdonnarummo@diobpt.org.

PASTA DINNER will be held at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, on Sat., **Apr. 6**, immediately following the 5 pm Mass. For more information, call Julia: 203.261.8421.

RESTLESS HEART, a full-length movie on St. Augustine, will be presented by St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, at the Royale Theater, 542 Westport Ave. Norwalk, on Sat., **Apr. 6**, at 11 am. Tickets: \$10. For more information or to order tickets, contact Erlinda Zelaya, ezsuarz@yahoo.com or 203.866.5546.

PROM DRESS DRIVE will be held at St. Andrew Parish, Bridgeport. Drop off dresses Mon.-Wed., **Apr. 1-3**, and shop Fri.-Sat., **Apr. 5-6**. Why spend a fortune on a new dress? All are welcome. For more information, contact Sue Baldwin: 203.374.8118 or sbaldwin143@yahoo.com

GIANT MULTI-VENDOR TAG SALE will be held at St. Mary Parish, Stamford, on Sat. **Apr. 13**, from 9 am-4 pm. For more information or to buy table space, contact Sharon: 203.327.1806 or smacknight@optonline.net before Mon., **Apr. 1**.

ALUMNI DAY cocktail reception for St. Vincent's College is scheduled for Wed. **Apr. 10** from 5-7 pm. Includes the Alumni of the Year Award. For more information, contact alumni@stvincentscollege.edu or 203.576.6262.

WOMEN'S GROUP at Christ the King, Trumbull, will meet Mon., **Apr. 8**, at 10 am. Guest speaker will be Sister Virginia Sheehan, SSND, speaking on "Women in the Easter Gospel." For more information,

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Bits & Pieces

call Pat: 203.261.8020.

YEAR OF FAITH: the Cathedral Parish of St. Augustine & St. Patrick, Bridgeport, is holding Holy Hours on the second Thurs. of the month, alternating parishes. It will be at St. Augustine's on Thurs, **Apr. 11**, from 7-9 pm. For more information, call 203.368.6777 or

203.335.0106.

LOOK GOOD FEEL BETTER program for female cancer patients will be held at St. Vincent's Medical Center on Thurs., **Apr. 11**, from 1-3 pm. This meeting is a step toward renewed self-confidence for women undergoing radiation and/or chemotherapy treatment.

Lunch is provided; free parking available. Reservations required. For more information or to register, call 203-576-6158.

GOSPEL OF LIFE SOCIETY meets the second Sat. of the month (**Apr. 13**) at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, after the 9 am Pro-Life Mass. Leticia Velasquez, co-founder of KIDS (Keep Infants with Down Syndrome), will be the guest speaker. For more information, contact Eileen Bianchini: 203.847.5727 or stmarygols@aol.com.

CABARET AFTERNOON, starting with a ziti luncheon, will be held at St. Emery Parish, Fairfield, on Sun., **Apr. 14**, starting at 12 noon. The cabaret will feature Anthony Procaccini, St. Emery's music director, with Krista Adams Santilli, lyric soprano. Adults: \$20; soft drinks included, wine: \$3/glass. Children: \$10. No tickets sold at the door. For more information and for tickets, call Barbara Chuga: 203.268.4535; MaryAnn Corcoran: 203.336.0618; or Marie Kassay: 203.336.0618.

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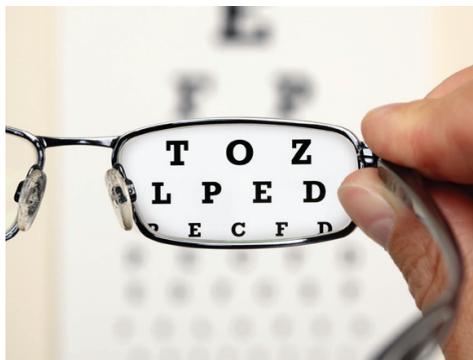
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TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **Diabetes 101** with Dr. Erika Strohmayer, Endocrinologist
- **Amputation Prevention for the Diabetic Patient: Don't Let This Little Piggy Go to the Market** with Dr. Sahani Howie, Podiatrist and Wound Care Specialist
- **Diabetes and the Eyes** with Dr. Delia Manjoney, Ophthalmologist
- **Everyone Can Carbohydrate Count** with Karen Novak, RD, CDE, Dietician
- **Exercise Demonstration** with Allie DiMarco, Exercise Physiologist

Hawley Conference Center, Level 4,
St. Vincent's Medical Center, 2800 Main Street,
Bridgeport, CT

Registration begins at 8:00AM. Program begins at 8:20AM.
Free continental breakfast included. Free parking for attendees.
To register please call St. Vincent's Care Line at 1-877-255-SVHS (7847).

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