

FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

APRIL 2015 | VOLUME 32, NUMBER 4 | SPRING ISSUE

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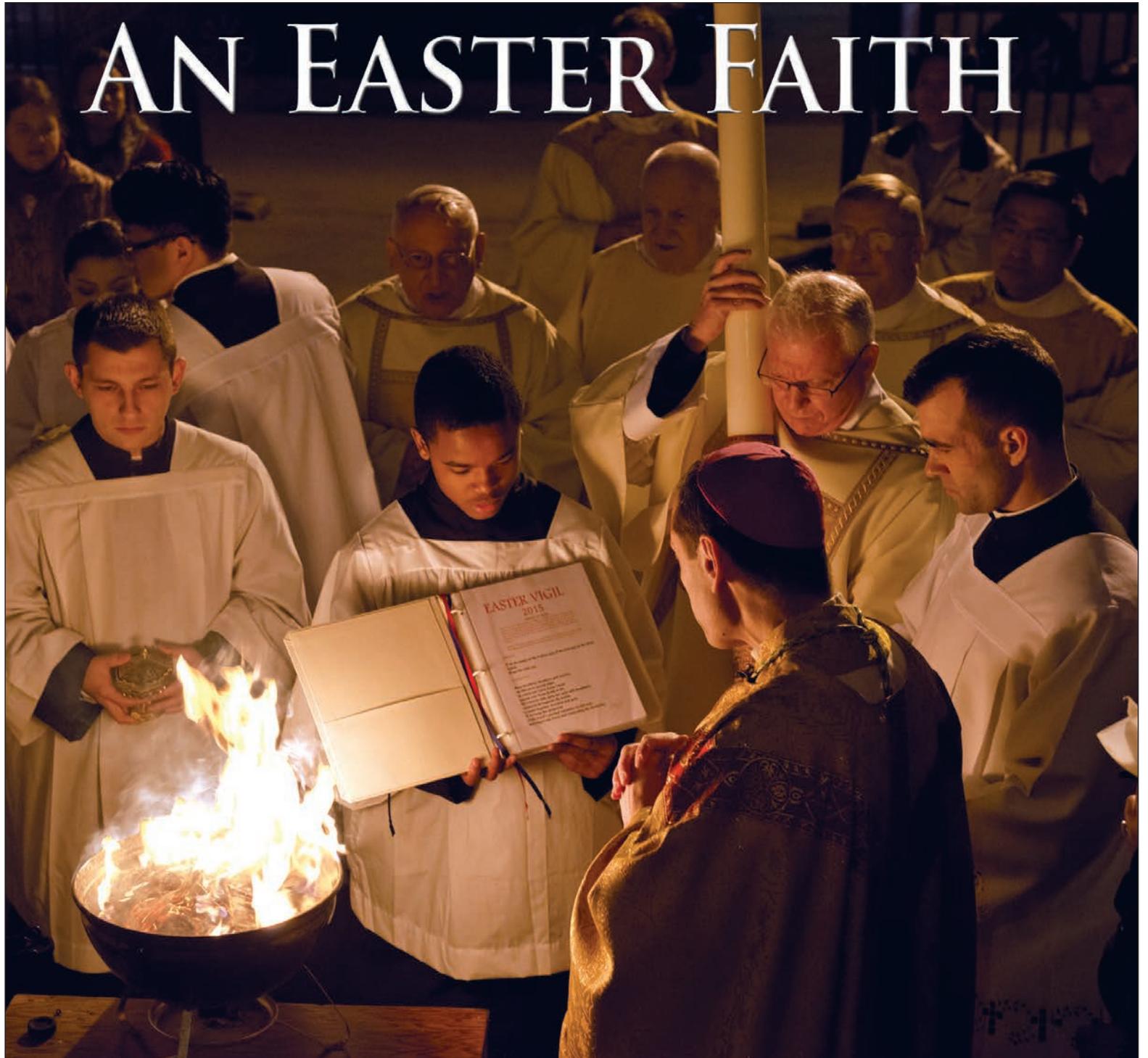
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Walking into the future with Jesus

"Everything flows out from the abundance of God's goodness," said Father John Harris, OP, at the diocesan synod retreat on April 12. "We're walking with the Lord into the future."

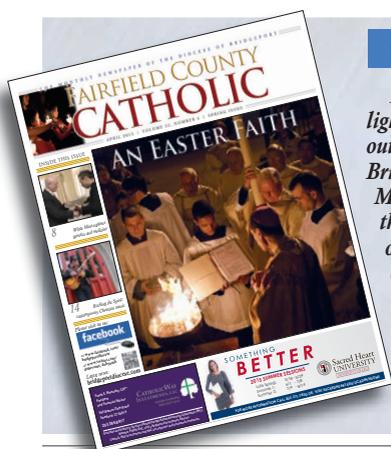
As Synod 2014 reached its midpoint, delegates gathered on April 12 at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Wilton for an afternoon of prayer and reflection. The warmth of the graceful spring day, so welcome after the harsh winter, gave emphasis to the promise of renewed life in the Diocese of Bridgeport through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Father Harris, a Dominican from Limerick, Ireland, took as his theme the disciples encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Their hopes had fallen to dust with the death of Jesus

on Good Friday, and they were leaving Jerusalem. In the midst of their confusion, Jesus came and walked with them.

"We ask a lot of the same questions: What's happening in the Church? Where are we going?" Father Harris said. Like those disciples, Catholics of our time can become discouraged with the Church and lose the assurance of faith.

"Beware of discouragement," he urged. "The devil is the father of lies, and the great discourager. We are chosen to live in the presence of Christ in our time; this synod is part of the mystery of the Lord's presence among us. The love of the mercy of Christ is flowing through this whole gathering today, and flowing throughout the whole diocese." ■



ON THE COVER

EASTER VIGIL—Bishop Frank Caggiano lights the Paschal Candle, the "Light of Christ," outside St. Augustine Cathedral in downtown Bridgeport for the beginning of the Easter Vigil Mass. More than 700 people of all ages filled the Cathedral for the Mass. "May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds," he said, as he lit the candle. Churches throughout the diocese were filled to standing room only as Catholics gathered for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection and the gift of faith. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

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Local News

Bishop outlines principles for synod implementation

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano called for a commitment to “substantial and lasting change” as he outlined seven guiding principles for implementing synod recommendations in parishes and ministries throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Speaking to 320 delegates and observers who braved the remnants of a snowstorm on the first day of spring, the bishop said Synod 2014 was an invitation to “create roadmaps to vital and vibrant communities.”

His talk on the spirit and methodology of renewal of the local Church galvanized the delegates and was greeted by a standing ovation at the Fourth General Session of the synod held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull.

While the delegates reviewed best practice models and other initiatives for parishes, the bishop said he didn’t want a strategic plan that “will be shelved in 90 days,” but an ongoing “conversion of individuals and the entire diocesan family” to the “city of everlasting life.”

The bishop said he is not interested in imposing programs from the top down but in giving indi-

vidual parishes the flexibility to design their own programs, while maintaining the larger “communion” and unity of the diocese. He said his goal was for the diocese to become invisible while parishes become more visible, and that it will require accountability from all involved.

“No one parish can do everything on its own, and some things can only be done by the diocese,” he told delegates, noting that the work of the synod reflects the “theology of accompaniment” outlined by Pope Francis.

“The journey of faith of individuals must be respected one person at a time,” he said, adding that the real work of the synod begins after the closing of the conclave when the implementation process begins.

He said the synod will lead to the development “of a new body of leadership in every parish,” and that he will ask all parishes as well as diocesan programs to set measurable benchmarks for change.

Noting that there is inherent tension as the Church seeks to preserve what it does best, while also undergoing change, the bishop called for a spirit of collaboration that does not simply mean compromising on individual goals but “allowing Christ to take



SPEAKING TO 320 DELEGATES at the Fourth General Session of Synod 2014, Bishop Caggiano said that he wants an ongoing “conversion of individuals and the entire diocesan family” to the “city of everlasting life.” (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

the lead.”

The bishop’s talk followed morning presentations on best practices and models of ministry by guest speakers.

“When we encounter Jesus Christ, our lives change,” said Eric Gallagher of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, S.D., Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry.

He told delegates that youth programs must “cultivate an atmosphere of discipleship” and meet young people based on where they are.

Gallagher said that many of

our youth are now “experiencing Christ outside of the Church,” at other Christian music events or youth festivals. Referring to such activity as “pre-evangelization,” Gallagher said he sometimes takes youth from his own parish to Christian events because they can help young people grow and share the faith. He added that the Church should also be confident in its own outreach to youth because it has Christ in the Eucharist.

“The New Evangelization calls on us to do something differ-

ent,” he said. “Young people will go where they are fed.”

Jim Lundholm-Eades, of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, said that he has spoken to eight synods across the country and that the challenges faced by the Diocese of Bridgeport are very much in line with other dioceses.

He said that change comes out of a “discernment process that’s not about the will of the people but the will of God.”

Lundholm-Eades said that the context of leadership in parishes and the Church has been affected by “constant change” over the past decade with “Catholics now going to parishes where they are fed—not where they live.”

He said parish leaders must be gifted at gathering people, creating dialogue, and even dealing with “dissonance and disintegration” in the face of change and uncertainty. “We are people of the Resurrection. If we remain faithful, there is light at the end of the dark night,” he said.

Husband and wife team Peter and Claudia Roux of St. John Parish in Darien gave an upbeat presentation on Changing Evangelization Models identified in the Amazing Parish

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

New vicariate planned for Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has announced the creation of a sixth vicariate in the Diocese of Bridgeport. The new vicariate, Vicariate VI, will encompass all 13 parishes in the City of Bridgeport.

In a formal letter published on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of Mary, the bishop named Father Peter Lynch, pastor of St. Ann Parish in Black Rock, as vicar for the newly formed vicariate. The decision was made after consultations with the episcopal vicars, territorial vicars and the Presbyteral Council.

“The intention of this new structure is to facilitate a closer working relationship among the parishes in the City of Bridgeport,” said Bishop Caggiano. “I am most grateful



A CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIP among the parishes of Bridgeport was the goal of forming Vicariate VI for the city. Bishop Caggiano met with Bridgeport priests and deacons following the announcement.

to our priest-vicars for their leadership and support on this new configuration.”

Under Canon Law, dioceses

are typically organized into territories or “vicariates” that correspond with a given region or area of the local Church.

Father Robert Kinnally, chancellor of the diocese, said the reconfiguration “will institute a territorial structure that is more practical and that will enable us to respond more readily and pastorally to the needs identified in our diocesan synod and in the strategic planning process.”

The creation of the new vicariate will necessitate a reorganization of Vicariates III and IV, which formerly had included parishes in the City of Bridgeport in their territories. Vicariates III and IV will continue to operate minus the Bridgeport parishes. There will be no changes in structure or leadership in Vicariates I, II, and V.

The bishop has appointed Father Peter Cipriani, pastor of Assumption Parish in Fairfield,

to replace Father Lynch as vicar of Vicariate III.

The parishes in the new Vicariate VI include The Cathedral Parish, Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Fatima, St. Andrew/Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, St. Ann, St. Charles Borromeo, SS. Cyril and Methodius, St. George, St. Margaret Shrine, St. Mary, St. Michael the Archangel and St. Peter.

Vicariates are a means to subsidiarity and allow a greater sensitivity to the extraordinary diversity of pastoral situations in a diocese. “They render the coordination of pastoral action easier, encourage unity in a region, improve the efficiency of organized pastoral initiatives, and better provide for the needs of a particular community,” said Father Kinnally. ■

The 50 Days of Easter



The gift of Easter

“Whenever you are tempted to give up, whenever you are wondering about where the world is going, if you ever ask yourself, where will all of this end up? My friends, remember this night.”

*From Bishop Frank J. Caggiano's Easter Vigil Homily
(Visit the diocesan website to listen to his entire homily.)*

The lighting of the Paschal Candle outside of diocesan churches during the Easter Vigil seemed to take on a special significance this year with a strong wind blowing and a chill lingering in the air after a long and difficult winter. How much we needed the Light of Christ!

The observance of Holy Week in the diocese was a time of great solemnity and beauty, beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating in the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, the great feast day of the liturgical year. Below are photos of Bishop Caggiano and Catholics throughout the diocese participating in liturgies during Holy Week.

In his writings, Bishop Caggiano reminds us that Easter Sunday, which celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, is the first day of the new season of the Great Fifty Days, or Eastertide, which runs until Pentecost Sunday.



April 2015

Local News

Young adults celebrate their faith

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

Meet Theresa Raytar and Mary Thierry, who lead Young Adult faith groups in the Diocese of Bridgeport:

“We’re a volunteer army,” says Mary, who started the group at the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford.

“I found my niche in a group I attended out of state, and I want to pass that on here,” says Theresa, who coordinates the group at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull.

The groups include young people, both married and single, ages 20-32, who come together for prayer, socialization and a deepening of their faith. One of their first diocesan-wide events was the successful “Summer Splash,” which featured a talk by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. The two young professionals recently met with the bishop to share their experiences and to discuss ways to encourage young people to come forward to start Young Adult groups in their parishes. For more information, contact: raytar.theresa@gmail.com or mthierry@gmail.com.

What draws a young adult to a faith group?

Theresa: Young adults want

a safe place where they don’t feel peer pressure and can grow deeper in their faith without being judged or made fun of. It’s positive peer support from like-minded people.

When I lived in San Diego, I went to the Bible Study they had at St. Bridget Church and found others who had a spiritual life along with their social life. There were 60 young people and some drove more than an hour and a half to get there. I never saw the Holy Spirit working in people my age like that. It was inspiring. I saw positive people reaching out to others and being transformed by the groups. We’d like to pass on that torch here in Fairfield County.

Mary: The main priority is to create a sense of community. At some point, people realize they want to do something more for their faith. When someone has the feeling that they want to learn more, they’ll have a place to go. It’s really about creating a safe space where people can explore their faith, where they can get to know each other and get to know God. But it won’t work if they don’t find community in the Church.

Research shows that young adults tend to get lost in Church—they’re the most fallen-away demographic. They leave for college and don’t come back. Why do you think many young adults are struggling with their faith?

Mary: The daily life of



TERESA RAYTAR AND MARY THIERRY

twenty-somethings in Fairfield County is not conducive to spiritual development. Many young adults in the region feel a great deal of instability around their jobs and relationships. Our parents’ generation was not involved with Church, and we’re not always comfortable with the subject. We lack a common language to talk about faith.

Theresa: People are always moving and changing jobs, and they make decisions that don’t benefit them. When I was younger, I was bored and needed a spirituality that was more in tune with my life. At some point in everyone’s journey in life, there

is an opportunity to turn your life back to God. We have to look for ways to open the doors for Christ to come in.

Yet many young people are let down by the popular culture and do not find fulfillment in secular values.

Mary: Our culture exalts things that wound people. They get hurt by it and think something is wrong with them. That leaves them confused and they feel like they don’t belong in church. Even people raised in the Church feel defensive talking about their faith.

Theresa: Like many younger baptized Catholics, I was just going through the motions when I lived at home—going to church because of my parents. When I moved out to San Diego, I stopped going but there was an emptiness. I was out with friends on the weekends, taking long runs by myself and the area was beautiful, but I didn’t feel fulfilled—something was lacking. I realized that faith had always been an important part of me and I needed to think on my own.

Polls show that many young adults don’t agree with the Church on issues like gay marriage or birth control. Is that a barrier?

Theresa: I don’t think we can start the conversation with the hot button issues like gay marriage and abortion.

Mary: It’s not a question of changing the teachings, but changing the way they are communicated. It’s tough to talk about faith

when it’s connected with a lot of politically loaded issues. Many young people also tune out doctrinal teaching and things that are specifically religious.

Are you saying that once young adults stray from the Church, they feel there’s no way back?

Mary: The Church’s teachings are often at odds with the popular culture’s perception of how things ought to be. Then, many young people say, ‘I’m not sure I agree with those teachings, so I shouldn’t go to Church anymore,’ or ‘They don’t want me there.’

Theresa: Most of my friends don’t go to church. They don’t like the music, and they think we’re stuck in the old ways—and that there’s no place for them.

How do you get young adults to come back?

Theresa: Look at the example of Pope Francis, who invited cohabitating couples to Mass. He’s opening doors for people who think the Church doesn’t have an interest in them. Bishop Caggiano reminds me of Pope Francis in the way he’s reaching out to young adults. Something new is needed to get the mission accomplished for Fairfield County and the diocese.

People need Reconciliation because we all sin and go through troubled times. They need to experience Jesus on their journey and know that he is waiting and welcoming to them.

Mary: We need an easy on-ramp getting back into church. We need to go out and bring people in for five or ten minutes. Invite them into something you value. Faith is an amazing thing, and we want to share it. It’s about being evangelists for our Church. And leading with love and by example—the Pope Francis way of doing it.

Religion is a deep power and goes to the core of who we are as human beings. We have to show that the Church is a viable option to what the popular culture says you should be doing and that people who live in holiness are happy.

(For all things “Catholic Young Adults” in Fairfield County and beyond, upcoming events, list of YA Groups and more go to www.dob-ya.com.)

Serra Club Charter Mass

FAIRFIELD—The first Serra Club Mass in the Diocese of Bridgeport will be held on Tuesday, April 28, at 4 pm in the parish center chapel at St. Pius X Parish. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will celebrate the Mass to charter the diocese’s first Serra Club.

Serra International is a worldwide organization of more than 18,000 lay Catholic men and women in more than 40 countries who promote and affirm vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Their efforts in helping to identify,



encourage and support individuals in their consideration of and commitment to vocations have provided strong support to the Church’s ongoing needs around

the world.

It has been proven that when there is an organized effort focused on encouraging vocations, there will be positive results. With the blessing of Bishop Caggiano and the priests of the diocese, the charter members of the Serra Club look forward to being an active resource for parishes, encouraging vocations, supporting young men and women who are discerning their vocations, and affirming the vocations of priests, deacons and religious in their commitments to Catholic service. ■

Bishop's Scholarship Fund

Diocese names director

BRIDGEPORT—Siobhan Lidington of Norwalk has been named executive director of the Bishop's Scholarship Fund. The appointment was made by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

The Bishop's Scholarship Fund, announced in January by Bishop Caggiano, is designed to provide tuition assistance on an annual basis for students to attend diocesan-sponsored schools. The aid will be used to attract new admissions and to retain existing students, especially in families that are financially challenged or have more than one child in school.

As executive director, Lidington will be responsible for managing the annual fundraising efforts for the fund and overseeing the distribution of all scholarship assistance. She will work directly with the bishop to create the fund's vision, goals and implementation strategy.

"The initial response to our

scholarship fund has been very strong and positive. It is a key element in our initiative to sustain and grow Catholic education in the diocese," said Bishop Caggiano.

"We welcome Siobhan's leadership and enthusiasm. In addition to 11 years of fundraising and management experience, she brings a strong faith and a passion for promoting Catholic education as a profound formative element in the lives of children and young people."

Lidington comes to the diocese after serving as a development consultant and interim annual fund director for Southern Methodist University. In that capacity, she was responsible for an annual appeal and strategic planning.

Her professional experience includes work as director of development for Southern Methodist University from 2007 to 2009, where she worked with alumni and parents in the New York City

and Fairfield County areas.

She also served as the director of alumni development for the Graduate Business School of University College of Dublin, Ireland, from 2003-07. In that post she directed alumni services to 25,000 graduates worldwide. In the past she has also worked for Sotheby's International Realty in Boston, Mass., where she implemented a branded marketing service. She began her career as a teacher in New York City.

Lidington earned a masters in business administration from University College, Dublin, in 2003, and a masters in education from The New School, New York, N.Y. She also has bachelors in education and social science from Prescott College, Prescott, Ariz.

She is an active parishioner at Assumption Parish in Westport, where she serves as a catechist, a lector, and a member of the

Social Concerns Ministry.

The diocese educates more than 9,000 students in its 35 schools (five high schools, 29 elementary schools, one early childhood center located at St. Clement Parish in Stamford and one special education school, St. Catherine's Academy in Fairfield).

The centerpiece of the bishop's proposal to change school funding is the new scholarship fund, which is expected to raise \$1.45 million in new scholarship aid that will be available to all families across the diocese.

Scholarships are renewable each year for as long as the student attends a diocesan elementary or high school and remains in good standing. More than 1,000 children have applied for this year's \$1.45 million in scholarship grants, which will be disbursed beginning in the 2015-16 school year.

The first year of the funding



SIOBHAN LIDINGTON

is reserved for elementary school students. After that, high school students will also be able to apply for scholarship aid.

The Bishop's Scholarships will be funded each year through a new Scholarship Fund Dinner and an annual Christmas Concert for Youth, along with revenue from the Annual Catholic Appeal, the Faith in the Future Fund, and a redistribution of existing parish educational contributions.

(For more info, contact Siobhan Lidington: 203.416.1405 or slidington@diobpt.org. For info on the Bishop's Scholarship Fund, visit www.bishopsscholarship.org.)



MARY BOZZUTI HIGGINS
DIRECTOR DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR DIRECTOR

The Diocesan Youth Choir seeks to unite the young men and women from all 82 parishes in the Diocese of Bridgeport IN SONG! It is my hope that it serves as a much needed way for our youth to be further invested in their faith, forge closer relationships with God and each other and fully participate in the liturgy. While exploring all types of choral music, I hope to create a love for worship in song and a life time desire to actively participate in the Mass.

I could think of no better way to serve God and my Catholic family, then to lead you, the very future of our church, in this exciting new endeavor.

The Diocesan Youth Choir is scheduled to perform at the Closing of the Synod Mass on Saturday, September 19th in Bridgeport's Harbor Yard Arena as well as a Christmas Concert in December at Norwalk Concert Hall, date to be announced.

Auditions and weekly rehearsal schedule will be posted on the website, www.c4ysings.com.

The Choir is open to all incoming Freshman through Seniors in High School. All current 8th graders and up to high school juniors can audition the week of May 18, 2015.

Look for our C4Y logo! Choir For Youth! Spread the good word!

I am very excited to meet you all and start raising our voices in praise, worship and friendship!



DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS

C4Y, Choir For Youth, is open to all young adults in the Diocese of Bridgeport 8th grade through senior in high school as of September, 2015.

The auditions will take place in 5 locations throughout the Diocese, feel free to come to any audition site.

Monday, May 18, 4:30 to 6PM

Our Lady of Fatima Church, Parish Center
229 Danbury Road, Wilton

Tuesday, May 19, 7 to 8:30PM

St. Joseph High School, Chapel
2320 Huntington Turnpike, Trumbull
(Park in Back, enter through GYM)

Thursday, May 21, 4:30 to 6:30PM

Immaculate High School
73 Southern Boulevard, Danbury

Tuesday, May 19, 4:30 to 6PM

The Catholic Center Diocese of Bridgeport
Queen of Saints Hall
238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport

Wednesday, May 20, 4:30 to 6PM

Trinity Catholic High School
926 Newfield Avenue, Stamford

FOR THE AUDITION PREPARE TO SING "MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE".

In preparation for the Synod Closing Mass on September 19, C4Y will commence rehearsals the week after school closes for the summer. The rehearsal locations will be same as above. If you cannot make any of the 5 scheduled auditions, and would like to participate, please contact me at c4y@diobpt.org, or go on twitter and follow @c4ysings.

Singing Praise

Wilton soprano to lead Diocesan Youth Choir

BRIDGEPORT—Mary Bozzuti Higgins of Wilton has been named director of the new Diocesan Youth Choir. The appointment was made by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, effective March 30.

The choir, announced in February by Bishop Caggiano, will draw students from grades 8-12 throughout the diocese. Auditions are in May (see page 6).

"I'm delighted to announce that Mary Bozzuti Higgins has accepted the position as inaugural director of our Diocesan Youth Choir. She brings 35 years of experience as a choral director, voice coach, musician and performer to this new post, along with a passion for teaching, a deep faith, and a commitment to music as a formative experience in the life of young people," said Bishop Caggiano.

The bishop said that, in addition to being impressed with Bozzuti's work as a music director

and performer, he welcomes her organizational abilities, which will be called upon in the audition and rehearsal process necessary to build a youth choir for diocesan liturgies.

The choir will make its debut at the Synod 2014 Mass of Thanksgiving set for Saturday, September 19, at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport. It will also be featured in a special Christmas Concert for Youth (C4Y) being planned for this December.

Bozzuti, a soprano who has performed for professional opera companies, has extensive experience in choir direction and conducting large music ensembles for schools and civic groups. She is currently serving as choir director of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton, a post she has held since 1992, and as music director of the Treblemakers, an all-women choral group sponsored by the Wilton Parks and Recreation.



MARY BOZZUTI HIGGINS

In the past she has been interim choral director at Wilton High School, where she led the 250-voice concert choir, the 80-voice girls chorus and 24-voice Madrigal Singers. She has also been associate professor of voice at Boston University (1993-96), music director of the Fairfield County Student Operetta

Workshop, and music department director of Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette, Ill. from 1984-87.

Bozzuti made her professional opera debut with the St. Louis Opera in the world premiere of *The Vanishing Bridegroom*. She returned to St. Louis to sing in *La Boheme* and *Eugene Onegin*. She was also often seen on stage at Symphony Hall in Boston, Mass., where she was a favorite choice of conductor John Williams and was a featured soloist at many Christmas Pops concerts with the Boston Symphony and Boston Esplanade Orchestra. As a conductor, Bozzuti was the music director of the Fairfield County Operetta Company.

She is a graduate of Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., Class of 1984, where she earned a bachelor of

music education (certified K-12) and was a student of Elizabeth Fischer Monastero. She was awarded a master of arts in voice performance and an Opera Institute Certificate from Boston University, as a student of Phylis Curtin.

Upon graduating from Boston University, she won the prestigious Esther B. Kahn Career Entry Award, and spent three summers as a Tanglewood Fellow in voice. During that time she also taught voice and Latin, French and Italian to talented school students.

She and her husband, Jory Higgins, are the parents of three daughters. They are members of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton.

(For more info, go to www.c4ysings.com, email c4y@diobpt.org or Twitter: [@c4ysings](https://twitter.com/c4ysings).) ■

Mass Mob takes off

By PAT HENNESSY

Mass Mob has hit Fairfield County!

Mass Mobs are named after flash mobs—spontaneous gatherings of crowds in a public place to make an artistic statement. The idea started last year in Buffalo and has been spreading throughout the country. It was picked up here last summer and has taken off, growing with each parish it targets.

Embraced enthusiastically by youth, Mass Mobs spread typically by word of mouth—or more accurately, word of email, twitter and Facebook. Its trajectory in Fairfield County is typical of the movement. Jack and Katie Scarlett Calcutt, a young couple at St. Ann Parish in Bridgeport, heard about Mass Mobs and talked to Eric Silva, a seminarian working at the parish. He shared the idea with Andre Escaliera, another seminarian and a friend he'd known since their days in the High School Apostles.



MASS MOBS have taken off in Fairfield County since the first one at St. Peter Parish, Bridgeport, last August. Among their biggest fans, Bishop Frank Caggiano, who gave his "thumbs up" to the movement.

"The Eucharist is the greatest prayer of the Church," said Escaliera, a 19-year-old sophomore at Fairfield University. "We wanted to raise awareness, first of all, of these beautiful churches in these great communities. We want to share what each parish is about, all while joining them in the prayer of the Church. We cleared it with diocesan officials

and started working to get the word out."

An informal group of young adults formed a Mass Mob Committee, picked up a Facebook page and started sending blog posts, tweets and emails. "I invited my friends," said Escaliera. "We all did."

The first Mass Mob, in August of 2014, targeted St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport. "We wanted to start in Bridgeport. It's the seat of the diocese," says Escaliera. "St. Peter's is a vibrant parish with a strong community and a rich cultural heritage."

In all, more than 230 friends responded to the invitation. They found a superb host in Msgr. Aniceto Villamide, St. Peter's pastor, and a warm welcome from parishioners.

"I hadn't expected this part of the Mass Mob experience: the warmth, the joy, the hospitality from all at St. Peter," reported Katie Scarlett Calcutt. "They knew we were coming. They love their church and they

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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Administrative Office, Catholic Center
238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606

CEMETERY OFFICES

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St. Michael Cemetery
2205 Stratford Avenue
Stratford, CT 06615
(203) 378-0404

DANBURY
St. Peter Cemetery
71 Lake Avenue Extension
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 743-9626

DARIEN
St. John Cemetery
25 Camp Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
(203) 322-0455

GREENWICH
St. Mary - Putnam Cemetery
399 North Street
Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 869-4828
(203) 869-7026

NEWTOWN
Resurrection Cemetery
c/o Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1056 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-5574

NORWALK
St. John - St. Mary Cemetery
223 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850
(203) 838-4271

STAMFORD
Queen of Peace Cemetery
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White Mass for Health Professionals

Encountering Jesus in medical technology

By **FATHER COLIN MCKENNA**

The annual White Mass for healthcare professionals and for all who serve the sick was held at St. Aloysius Church in New Canaan on Sunday morning, April 12. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the principal celebrant and the homilist at the 8:30 am Mass.

After Mass, a special breakfast was held at the Woodway Country Club in Darien, at which the 2015 Father Rufin Compassionate Care Award was presented to two recipients: Dr. Arthur E. Dobos, Jr., and Sister Donna Brodman, OP, and at which the nearly 200 attendees listened to the keynote address by Father Kevin Fitzgerald, SJ, PhD.

Father Fitzgerald is the Dr. David P. Laufer chair in Catholic Healthcare Ethics in the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University. He is also an associate professor in the Department of Oncology at Georgetown University Medical Center. His research efforts focus on the investigation of abnormal gene expression in cancer and on ethical issues in biomedical research and genomics. His keynote address was entitled "Genetics in the 21st Century—Promises and Pitfalls from a Catholic Perspective."

In his homily at the White Mass, Bishop Caggiano said, that "healthcare professionals tend to the sick in the name of Jesus, and are ambassadors of Christ's loving mercy to the world."

The bishop related the day's Gospel reading about the encounter of St. Thomas with the Risen

Lord to healthcare workers who can help others to "see" Jesus. "Wherever there is mercy, love and forgiveness," he said, "we can reach out and touch the Risen Lord."

As the recipients of God's mercy, Bishop Caggiano encour-



DR. JOHN MURPHY, President and CEO of Danbury Hospital, praying at the White Mass with wife Nancy and Dr. Joan Magner.

aged all in attendance on Divine Mercy Sunday to be generous distributors of God's loving mercy in their daily lives.

Bishop Caggiano left the congregation with a question to ponder: "Where have we encountered the Lord Jesus?" Although Christians will not likely have the privilege of literally beholding the Risen Jesus (like St. Thomas) in this present life on earth, all can still encounter Jesus, especially in the sick and the poor. Recalling the words of Jesus, Bishop Caggiano said, "Blessed are those who believe without seeing."

During his keynote presentation at the breakfast after

Mass, Father Fitzgerald built on some of the themes of Bishop Caggiano's homily. For healthcare professionals and institutions that aspire to provide healing, spirituality is an essential therapeutic component. "The whole person needs to be treated," he

said. When seeking the truth about best healthcare practices, Christians need to realize that the Truth is Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician.

On a daily basis, Father Fitzgerald wrestles with the dimensions of treating the serious, often fatal, disease of cancer. It is natural for the human spirit to always seek new and better ways to treat, and eventually cure, the most debilitating diseases and conditions that confront us. While technology, especially in the realm of genetic engineering, is providing new discoveries daily that can help treat the sick, the use of advanced technology, Father Fitzgerald warns, comes with caveats.

Editing the human genome is fraught with risk, for individuals



FATHER RUFIN Compassionate Care Award winners Dr. Arthur E. Dobos, Jr., and Sister Donna Brodman, OP, with Bishop Caggiano, Father Fitzgerald and Dr. Kevin McLaughlin. (PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BABYAK)

and for future generations. "The challenge of the Catholic tradition," Father Fitzgerald said, "is to rigorously analyze the ethical dimensions of the use of medical technologies." Simply because science has advanced to the point that it can "engineer" the human genome does not mean that scientists and doctors should use all the technology at their disposal.

This is where Catholic healthcare ethics can appear to some as paradoxical. Some argue that if the technology is available to help bring healing to the sick, it is morally wrong not to make use of such technology. Father Fitzgerald said that the role of the Church with regards to bioethics is to "say 'slow down' or 'no' to some new technologies, based on good reason." The stance of the Church against the unbridled use of new medical technologies makes it "unpopular" in some scientific circles and within segments of the mass media.

"We live in a society that is very polarized," Father Fitzgerald said, "with regard to the ethical issues surrounding biotechnological research. People use the word

'Catholic' against us."

Father Fitzgerald concluded his presentation on a positive and hopeful note. To the surprise of many in the scientific and medical communities, the Church accepts genetic engineering when certain conditions are met in applied therapy and hoped-for outcomes. In seeking the truth in the treatment of the sick, the Catholic Church "wants to find the good that can come from the use of new medical technologies," Father Fitzgerald said.

In analyzing the use of new medical technologies, the Catholic Church challenges the medical and scientific communities worldwide to ask a fundamental question: "What goods (in a philosophical sense) and goals are hoped to be achieved with the use of a certain technology?"

In his role as Catholic bioethicist, Father Fitzgerald confidently proclaims to the international medical and scientific communities that the Catholic Church has something, in its analysis of new medical technologies, "that may help us achieve the goals and outcomes we all want to achieve." ■

PRINCIPLES FOR SYNOD FROM PAGE 3

Conference in Denver and the Forming Intentional Disciples event held in this diocese.

They also described ways from the personal to the social that Catholics can invite others to renew their faith.

"We must meet them where they are and support them in their journey," said Peter Roux. He added that Easter is a great time to reach out to Catholics who may only come to Church

once a year, and he recommended that parishes work on strategies to make them feel welcome.

In the closing presentation of the Fourth General Session, Deputy Synod Director Patrick Turner urged delegates to "talk up" the synod in their own parishes. "Many Catholics are still unaware that the synod is taking place," in spite of efforts by pastors and delegates to inform parishioners, he said. He expects

interest to build as the synod begins to identify solutions and initiatives for renewal.

The Fifth General Session is set for Saturday, May 9, in Trumbull. Synod 2014 will conclude with a Mass of Thanksgiving and celebration to be held at the Webster Bank Arena at Harbor Yard on Saturday, September 19, at 10 am.

(For more information, visit the Synod 2014 website: www.synod2014.org.) ■

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April 2015

Catholic Academies

Luncheon feeds scholarships

"We gather together in a noble cause—the 1,000 children who are given a future and a real hope because of your generosity," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in his opening remarks at the Fifth Annual Ladies Luncheon for the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport.

"Providing these children with a superior education is transformative," he said. "You are changing individual lives in ways you will never understand."

The Catholic Academies of Bridgeport—St. Andrew Academy, St. Ann Academy and the Cathedral Academy upper and lower school—provide quality Catholic education to elementary school children in Bridgeport. Over 65 percent of the children, many of them from the city's neediest families, receive financial assistance.

This year the luncheon raised

more than \$115,000 for inner-city children. The luncheon was a donation opening June 4 at the Bellarmine Museum of Art at Fairfield University. Another will take place in Paris, France, this

year, said Hickey, a graduate of the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Manhattan. "I learned that every life matters. I try to convey that



SR. JOAN MAGNETTI, rscj, (l) with luncheon honoree Jan Dilenschneider.

year. She contributed four of her paintings to be auctioned at the luncheon.

"I am so honored that there

is a great school and to have a lot of technology. Thanks for all the SmartBoards. They are really nice. Thank you for making a better place.

"I love learning math and science and doing mock trial." The last word at the luncheon came not from the speakers but from "Thank You" cards on every table, written by students at the Catholic Academies. "I like St. Ann because the students are kind," says fifth-grader Mecca. "I love learning math and science and doing mock trial."

A third-grader at the Cathedral Academy was equally enthusiastic. "You guys help us have a



EMMY AWARD winning reporter Magee Hickey, above, drew rapt attention from listeners.



great, nice school and to have a lot of technology. Thanks for all the SmartBoards. They are really nice. Thank you for making a better place. Your Pal, Sheneil."

(In addition to the luncheon, scholarships to the Catholic

Academies of Bridgeport will benefit from a Golf Outing, to be held Monday, May 11, at The Country Club of Fairfield. Registration deadline: May 1. For more info on the Catholic Academies, visit www.catholicacademiesbridgeport.org. For the Golf Outing, contact Susan Cecere: 203.416.1466 or secerediobpt.org.)



GENEROUS SUPPORTERS raised more than \$115,000 for inner-city scholarships. (PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

\$115,000 for scholarships. All proceeds go directly to educational scholarships for children in the Catholic Academies.

This year's luncheon honored Jan Dilenschneider, an internationally acclaimed artist and a member of St. John Parish in Darien. Dilenschneider, a supporter of the Catholic Academies, has been on the board of the luncheon since its inception.

Education has always been close to her heart. In 2014 the Institute for International Education, the largest student exchange program in the world, launched the Janet Hennessey Dilenschneider Rescue Program in the Arts, helping bring oppressed artists and scholars to free countries where they can do their work in peace and safety. Dilenschneider has an exhi-

could be a child in school because of my painting," she says. "That's so exciting."

All those attending the luncheon recognized the value of Catholic education for children in the inner city. "The people who donate see the immediate potential of their gift," said Maria O'Neill, principal of St. Andrew Academy. "They're investing in the future of kids from hard-working families."

The keynote speaker for the luncheon, Emmy Award winning reporter Magee Hickey from WPIXII News, spoke about the challenges she faced as a woman entering the male-dominated field of television broadcasting, and the rewards she gained from her profession. "It's the lessons I learned in my Catholic education that inform my interest in news,"



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ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

Poetry for Peace

Students present award-winning poetry

FAIRFIELD—Fairfield University invited dozens of budding young poets to read from their award-winning poetry at the sixth annual Poetry for Peace Contest Winners' Celebration this semester. The contest was designed to encourage discussion of how the imaginative and original language of poetry relates to the creation of peace. It gave young writers a chance to express their own concepts of peace through creative writing.

"I am so pleased this has become an annual event at Fairfield," said Robbin Crabtree, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "It enriches our campus to have students, parents, and teachers from the surrounding area interact with Fairfield faculty and students. The poetry is creative and moving."

More than 1,000 Bridgeport and Fairfield students entered the competition, which is sponsored by Fairfield University's Writing Center, the English Department, the Connecticut Writing Project-Fairfield, and the MLK Coordinating Committee. The largest single group of winners came from the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport, with nine students from the Cathedral Academy Upper School and one from St. Ann Academy.

"What an accomplishment for our children and teachers, for Catholic Academies and all the student winners throughout the area," said Larry DiPalma, principal of the Cathedral Academy upper school campus.

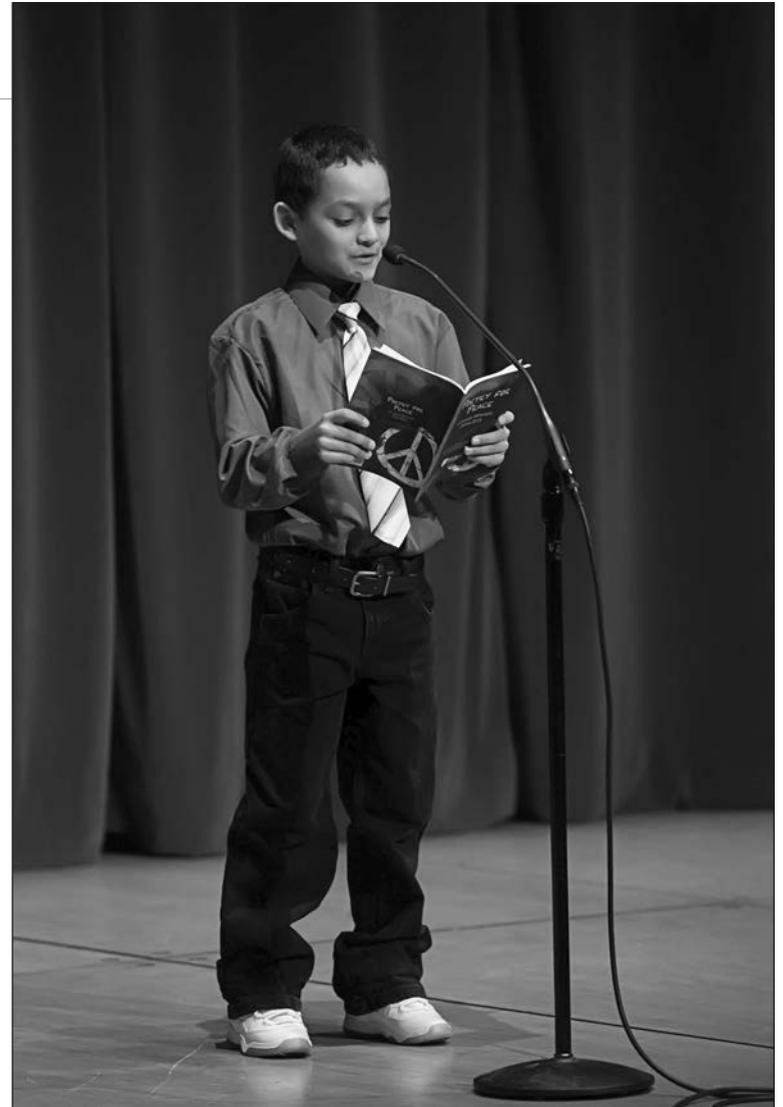
The student's entries were placed into three divisions, Kindergarten-2nd grade; 3rd-5th grade, and 6th-8th grade. Entries were submitted in November and judged by a committee of faculty, staff and students from the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, and

herself, coordinated the judging.

"The same Fairfield University group started a new pilot program in February in which the university's writing center, in conjunction with Fairfield University's Center for Faith and Public Life, is creating an after-school writing center at our school, working with seventh and eighth grade students interested in writing," said eighth-grade English teacher Ann Marie Donnelly, whose class had five winners in the contest. "It is a wonderful collaboration." ■



undergraduates majoring in English, Modern Languages and Education. Elizabeth Boquet, Ph.D, professor of English, and Peter Bayers, Ph.D., associate professor of English, chaired the committee. Carol Ann Davis, assistant professor of English and a poet



THE POETRY FOR PEACE CONTEST gives young writers a chance to express their own concepts of peace through creative writing. The winning poems were published in book form; winners read their creations at a ceremony in the Regina Quick Center of Fairfield University. (PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

The Poetry for Peace contest winners showed an extraordinary range of emotions and control of imagery in their writing, as these samples show:

GRADE EIGHT:
"Home"
by Gabriel DaSilva

I thought
I
Was safe.
Full of yelling.
An infant crying.
Alone in my room
trying to stay strong.
Fighting back the tears.
Where has peace gone?

GRADE SEVEN:
"Awkward Moments"
by Steven Ngo

You know when you're staring
at your window watching
droplets race to the bottom?
You know that feeling
when you see Khloe
and Kim fight?
You know that vibe when
you finish one chapter
in The Fault in Our Stars?
You know when you rub
your socks on the carpet
and shock people?
You know that sweet
extraordinary feeling when
you take a nibble of the
Christmas mint macaroon?
These feelings and vibes,
awkward moments,
are what bring peace
in my world.

GRADE SIX:
"Why Won't You
Let Me In?"
by Erica Estrella

I cure the hurt and soothe
the pain.
No one is as big as me.
I bring excellence,
love and happiness.
I am the warm blanket
in a cold winter night.
The friendship in friends.
Many people long to be
with me.
I am the tape to your rip
and the laces to your shoes.
I make you calm and relaxed.
I save you from evil and pain.
I am one with others,
I am simple.
I meet anything in my path,
not with a war but a smile.
Why won't you give me
a chance?
For I am help.
I will not hurt you.
Yet you let violence and hatred
in your life.

peace



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April 2015

Profile

Andrew Masi and the Ministry of Presence

By FATHER COLIN
MCKENNA

In the spiritual life, there is such a thing as “hidden ministry,” in which one person or many perform acts of faith, hope and charity in quiet, often unnoticed ways. Another type of ministry can be referred to as a “personal ministry,” or a ministry to which one feels personally called, although there may be no “official” way to fulfill the ministry. Such a ministry is often unique—there is no roadmap to follow—and one may feel alone, because no one else seems to be pursuing the same spiritual path.

Andrew Masi, 27, of Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Fairfield, is fulfilling a personal ministry in a somewhat hidden manner. Some of his ministerial activity is recognized by those who know him, but often, during his many visits to churches, cathedrals, and basilicas, his efforts to serve God and neighbor go largely unnoticed.

Andrew is extremely outgoing and friendly, and interested in all things related to “Church.” Like many priests, I first came to know Andrew because he attends nearly all major diocesan Masses and functions. Be it the Chrism Mass, the Mass for the year of Consecrated Life or Fisher’s 25th Anniversary Mass and celebration, Andrew Masi is present.

In seminary, we were taught about the importance of a “ministry of presence,” and seemingly without formal instruction in the



ON FIRE WITH FAITH, Andrew Masi, 27, has visited every parish in the Diocese of Bridgeport. He’s shown here at St. Agnes Parish in Greenwich. (PHOTO BY FATHER MCKENNA)

matter Andrew practices a ministry of presence, but also much more than that.

With his effervescent personality and outgoing approach, Andrew embodies fervor for the faith that is transformative. If all Catholics were “on fire” for the faith like Andrew, the world would undoubtedly be a much different, much better place than it is today.

Andrew was born in Colombia, South America, and was adopted when he was about six months old. He said that, according to his mother, “I was the sickest baby there.” Today, he gives thanks to God that he survived his difficult infancy.

He grew up as an only child in Easton and then Fairfield. He is currently wrapping up his last year at Norwalk Community College, where he is a business/marketing major with a minor in political science. In addition to his studies, he is also presently working at two jobs: at a public relations firm in Westport and with his family business in Bridgeport. His dream is to one day open up his own public relations firm.

As clergy—as Church “professionals”—it is easy to sometimes take what we do for granted.

When we organize, promote or participate in a large church function, we may not consider the larger impact of the event, or the workings of the Holy Spirit when a large number of people gather to worship God. I think in particular of the 50th anniversary Mass for the Diocese of Bridgeport, held in 2003 at Harbor Yard Arena with Bishop William E. Lori as the principal celebrant. There were approximately 10,000 people at the Mass, which is a large group by anyone’s standards!

One of the congregants was Andrew Masi. The Anniversary Mass became a life-changing event for him. “The day on

which the Lord sent down the Holy Spirit to rekindle the flame of faith in me was at the 50th anniversary Mass for the diocese at Harbor Yard Arena,” he said. “Something woke up inside me at that Mass, and it led me to the Catholic Church.”

Shortly after he had his “spiritual re-awakening,” he decided to visit all of the parishes in the Diocese of Bridgeport. His journey to visit every parish in the diocese began in January, 2004, at St. Patrick’s in Redding, and concluded in November of that year at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Danbury. His quest to visit every parish “made me fall more deeply in love with my faith,” he said.

He was originally baptized Lutheran, but growing up he never had much interest in attending church services. Now all that changed. Andrew converted to Catholicism in 2005.

Today, he is a senior altar-server and master of ceremonies at his parish church, Our Lady of Assumption in Fairfield. “Whether I am on the altar, praying in church, or attending a diocesan event, I feel myself growing closer to God,” he said.

With such great love for the Church and for all things Catholic, it is natural to enquire whether Andrew feels called to the priesthood. “At one point, yes, I did feel a calling to serve God in the sacred priesthood,” he said. “As I prayed on it, I heard a voice telling me to slow down and be patient.”

Andrew is confident in faith that if God wants him to be a priest, the Lord Jesus will tell him.

In the meantime, he has embarked on another grand liturgical adventure: he is currently amassing as many visits as possible to “all” of the cathedrals, shrines, and basilicas in the United States, including Alaska! This latest idea for an ongoing journey came to him at Easter Mass last year.

With enthusiasm and joy, he has already visited nearly 40 cathedrals and basilicas so far. “I love travelling and seeing different places and meeting new people,” he said. “It might take me a while to visit all of them, but I am looking forward to it!”

(Father Colin writes “Curabawn,” a weekly blog that can be found online at www.bridgeportdiocese.com/fcc.) ■

MASS MOB FROM PAGE 7

were pumped to share it. And we were all treated to coffee and cookies afterwards.”

Mass Mob gathered momentum. In November they were welcomed to Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Stamford, a parish with a proud Polish heritage. Next they headed up to the northern tier of the county, where Father Peter Towsley invited them to Sacred Heart Parish in Danbury.

“It’s not only an opportunity to attend Mass, but to see what’s going on in other parishes, getting ideas, sharing stories,” said Escaliera. “It’s a way to see how their parish culture expresses the Universal Church.”

While young people, on fire with their faith, have initiated the Mass Mobs, they draw people of all ages. “Youth like the experience of a new church, with different ways of doing things, but Mass Mob is not exclusively a youth movement,” said Escaliera. “It’s for the elderly, families with college kids, teens. It’s for the whole Church.”

The whole Church is responding. The Facebook page has grown from 57 likes to 350, with more added weekly. More importantly, each Mass Mob has drawn a larger following. Mass Mob III at Sacred Heart topped the list for the largest Mass Mob yet.

The next Mass Mob is coming fast: at St. Patrick Church, part of The Cathedral Parish, in Bridgeport on Sunday, April 19, at 12:30 pm.

If you miss that one, be assured that more are in the works. “We’ve gotten invitations from pastors and email recommendations for future sites,” said Escaliera. “When we talked with Bishop Caggiano, one of his concerns was that every parish was a potential Mass Mob site.”

For more info, visit Facebook: *Mass Mob Fairfield County*; Twitter: *@MassMobFfldCo*; massmobfc@gmail.com; or www.massmobfc.webs.com. ■

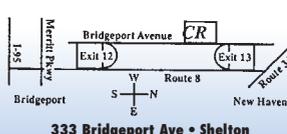


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EDITORIAL

The gift of Easter

The gift of Easter Day is so profound that the Church celebrates it in two distinct and related ways. First, Easter Day itself is celebrated over eight days. The octave of Easter comprises the eight days, which stretch from the first to the second Sunday. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day; each day is a Solemnity of the Lord and is considered a single day of praise and worship. And if that were not enough, the Easter season extends beyond these initial eight days to include 40 days to the Feast of the Ascension and 10 days more to Pentecost.

Why do we have all this time to celebrate? It is not for the Lord's sake but for our own sake. How? It is easy for us to quickly return to our ordinary lives after celebrating the great mysteries of our faith. When we do, we can easily neglect the need to continue reflecting in a personal way upon the gift that was given to us on Easter—the gift of your salvation and mine. Christ died and rose to set you and me free. We can and should spend a lifetime reflecting upon so great a gift!

We always do something special to observe the 40 days of Lent. What will you and I do in a special way to observe the 50 days of Easter? The time to choose is today.

(Editor's note. The above reflection on the celebration of Easter originally appeared on Bishop Frank J. Caggiano's Facebook page. You can follow "Bishop Caggiano" on Facebook and on twitter: @bishopcaggiano)

C4Y is good news
for youth

One of the more exciting developments to come out of the synod process of renewal has been Bishop Caggiano's call for the formation of a diocesan youth choir. In the Synod 2014 listening and consultation sessions, young people and parents alike asked for a revitalized music ministry for the diocese along with more activities to engage youth in their faith.

With the appointment of Mary Bozzuti Higgins of Wilton as choir director, the new Choir for Youth (C4Y) will move ahead with auditions and rehearsals in May (see page 6 for times and locations).

"How wonderful that bishop has created the Choir for Youth after hearing from so many young people about their deep desire to grow in faith and for a more vibrant role in the Church," says Mary Bozzuti Higgins. We urge parents, teachers and youth themselves to encourage young people to come out to the auditions next month and raise their voices in praise and celebration.

Care for the dying

Special thanks go out to Michael C. Culhane, executive director of the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference, for the good work he and his office did in urging citizens and state legislators to think twice before rushing into assisted suicide legislation.

The Catholic Conference, which serves as the public advocacy office of the state's bishops, joined others in opposition to a proposed bill that would have legalized assisted suicide also known as "aid in dying." The bill failed to get out of the committee for the third year in a row and did not come up for a vote.

"The Church is but one of dozens of organizations representing the medical, nursing, hospice, elderly and disability communities who have publicly and emphatically and consistently opposed this legislation," said Culhane of the wide-spread concern.

According to a Knights of Columbus poll, seven in ten residents (70 percent) viewed the issue as a low priority, and majorities also harbored deep concerns about the bill's deficiencies, dangers and consequences.

Most people facing a devastating illness are seeking true compassion, loving care, family support and quality pain control. The Catholic Conference provided a public service by putting the focus on palliative care, pain management and hospice care. It will lead to better care for the dying and dignity for all those who suffer. ■



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

PASTOR

REVEREND RICHARD G. CIPOLLA, Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Norwalk to Pastor, Saint Mary Parish. Effective date was April 13.

RETIREMENT

REVEREND MONSIGNOR ANICETO VILLAMIDE, Pastor, Saint Peter Parish, Bridgeport to retirement. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND FREDERICK SAVIANO, Director, Propagation of the Faith to retirement. Effective date is June 30.

TERRITORIAL VICAR

REVEREND PETER CIPRIANI has been appointed to serve as Territorial Vicar of Vicariate III. Effective date was March 19.

REVEREND PETER LYNCH has been appointed to serve as Territorial Vicar of Vicariate VI. Effective date was March 19.

SABBATICAL

REVEREND GREG J. MARKEY, Pastor, Saint Mary Parish, Norwalk to Sabbatical. Effective date was April 13.

*Reverend Ian Jeremiah, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy
April, 2015*

Sister opened
our minds

Dear Editor,

I read with delight your new column, "Consecrated Life," (February 2015). The profile so nicely gives the reader personal insight into the hopes and interests of the respondent. Your first respondent was especially dear to me, as Sister Mary Ann Rossi was my high school English teacher at Notre Dame Academy on Staten Island, New York.

She was a brilliant teacher, who opened our young minds and was always full of fun. I am most grateful to Sister Rossi, and to *Fairfield County Catholic* for selecting her for the first "Consecrated Life" column.

Sincerely,
Jane Lazzin
*Director Media and Corporate
Communications
Nestle Waters North America
Stamford*

Scripture Scramble

Father Ed Nadolny, former director of the Office of Radio and Television of Archdiocese of Hartford, has put together a challenge he calls a "Scripture Bit" to help readers reflect on significant Bible passages. This one is a reflection by a well-known saint on the Transfiguration of Jesus.

For this challenge, the clue is: O = H.
(Answer on page 30)

"GWBJB NB CDRYBENIJDWU HWEADW ONB UNBQNTPW NY
ADUWD CA RPPAV COWK CA BWW COW IDWRC IARP BA CORC
COWL KNIOC ORSW QAJDRIW RB COWL BCDJIIPW AY COW VRL."
BC. COAKRB RZJNYRB

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web | www.bridgeportdiocese.com
www.facebook.com/BridgeportDiocese
www.twitter.com/@DOBEvents
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USPS no.: 12-117. Periodical
postage paid at Bridgeport, CT 06601,
and additional mailing offices.

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Copy Editor (Consultant)

Circulation

Every registered Catholic household in Fairfield County is entitled to a subscription.

To cancel, change or add an address, please email: fcc@diobpt.org

Annual Subscription Price

\$20 (within diocese)
\$50 (outside diocese)

Postmaster

send address changes to:
Fairfield County Catholic
238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892

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Editorial



A new Catholic's impressions of the synod

GUEST COLUMNIST

BY CARLENE JOAN DEMIANY

Carlene Joan Demiany is a parishioner at St. Thomas More, the Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University.

The clickers were resting comfortably on the crisp, white tablecloths covering tables set for the synod. Catholics from the Diocese of Bridgeport were gathered around those tables and listening intently to discussions regarding general challenges facing the diocese.

I craned my neck in all directions as I watched those seated at the tables making ready to select six of the nine General Challenges to adopt in the coming years. Trying to conceal my excitement and not give myself away by gawking at the reality of a Catholic bishop standing closer to me than

I ever could have imagined in my Protestant days, I distracted myself by looking at those fancy clickers, or in technical language "Response Cards," and reflected upon how a new Catholic had received an invite to this synod.

The Holy Spirit seemed to plow the way for my being able to attend this gathering of mostly cradle Catholics. Raised in the Protestant tradition and having joined the Catholic Church not even a year ago, I continue to receive a certain joyful thrill from being able to participate in uniquely Catholic experiences. The joy I feel walking towards the front of the Eucharist line at Mass still

feels similar to my childhood joy of nearing the front of a line at Disneyland. Holding out my two hands and receiving the Body and Blood of Our Most Precious Lord will never grow old. I am Catholic now and sometimes this realization still surprises me.

So I had to smile as I turned my head and observed all those delegates making ready to grab their clickers and vote on the General Challenges. I must admit that the soft scent of the familiar was present in this new land. Similar to the experience of smelling familiar California fruit blossoms on an unfamiliar Connecticut breeze, I sensed some familiarity in that room. It was the familiar sight of dedicated servants making ready to vote on how to guide a church into her future. As a former member of a Methodist church, I am accustomed to the scene of church members making ready to vote on future challenges.

But, suddenly, once again the unfamiliar wafted into this new landscape. Before the general delegates of the synod could lift their

clickers from those linen tablecloths and vote, Bishop Caggiano asked all those present to engage in a time of silent prayer. We would all pray for the Holy Spirit to come down and guide the general delegates in their voting selections. Never before had I witnessed silent, corporate prayer just prior to a vote by members of a church.

That extended period of silent prayer was yet another moment when I was thrilled to be Catholic! Although I have experienced long durations of silent prayer in communal settings, the purity of that prayerful silence was new to me. Nowhere present in the room was the sound of uncomfortable rustling, leaning chairs lifting off the ground, or the technological chirp of new emails and text messages being received. It was pure, holy silence without interruption or distraction. I honestly felt as though all individuals present were praying. In those moments of prayer, the Holy Spirit seemed to come down upon our synod and gather us all up into one, unsullied moment of serene silence.

I joined the Catholic Church

largely due to the Church's commitment of practicing prayer and honoring women, such as St. Teresa of Avila, who developed a pedagogy of prayer. The experience of prayer at the synod was yet another glorious moment in the midst of my neophyte year when I knew I had made the right decision to become Catholic. It was delightful to pray with my new Church family and experience the power of prayer in the midst of a synod. The prayerful silence seemed to end before it began and at last the voting commenced.

I watched as all the general delegates grabbed their clickers and voted on the challenges. No longer did the outcome of the vote concern me. The experience of the Holy Spirit's presence during our prayer time gave me confidence that the outcome would arise from the Spirit's guidance. This confident trust in a vote was new to me. I smiled to myself as I knew this experience would be added to a long list of moments I have collected throughout this past year—a list entitled "Hooray, I am Catholic now!" ■



Another Easter in the Basement

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

I know this church basement. We come here three or four times a year. Been doing it for a decade. It's my mother-in-law's parish in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. We spend Christmas and Easter here.

I'm almost never in the actual church. I'm usually down here in the basement, an exile among the poker tables and thrift sale items. It's a humble parish. This is a humble basement. High-heeled shoes held together with elastic bands; Barney Miller-era overcoats in a variety of sizes; threadbare, beltless bathrobes—nothing here costs more than a buck. Fundraising

probably isn't the point.

There's a small kitchen, too, along with a water closet. I wonder how many potluck dinners have been served down here on dark mid-winter nights. I wonder if those who come need the company more than they need the meal. This is a rural place. Loneliness is in the air.

Is this where the alcoholics meet? The folding chairs and the coffee urn suggest it is. The basement holds secrets too gruesome to tell a mere visitor like me.

I'm only here on holiday, chasing my restless Magdalena. Sunlight pours through the win-

dows, which are small, to keep out the cold, and set high in the wall, to keep the basement from feeling like a dungeon.

At a minute before 8:30, the priest, a deacon, and a cross-bearing altar boy pass through. They are heading upstairs to the back of the church. I wish them Happy Easter. They smile at me like the stranger I am. Then they glance at Magdalena, who has Down syndrome, and their faces brighten.

"Happy Easter young lady," says the deacon.

"Happy Birthday grandpa—TADA!" she replies, flinging her arms wide like a magician finishing a trick. Her voice is slightly louder than is appropriate. I smile. The deacon smiles too, his head tilting almost imperceptibly as he processes the non sequitur. I smile wider. They keep walking.

Mass starts and I can follow along. The voices are muffled, but what they're saying isn't. I know it like I know the lines on my knuckles. But if we can hear them carrying on down here, they can probably hear us carrying

on up there. The floors are made of wood. The whole building is made of wood. When the congregation stands, it feels as if everything might come crashing down.

I wonder if we can sneak up the creaky steps and into the back of the church. If possible, I'd like to take communion, but I won't feel comfortable doing so if I spend the whole time down here. Magdalena makes the decision for us. She can't keep quiet or sit still. Her audience is gone, but she has a few more magic tricks up her sleeve. We head outside.

There's something serene about standing outside a country church while worship is taking place inside. Out here I can't hear the priest, but I can hear the drone of the organ. And through the windows I can see the faithful clutching their missalettes and mouthing their responses.

It is peaceful. Quiet. The only sound is the wind in the evergreens. I abandon the idea of taking communion. I content myself to commune with nature.

My daughter skips between the

parked cars, scuffing her feet in the gravel and singing to herself. She toddles over to a small shrine to Our Lady. It's as humble as everything in this parish, chipped in places, paint dulled by the elements. But 'tis herself, the mother of us all, as familiar as the smell of soft rain, her palms open as if to say, "Come. Bring me your troubles. I will make it all okay."

Magdalena and I say a prayer together. We pray for my mother and my father-in-law. This Easter marks five years since they died, just a few weeks apart. Those were dark days. Things have settled, but nothing can fill the giant hole in our family. We ask God to keep them close. We ask Our Lady to pray for us. Now and at the hour of our deaths.

Unprompted, Magdalena leans over and gives the statue a kiss. She looks up at me. Her eyes are as blue as the bright sky above. Her smile is as wide and loving as the God who made us all. I expect her to throw her arms wide and say, "TADA!"

Instead she says, "Amen." ■

Music Ministry

'Songs from the Spirit' debuts at St. Maurice

By PAT HENNESSY

Guitar in hand, Vince DeFelice stood by the altar at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Weston. It was eight years ago, and during this teen Mass for the parish he was singing a hymn to Mother Mary he had composed for the youth group.

"The Holy Spirit invited himself into my heart," he recalls, still shaken by the experience. "It changed my life."

The fruit of that life change will sound loud and filled with faith when DeFelice and his band come to St. Maurice Parish in Stamford on May 17. Following a special Mass at 5 pm, FireSword Ministries and the Vince DeFelice Band will present "Songs From



VINCE DEFELICE

the Spirit," a contemporary Christian Rock Concert.

Before he put FireSword Ministries on the road, DeFelice and Denise Doty, his sister and business manager, met with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano to gain his support. "The bishop told us

that the doors are going to open for us," he says of the meeting.

The distance from that Mass at St. Francis to the concert at St. Maurice describes a journey of faith. "I dove into the Bible," says DeFelice. "I was hungry to know more about my faith. While I was learning and praying, the music started flowing out of me. It wasn't me, really—it's the Holy Spirit."

Eight years ago, when Msgr. Nicholas Grieco, then pastor of St. Francis, tapped DeFelice to help with music for parish youth group, he was already a singer, songwriter and leader of the Vince DeFelice band. DeFelice had been in music his whole life, starting by performing live on the Sacred Heart University radio station, at the University of Bridgeport, and

in local coffee houses. Over the years he moved from electric to acoustic guitar and from blues to classic rock. He had been a professional musician for over 25 years at that moment on the altar of St. Francis when he felt the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Now parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, he formed FireSword Ministries to bring contemporary music based on Scripture and the Catholic faith to parishes throughout the diocese. "I'm looking forward to helping people understand the power of our faith," he says of his music ministry. "Music lifts people up. It's touching hearts and touching minds."

His Christian Rock music is written to appeal to all ages. "If you write music for the youth, their parents might come too," he

observes. "If you include everybody, they all come—these are notes and chords that all people can sing. It's a way to make people excited to come to Mass."

The seven-piece DeFelice band will enliven the special Mass at St. Maurice. The following concert, held in the church parking lot, will take on the atmosphere of a parish "tailgate party" with food, fun, light show and uplifting music. The concert will also debut the release of the new "Songs From the Spirit" CD.

Future Masses and concerts are already in the planning stages for parishes in Wilton, Fairfield and Danbury.

(Tickets to the concert at St. Maurice are \$10 student (18 and under); \$20 for adults. For more info, contact the parish: 203.324.3434 or go to www.thevinedefeliceband.com.) ■

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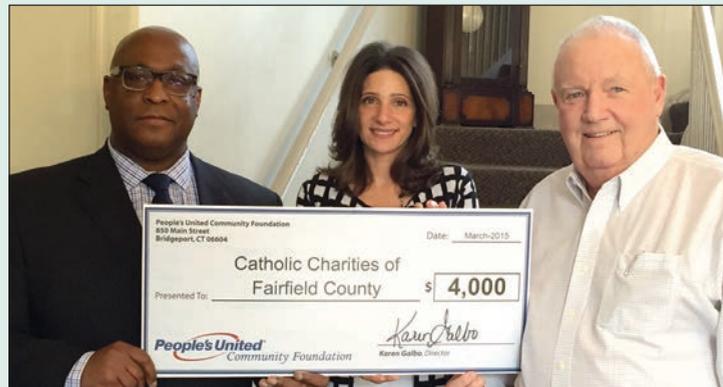
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People's Bank assists food pantry

BRIDGEPORT—The People's United Community Foundation, the philanthropic arm of People's United Bank, has awarded \$4,000 to Catholic Charities of Fairfield County for the St. Stephen's Food Pantry in Bridgeport.

St. Stephen's Food Pantry provides healthy food for families who live in the 06604, 06605 and 06606 Bridgeport zip codes. The program is housed in and operated by the Thomas Merton Center



HELPING PROVIDE HEALTHY FOOD, People's United Community Foundation awarded \$4,000 to St. Stephen's Food Pantry in Bridgeport. (l-r) Brian Jenkins, executive director of the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport; Karen Galbo, director of People's United Community Foundation; and Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County.

in Bridgeport.

"The St. Stephen's Food Pantry is a critical resource for families living in poverty in inner-city Bridgeport," said Karen Galbo, director of the People's United Community Foundation. "Families with limited income struggle to make choices on how their money is spent on daily living expenses. The food pantry is helping to alleviate some of that burden." ■



BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF *Faith*

2015 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



When you make a gift to the **2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal**, you are touching the lives of thousands of people across Fairfield County. Your gift supports a variety of programs and ministries in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

PLEASE JOIN
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GIFT TODAY!



Dear friends,

Thank you for your generous support of the work of our Diocese of Bridgeport.

Through your sacrificial gift to the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal “Building Communities of Faith” and those of thousands of other Catholics throughout Fairfield County, our children are educated in the faith, the poor and disadvantaged are helped with the basic necessities of life, our retired priests are cared for, our seminarians are trained and our parishes are strengthened.

This insert explains the good works of the diocese that the Appeal supports. I encourage you to read it and reflect upon God’s many gifts to you. Most especially, I ask for your prayerful support of the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal.

May God bless you and your family,

Sincerely in Christ,

Frank J. Caggiano

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport



ENRICHING THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Diocese of Bridgeport is blessed with top-notch Catholic schools and Saint Catherine Academy for young women in communities where the Catholic faith is taught and lived.

SUPPORTING INNER-CITY SCHOOLS

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport provides excellent education, discipline and Christian values available to more than 65% of students. Most of our students attend diocesan Catholic high schools, where last year 100% of students graduated.

FOSTERING VOCATIONS TO THE CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

Our 24 seminarians are engaged in continuing education and formation in theological, and academic disciplines in preparation for the priesthood.

Our diocese is also blessed by the dedication of our Sisters who serve in our schools, parishes, nursing homes, and numerous other ministries.

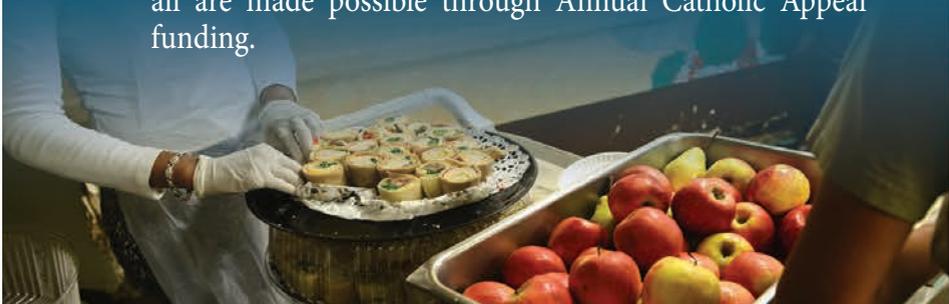
CONTINUING CLERGY & RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Ongoing spiritual formation and professional development through Clergy Ministries equips priests, deacons, and religious Sisters to carry out their vocations.

BRINGING HEALING AND HOPE TO THE LESS FORTUNATE

Answering Christ’s call to care for the “least among us,” Catholic Charities responds through a comprehensive network of 35 ministries.

Sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, counseling the troubled, attending to the elderly, infirm, disabled and incarcerated, assisting newly-arrived immigrants, all are made possible through Annual Catholic Appeal funding.





CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Twenty-nine elementary schools, five secondary schools serving people with special needs. Our schools are known for being lived in an atmosphere of academic excellence.

SCHOOLS

Elementary school children with an academically gifted ability. Tuition assistance and scholarships are available. Many of our elementary school students continue on to high school. 100% of the students graduated.

THE PRIESTHOOD

Discernment to heed the call to serve God and His people. We provide education that is rich and diverse in spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation for their priesthood.

Our religious education programs are held in homes.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Development of faith and values through religious education.



CARING FOR RETIRED PRIESTS

The Appeal supports 59 retired priests, including 17 who reside at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Retired Priests' Residence.

TRAINING CANDIDATES FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The Permanent Diaconate Formation Program prepares laymen spiritually, academically, intellectually and pastorally to serve the Lord in a sacramental way. There are now 91 permanent deacons, 12 men in formation and 12 who have applied to the Class of 2020.

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL THROUGH FAITH FORMATION

Religious formation serves as the foundation for spreading the faith in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Over 38,000 children participate in religious education programs in the diocese which foster the knowledge, experiences, and skills necessary to become faithful disciples of Christ. Adult religious education instruction is also available.

Marriage and family preparation, along with family conferences and divorce support, are available. Respect Life programs are dedicated to preserving the sanctity of human life.

Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs centralizes pastoral and educational support for individuals with special needs. This new Center allows persons with special needs to fully participate in the life of the Church.

The diocese provides opportunities for young people to encounter Christ and live as disciples through the High School Apostles Leadership Program; CONVIVIO Youth Congress; March For Life pilgrimage, Annual Prom Dress Drive and Catholic Scouting.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT!

YOU MAY MAKE YOUR GIFT ONLINE AT:

2015ACABRIDGEPORT.COM OR CALL 203.416.1470



ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL EXCEEDS HALF WAY MARK – \$5.9 MILLION



The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) is off to a great start. To date, more than 10,200 donors have participated in the campaign, which has reached 53% of its \$11 million goal. In addition, 38% of donors are increasing their gifts over last year!

You can help your parish exceed goal by using the envelope in this issue and making your gift now. Parishes that exceed their individual ACA goals will receive back 10% of the over-goal funds for their own parish needs. Special thanks go out to the parish Chair-Couples/Committees who are spreading the “good news” of the campaign and the ministries it funds. You can also view this year’s exciting ACA video at: www.2015ACAbidgeport.com.



COURT OF HONOR

Bishop Caggiano established the Court of Honor to recognize Catholics who have demonstrated their extraordinary generosity to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Membership is extended to any individual or family that contributes an Appeal gift of \$2,500 or more.

NEW INITIATIVES – Bishop’s Scholarship Fund, World Youth Day, Strategic and Pastoral Planning

The Bishop’s Scholarship Fund is a permanent fund designed to provide tuition assistance on an annual basis for deserving students. Tuition assistance will be available beginning this year for students who attend our 29 diocesan-sponsored Catholic elementary schools and in 2016 for students who attend the five Catholic high schools as well.

As many as 300 young people from our diocese will travel to Krakow, Poland, to participate in World Youth Day 2016 with our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Ongoing implementation and development of strategic pastoral plans that will lead to financial viability and spiritual vitality in the parishes and schools in the diocese.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL ALLOCATION \$11,000,000

Formation of Priests and Deacons	\$1,757,000
Clergy Ministries	\$1,266,000
Catholic Charities	\$1,250,000
Catholic Schools	\$1,120,000
Care of Retired Priests	\$1,050,000
Pastoral Services	\$1,025,000
Catholic Academy of Bridgeport	\$ 667,000
Communications	\$ 600,000
New Initiatives – Bishop’s Scholarship Fund, World Youth Day and Strategic Pastoral Planning.....	\$ 550,000
Finance and Accounting Support for Parishes	\$ 310,000
Pastoral Care of the Sick	\$ 275,000

In the spirit of financial transparency, the cost to conduct the Annual Catholic Appeal totals less than 9 cents on the dollar based on the 2015 ACA goal.

YOUR FAITH IN ACTION

When thinking about your gift, please consider the pledge plan. Pledging will allow a greater sacrifice by extending the payment of your gift through December 31, 2015.

You may make your pledge or outright gift by check or credit card. Checks may be made payable to the Annual Catholic Appeal. A credit card gift may be payable online.

You may also wish to consider these other options to contribute to the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal:

ONLINE GIVING — 2015ACAbidgeport.com.

MATCHING GIFTS — Many organizations will match gifts to Catholic Charities and Catholic Schools. Please contact the Appeal office at 203-416-1312 for more information.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES — If you own securities that have appreciated in value, they can be given to the Appeal and their full market value becomes a tax deductible gift. Please call 203-416-1470 for more information.

For more information please email: 2015ACA@diobpt.org or call: 203-416-1470.



Local News

Kolbe Cathedral High School: 50 years strong

By **NORMA K. DARRAGH**

Although Kolbe Cathedral High School's 50th Anniversary Year will come to a close with the "2015 Making a Difference"



SENIOR STEPHANI NARVAEZ, recipient of the Smilow-Burroughs Clubhouse Girl of the Year Award and Wakeman representative in the Boys & Girls Club of America's State Youth of the Year, heads for the competition at the Capitol in Hartford.

celebration on May 31, the sustained commitment of the school, benefactors, students and parents to "Making a Difference" will continue to transform lives through education, opening

the doors to brighter futures for deserving young people.

A Kolbe education continues to be "making a difference" in a striking manner. Fully 100 percent of the Class of 2014 pursued higher education, and were awarded \$12.2 million in scholarships and aid.

Kolbe administration and faculty are "making a difference," too. President Jo-Anne Jakab is proud to share that Kolbe earned a 10-year Accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges who "see the school as providing an invaluable service for students who are enthusiastic about learning and dedicated to achievement." The NEASC review committee report cites that, at Kolbe, they found "a school community that is dedicated to the Christian mission

and believes their school offers a transformative experience for students who would not receive this type of faith-based education anywhere else. We were pleased to experience the feeling of joy

and optimism that permeates the school."

Kolbe students are "making a difference" through service to their school and the community at large. They participate in the March for Life and the Convivio youth congress, and hope to attend World Youth Day next year in Kraków, Poland. This year, Senior Ambar Romero was honored at the White House as one of three national finalists in the National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge for

her business, Styles by Ambar, an online thrift shop that markets quality "preloved" clothing to a worldwide customer base.

Four students represented Kolbe at the Fifth Annual Junior Achievement Business Challenge held at Fairfield University, advancing against 14 other teams to earn second place and \$500 scholarships. The successful debates of the seven-member Youth and Government (YAG) team during the State Conference in Hartford facilitated the passage

of three bills which focused on life-preparation classes, "Ban the Box" policy for former felons and artistic freedom.

Most recently, Senior Stephani Narvaez was awarded the Smilow-Burroughs Clubhouse Girl of the Year Award. Cited as "a true role model for all Club members across the nation," Stephani will represent Wakeman Boys & Girls Club at the club's State Youth of the Year competition on May 6 at the

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

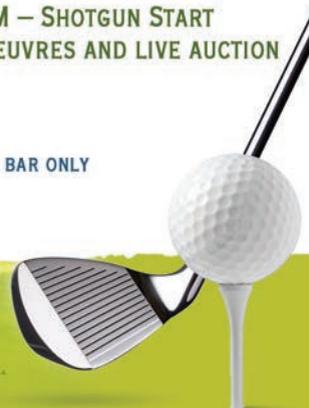
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 Dinner/Open Bar/Prizes/DJ/Dancing—7:00pm

All proceeds benefit St. Jude School—a 501(c)(3) organization c/o BDSC (Bridgeport Diocesan Schools Corporation)

Consecrated Life

'Live life to the fullest' Meet Sister Jane Quinlan

For our ongoing coverage of the *Year of Consecrated Life*, the Communications Department has thus far featured a vocation minister who had worked in campus and pastoral ministry and a Sister studying to be a preschool teacher in Bridgeport's inner city.

Each person featured brings a distinct set of interests and skills to the call to consecrated life. Through this survey, readers can see the diversity of personalities, interests and ministries of consecrated women and men in this diocese.

Name: Sister Jane Quinlan

Hometown: New Britain, Conn.

Congregation: Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk

Years of Profession: 54

Ministry: Our particular branch of Ursulines is international. During a recent Chapter of Elections in India, I was elected to the Congregational Leadership Team for a 6-year term. In February, I moved to our Generalate in Brussels where I joined two Sisters from India and one from Africa.

A favorite image of Jesus: A name that resonates with me is Christ the King. When I was a child in New Britain as a member of St. Maurice Parish, I would look at the cross over the altar. It showed Christ as a royal, triumphant Risen Lord.

Person who influenced my faith life: The Brothers of the Weston Priory in Vermont have influenced my faith through their contemporary spirituality expressed in liturgical prayer and music.

A Connecticut place I especially like: Wisdom House in Litchfield allows me a "mini oasis" where I get spiritually nourished.

If I could have lunch with a saint it would be: Ursuline Mother Marie of the Incarnation would give me a chance to connect with a woman recently canonized. She was a mother, missionary, educator and founder of the Canadian Ursulines. She is my inspiration.

What "rocks my world" today: Pope Francis. He speaks directly to the reality of today's world. Pope Francis showed his compassion by his trip to the Philippines to be with the typhoon sufferers. He leads by example.

Something I most appreciate about community life: The support and love that comes from being part of a group of women who hold the same ideals and live a faith-filled life. During heightened days of celebrations, loss and chap-



CONGOLESE SISTER GEORGETTE MOYA JOINS Sister Jane Quinlan in a show of mutual support during Ursuline Chapter deliberations. Sister Jane, who spent 10 years in Congo, was recently elected to the Congregational Leadership Team in Brussels.

ters I feel this friendship most.

An interesting fact about me: I have made an effort to give children in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where I lived for 10 years, a chance to attend school. I have sponsored the "Goma Tuition Scholarship Fund" which provides funds for children in the eight schools our Sisters run in the Congo.

I really like this author: Father Iain Matthew, author of *The*

Impact of God, and Joan Chittister, who wrote *The Story of Ruth: 12 Moments in Every Woman's Life*.

Slogan that I would give my life: "Live life to the fullest in a spirit of gratitude for all of God's gifts."

What I would say to someone considering choosing consecrated life: Speak to a spiritual person, receive the sacraments frequently and be ready for big surprises.

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April 19: Second Sunday after Easter: Mass for Five Voices (Byrd); *Christus resurgens* (Phillips); *Regina caeli* (Sweelinck); organ works of Bach

April 26: Third Sunday after Easter: *Missa Lux et origo* (plainsong); *Amen, amen dico vobis / Mulier cum parit* (de Wert); organ works of Vierne

May 3: Fourth Sunday after Easter: *Missa Congratulamini mihi* (Guerrero); *Regina caeli* (K 108) (Mozart); organ works of Buxtehude

May 10: Fifth Sunday after Easter: *Missa Se la face ay pale* (Dufay); *Flos florum* (Dufay); *Regina caeli* (from the Trent Codex)

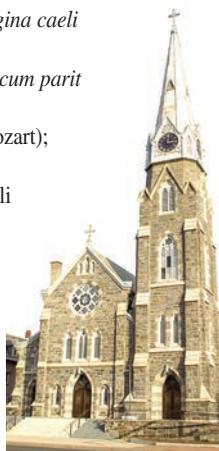
Thursday, May 14, Ascension Day: 4:30 Vespers; 5:30 Solemn Mass: Mass for Four Voices (Tallis); *Viri Galilaei / Ascendit Deus* (Palestrina); organ works of Messiaen; with the Student Schola

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Project Rachel brings healing

By MAUREEN CIARDIELLO

"Behold, I make all things new" (Rev 21:5).

Indeed, God is making many things new in this Easter Season in and around our diocese, most especially in the diocesan Project Rachel Healing Ministry for those suffering the effects of an abortion.

One of the "new" things is the blessing of a home for the ministry. A space was

graciously made available in which to hold healing retreats, monthly gatherings, and spiritual activities. In addition, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has appointed Father Sean Kulacz, parochial vicar at The Cathedral Parish in Bridgeport, as the spiritual director for the Project Rachel Healing Ministry. Father Sean has been

extremely helpful in the work of laying a strong and solid foundation to build up the ministry.

For those who are not familiar with Project Rachel, it is the Catholic Church's response to those who have been wounded by the effects of abortion. This program of support addresses post abortion stress

(PAS). The Church recognizes that women experience deep unresolved conflicts

with abortion. For Catholics, the pain of abortion is intensified by a sense of alienation from both God and Church. The intent of this ministry is to respond to that estrangement by fostering reconciliation and spiritual healing.

The diocesan Project Rachel Healing Ministry
▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



April 2015

Youth Consultation

Youth Consultation looks towards solutions

By MICHAEL E. LENARD

Teens throughout the diocese kicked off their spring break with the Third Youth Consultation, held on Saturday, April 11. It was a beautiful spring day, and another large crowd of youth assembled at St. Joseph's High School in Trumbull, taking time out of their vacation to discuss the next steps of the synod.

At this halfway point of the synod, the focus has shifted from identifying current problems in the diocese to brainstorming solutions tailored for those issues. The youth were presented with the five major challenge categories as discerned by the synod delegates—liturgy and worship, family life, evangelization, leadership, and catechesis and education—and were then asked to share possible solutions for each of these five categories. Once again, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano emphasized the importance of the voices of the youth in the diocese, reminding them, “No matter what age we are, we are all going in the same direction,” and encouraged them to share their creative ideas.

During this session, Bishop Caggiano announced the creation of a few exciting diocesan programs. The first new program is the Diocesan Youth Choir,

which will allow youth to take a leadership role in the diocese and reignite their enthusiasm about the Catholic faith. Many of those at the Youth Session expressed excitement about this idea, with hope that the Youth Choir would “bring inspiration from church to



church.”

Another program currently in formation is a Catholic Service Corps, which would allow young people to grow in their faith by partaking in works of charity, mercy, and service. Everyone is



“BISHOP CAGGIANO, what do you think about...?” At the synod youth consultation, held on a Saturday during spring vacation, youth delegates spoke with and listened to Bishop Caggiano concerning initiatives that can improve youth involvement in the life of the diocese.

called to be a missionary disciple, and this Service Corps would allow the youth of the diocese to experience this discipleship firsthand.

Finally, Bishop Caggiano proposed the idea of a “university without walls” that would provide an opportunity for everyone to become leaders in the Catholic faith. The youth at this session recommended that this program be developed in a way that allowed for online learning as well as face-to-face discussion and conversation, reinforcing

sentiments from previous sessions that emphasized balance between human interaction and the use of technology. Other suggestions from the enthusiastic youth included: the creation of a ministry for families, homilies that are more relevant for young people, spiritual retreats for families, and religious education programs that

are more focused on the aforementioned discipleship model.

All of the youth participants were energized by the session and the great ideas shared. Allison Fitzpatrick, of the youth group from St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, echoed the passion in the room, and was especially pleased to “hear all of the different ideas from youth across the diocese.”

Caitlin Wardlow, a junior at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield, was excited about how innovative the discussed programs were, and reiterated that balance was indeed the key.

As the synod works hard to establish solutions over the next few months, its focus will be on diocesan progress without changing the core of the faith. These new programs will elevate our faith, and with the ideas and support of the youth of our diocese, we truly can't go wrong!

(Michael Lenard, a sophomore in Sacred Heart University's John F. Welch College of Business, is a youth delegate for the synod. For more info, visit www.2014synod.org or www.dob-youth.com.)

PROJECT RACHEL FROM PAGE 20

ensures strict confidentiality and its response is based on the particular needs of the individual seeking help. Project Rachel provides an integrated network of services that include day retreats, healing services, spiritual support and referrals to licensed mental health professionals, if needed. In the future it will also have weekend retreats.

On June 13, the ministry will hold an “Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing.” This day is meant to be the start of the healing journey and for each retreatant to leave the day with hope that healing is possible for her. Following that, the Project Rachel Ministry is in the process of setting up future days and will be posting those on the diocesan website and the diocesan app.

This past October, Project Rachel held an afternoon of

prayerful remembrance and intercession service at St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield. This prayer service was created as a way to bring the community together and create an awareness of the far-reaching affects abortion has on the community that we do not often think about. The service is comprised of volunteers who read an actual testimony of a sibling, grandparent, counselor or friend. There is also an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the service concludes with Mass.

In the state of Connecticut, the average woman seeking an abortion is between the ages of 20-24. Abortions are often performed because of social or “birth control” reasons, with some women being coerced and pressured by family members, husbands or boyfriends.

Women of any age can experience post abortion stress. Over the past several years, more and more people are coming forward and expressing their hurt and pain having been involved in some way with an abortion, whether as a friend, grandparent, or medical professional.

Often times men are hurt as well, and express guilt and grief because of their involvement in an abortion. Project Rachel Healing Ministry will be planning support in the future to help men address their own wounds.

(Maureen Ciardiello is director of the diocesan Respect Life Ministry. Any woman who would like to attend the Day of Prayer and Healing, or anyone who is seeking help, can call the confidential phone line: 203.416.1619 or email projectrachel@diopbt.org.)

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Nuestra Voz

Tercera Sesión General del Sínodo 2014

El 7 de febrero, cerca de 350 delegados generales, observadores, invitados ecuménicos, seminaristas y miembros de la comisión del sínodo se reunieron para la tercera consulta general de Sínodo Diocesano en la Parroquia Sta. Catalina de Siena en Trumbull.

Los delegados formalmente aprobaron una serie de cinco desafíos globales que serán el enfoque primordial en los próximos meses. La adopción de estos desafíos fueron resultados de meses de estudio y revisiones entre los delegados, comités de estudio y la comisión del Sínodo, en colaboración con el obispo, Monseñor Frank J. Caggiano. Ahora el sínodo comenzará a discernir respuestas y soluciones a los desafíos que fueron aprobados. Estos no son los únicos

temas que se abordarán en la revitalización de nuestra diócesis, pero serán nuestras prioridades más inmediatas.

LITURGIA Y CULTO:

“La Santa Madre Iglesia desea ardientemente que se lleve a todos los fieles a aquella PARTICIPACIÓN PLENA, CONSCIENTE Y ACTIVA en las celebraciones litúrgicas que exige la naturaleza de la Liturgia misma...” (ver *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, #14, 41,48)

Debemos fomentar una actitud de bienvenida y hospitalidad que debe estar presente en cada liturgia o momentos de oración.

Se ha de prestar especial atención a la preparación y predicación de la homilía que deberían ser relevantes, que inspiren y reten a aquellas personas que están presentes en la Misa o en la

celebración de los sacramentos

La diversidad étnica y cultural debe estar reflejada tanto en la vida litúrgica como en los eventos diocesanos.

Hay que revitalizar cada ministerio asociado con la celebración de los sacramentos.

PASTORAL DE LA

FAMILIA: Hay una gran necesidad de fortalecer y apoyar la Pastoral de la Familia y responsabilizar y ayudar a los padres para que sean los primeros maestros de la Fe Católica.

Hacemos una llamada a la evangelización de todos los padres para que ellos compartan con sus hijos su relación con Cristo Jesús y con la Iglesia.

Hay que proveer a los padres educación, formación y continua ayuda en su doble responsabilidad como padres y primeros cate-



IN ORDER TO KEEP all members of the diocese fully informed on the progress of the Fourth Diocesan Synod, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has met several times with Spanish-speaking Catholics and has had synod documents translated into Spanish. The report in English on the latest Hispanic Consultation Session is on page 23.
(PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

quistas de sus hijos.

Hay que proveer programas y recursos para ayudar a las familias que hagan más fuertes los lazos de unidad entre sus miembros.

Hay que proveer especial cuidado pastoral a aquellas familias que están pasando por dificultades especiales como dificultades financieras, desempleo, discriminación, problemas migratorios o roturas matrimoniales.

EVANGELIZACIÓN:

Tenemos que crear planes de evangelización concretos en, con y a través de nuestras parroquias, escuelas, movimientos eclesiales y comunidades.

Hacemos una llamada a cada católico hacia un discipulado misionero.

Existe una necesidad urgente de crear una variedad de estrategias para envolver a aquellos católicos que se sienten marginados para que participen en la vida de la Iglesia, y respetar la diversidad dentro de nuestras comunidades de fe.

Todas las personas de buena voluntad son invitadas a ser evangelizadas a través de nuestro testimonio efectivo del Evangelio.

LIDERAZGO: Hay una necesidad continua de llamar, formar y apoyar al clero, religiosos y laicos en su papel de liderazgo activo dentro de la vida de la Iglesia.

Debemos desarrollar una cultura que promueva y apoye las vocaciones al sacerdocio, diaconado y vida consagrada en nuestra diócesis.

La educación continua, formación y apoyo de nuestro clero para promover un estilo de vida saludable y santo y para ayudarlos en su papel de liderazgo son prioridades que deben ser enfrentadas.

Hay que hacer esfuerzos para ayudar a los católicos a discernir sus talentos y dones personales, y a compartir esos dones con la

comunidad de fe en un verdadero espíritu de mayordomía.

Hay que crear oportunidades y estructuras para apoyar y asistir el entrenamiento y la formación continua de los líderes laicos en nuestra diócesis.

CATEQUESIS Y

FORMACIÓN: Debemos renovar el ministerio de la formación de la fe a través de nuestra diócesis, dirigiendo a cada persona hacia una relación profunda con el Señor Jesús en y por medio de su Iglesia.

Tiene que haber una enseñanza de nuestra Fe Católica clara, auténtica y fiel.

Hay que ofrecer oportunidades para la formación de la fe en su totalidad y de forma apropiada a la edad:

- promover conocimiento de la fe
- educación litúrgica
- formación moral
- enseñar a orar
- educación para la vida de comunidad
- iniciación misionera

(1997 Directorio General para la Catequesis)

Ahora que se han aclarado los desafíos, los delegados generales les han pedido que provean a la Oficina del Sínodo y los Comités de Estudio información sobre las mejores prácticas; modelos de ministerio; programas, lugares, personas y/o instituciones que pueden ejemplificar soluciones a estos desafíos.

En la tarde, los delegados tuvieron el privilegio de escuchar las presentaciones de:

Mike Gecan, co-director nacional de la Fundación de Áreas Industriales/CONNECT (Connecticut affiliate), quien habló sobre principios de organización basadas en la fe;

Mary Ellen O'Driscoll, directora regional del Ignatian
➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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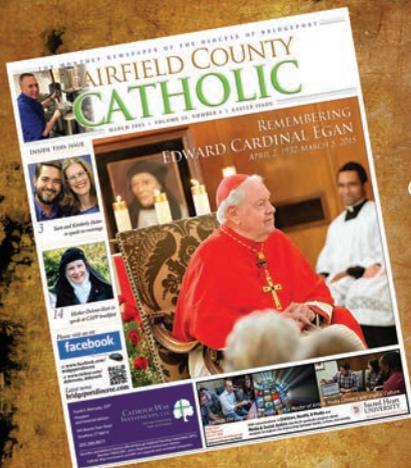
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Hispanic Community

Bishop calls for a more 'welcoming' Church

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—Speaking at the recent Hispanic Consultation for Synod 2014, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said that one of the most urgent challenges of the synod is to make parishes more welcoming places where people feel affirmed in their faith and in their lives.

"If we are going to go out and evangelize, the number one thing we have to do as a Church is to transform every parish into a vibrant, and joyful, community of faith," the bishop told members of the Latino community.

More than 100 Latinos of all ages turned out for the third Synod 2014 Hispanic Consultation Session, held in the lower church at St. Charles Borromeo Parish on East Main St. The consultation began with a presentation and discussion of the five "global challenges" ratified by synod delegates: the need to renew Liturgy and Worship, Family Life, Evangelization, Leadership, and Catechesis and Formation.

The challenges were presented in Spanish by John Rodriguez, a member of the Synod Commission, and Msgr. Aniceto Villamide, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport.

Each of the synod challenges was related to the needs of the Hispanic community, which some speakers said often feels unrepresented in the diocese and the larger Church. Many of those present said that the diocese



IN A BILINGUAL SESSION for Spanish-speaking Catholics, Msgr. Aniceto Villamide, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport, presented and discussed the main synod themes. John Rodriguez (r), a member of the Synod Commission, also assisted in the presentation. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

needs to better understand Latino culture and to develop more Spanish-speakers in its pastoral ministry and service teams.

Those in attendance spoke of the need for more training and formation opportunities and responded enthusiastically when the bishop said there was a growing interest in creating "a leadership center" for the diocese.

One man told the bishop that ongoing catechesis and leadership training opportunities would have to be flexible because "most people in Bridgeport are working two or three jobs to support their families."

In a question-and-answer session that followed the presentation, the bishop invoked the teaching of Pope Francis and his "Theology of Accompaniment" when asked questions about reaching out to gay and divorced Catholics.

"Pope Francis is challenging us to see things in a new way. We have to ask, how do we help people to hear what we believe? If a person is struggling we have to find a way to them, so that they know they are loved by God and accepted for who they are."

The bishop said it is important

to remember both "the journey and the destination" as we share our faith.

"The destination is heaven. The journey is our life. The Holy Father asks us to work with people on the journey of life to get to heaven. Everyone is part of that journey," he said.

The bishop said that when people go through a divorce or experience other crises is "when they need the Church the most, and we can't do a good job if we're not walking beside them."

Speaking of the need to evangelize "one person at a time," the bishop said, "I am not interested solely in having a remnant Church for only those who are righteous. As your bishop I want to help people feel welcome."

In concluding the meeting, the bishop asked those in attendance to email the synod with their suggestions and comments as the delegates seek solutions and best practices. "This is decision making time now, and I want to make the right ones. I need your input," he said.

He also invited all those present to plan on attending the synod's Closing Mass of Thanksgiving on September 19 at Webster Bank

Arena in Bridgeport. "It is very important that the Latino community be there in large numbers, celebrating who we are as a Church in Fairfield County," he said before giving a final blessing.



The Fifth General Session of Synod 2014 is set for Saturday, May 9, at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. A Sixth General Session has also been added for May 30 at St. Catherine's.

(A September 19 synod Closing Mass and celebration will be held at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport from 10 am to 2 pm. Almost 9,000 people throughout the diocese and invited guests are expected to attend. For more information, visit www.2014synod.com.)

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==== NUESTRA VOZ
FROM PAGE 22

Volunteer Corps, alentó a los delegados a incorporar Doctrina Social Católica en sus vidas y buscar a aquellos que son pobres y en sufrimiento;

Mons. Jim Lang, vicario episcopal de la Diócesis de Syracuse, habló de la planificación parroquial, visión y excelencia.

(Sesiones adicionales continuarán el 9 y el 30 de mayo. También animamos a todos los interesados a mantenerse informado a través del *Fairfield County Catholic*, www.bridgeportdiocese.com y www.2014synod.org. Para obtener más información en profundidad sobre los desafíos que se presentan, por favor vaya a www.2014synod.org/gss.)

Catholic Culture

Rediscovering Father Tabb

By BARRY WALLACE

Born into one of Virginia's oldest and wealthiest families in 1845, Father John Tabb was a widely published poet in his day who is nearly forgotten in our own. Yet his poems are filled with many small treasures like this one:

"God"
I see thee in the distant blue;
But in the violet's dell of dew,
Behold I breathe
and touch thee too.

The man who would become both poet and priest fought in the Civil War as a blockade runner for the South. The young rebel was captured and spent a year in a Union prison camp. The experience embittered him but his conversion to Catholicism brought joy to his life. He became a teacher at St. Charles College

in Ellicott City, Maryland, and spent his priesthood teaching Greek and English and writing poetry.

His first book of verse was published in 1893, at the same time that Emily Dickinson's poems were released to the public. Both Father Tabb and Dickinson became immediately popular, and they both wrote surprisingly short compact poems that invited the reader to look twice at the words on the printed page. Dickinson's poems have gone on to literary immortality while Father Tabb's are mostly forgotten.

Yet Father Tabb's ardent supporters celebrated his work and expected it to last for a very long time. In this era of environmental awareness and the Church's re-emphasis on the sacredness of nature, Tabb has some important

things to say about God's reaching out to us through his creation.

For Father Tabb, nature was a living, breathing experience of God. The creation was a sign of God's labor and love for man. Father Tabb wasn't a pantheist. He didn't believe that nature was God, but that it shared in the divinity of the godhead.

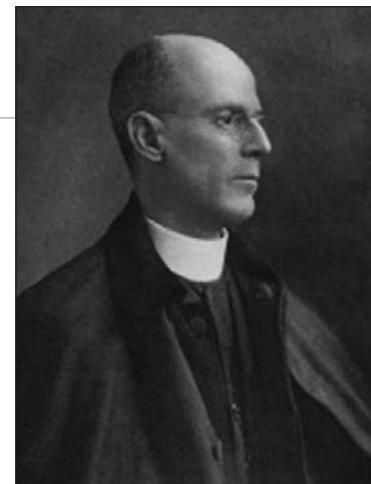
His poem, "God," contains a great deal of his vision and energy. He is startled on one of his daily walks by the sight of a violet. This causes him to meditate on the traditional image of God as far above us in the blue of heaven, the aspect of God that, as a priest, Father Tabb understands to be "Other" and unknowable. But the second part of the poem shifts the attention of the reader from the sky to the ground, from far to near: "Behold I touch and breathe thee too." Simple as these images are they are the product of profound spiritual experience.

Although he wrote at the end of the 19th Century, Father Tabb isn't a modern American poet in the way that Emily Dickinson is. Father Tabb's faith is complete and unshakable. He doesn't use

his poetry to explore doubt or disillusionment with God and religion. His poems don't search for an absent God, but rejoice in the ever-present God of love. He is much more in line with the English metaphysical poets like John Donne and George Herbert, who celebrated the many aspects of the Divine in unique and startling images of faith and experience.

Father Tabb stood on the brink of the modern world in the margins of prayer and meditation. He observed the schism of science and faith, but it didn't unnerve him because he saw mystery at the core of creation. He was very much aware of the encroaching modern world, the ideas of Darwin, the invention of photography, the revolution of knowledge. His books leave us in an older, more pastoral mode. His sympathies were with the past and the long intellectual traditions of the Catholic faith.

One thing that is modern about Father Tabb, and quite American, is the sense that his poems are home-made and assembled out of his every day experience as a priest. In so many



FATHER JOHN B. TABB

of his words you can sense him coming upon his subject as he walks the countryside. His faith was such that all roads led him to God:

*Like as a brook
that all night long
Sings, as at noon,
a bubble-song
To sleep's unheeding ear,
The poet to himself must sing,
When none but God
is listening
The lullaby to hear.*

Father Tabb's poems teach us to hear the song of God in everyday life. In reading them you might just discover the "all in all," the signature of God that Tabb saw in birds, flowers and drops of rain. His poems are a form of prayer, and within them it is still possible to find images of Christ that can refresh and nurture faith today. ■



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399 North Street
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(203) 869-4828
(203) 869-7026

NEWTOWN
Resurrection Cemetery
c/o Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1056 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-5574

NORWALK
St. John - St. Mary Cemetery
223 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850
(203) 838-4271

STAMFORD
Queen of Peace Cemetery
c/o St. John Cemetery
25 Camp Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
(203) 322-0455

TRUMBULL
Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1056 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-5574

WESTPORT
Assumption, Greens Farms
Assumption, Kings Highway
c/o St. John Cemetery
223 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850
(203) 838-4271

St. Vincent's receives grant

BRIDGEPORT—St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation has been awarded a grant by Fairfield County's Community Foundation (FCCF) in the amount of \$30,000. The grant, made possible by an anonymous donor, will be used toward general operating support of the Hope Dispensary of Greater Bridgeport, a charitable pharmacy dedicated to serving low-income and uninsured individuals in the Bridgeport community, who would not otherwise be able to afford access to prescription medicine.

The Hope Dispensary of Greater Bridgeport is a charitable dispensary that grew out of a partnership between the Primary Care Action Group (PCAG), a collaboration of

medical providers and advocacy groups in the Greater Bridgeport area, and the Dispensary of Hope, a national network of clinics and pharmacies serving uninsured and low-income patients. The first and only Dispensary of Hope site in Connecticut, it provides short-term and long-term medication assistance to eligible patients.

"St. Vincent's and PCAG are grateful to the Fairfield County Community Foundation for this grant which will help those who may be going without critical medications due to economic hardship," said St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation President Dianne Auger. "We are so grateful for this vital assistance that allows us to operate the Hope Dispensary, which has become an important community resource for many residents

without insurance or means to purchase the medications they need."

"We are pleased that our donor-advised fund holder chose to recommend a generous general operating grant to this important initiative spearheaded by the Primary Care Action Group in Greater Bridgeport," stated Karen R. Brown, MPA, vice president of innovation and strategic learning at the Fairfield County's Community Foundation. "We are also grateful to St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation for continuing to serve as the fiduciary agent for this important initiative. Many Greater Bridgeport residents benefit every single day from this innovative nonprofit community health care initiative." ■

CAPP Educators' Breakfast

'Love' animates contemplative life

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

FAIRFIELD—"Kick the devil" in the backside and begin loving those who are close to you and the many more you meet in everyday life, Mother Dolores Hart told more than 200 in attendance at the seventh annual Educators Communion Breakfast at Sacred Heart University.

"One thing that life has taught me is that as a contemplative, my search for God finds resonance in the person sitting next to me, the

with all those "who carry something through the night."

The woman who starred alongside Elvis and Anthony Quinn said that she was 17 and Elvis only 20 years old and wildly famous when they met on the set. In between scenes he invited her to his room, where he read the Bible to her. "I was dumbfounded by the simplicity of this man. He had already been on the Ed Sullivan Show, and I never expected to be in a room with him and have him read the Bible

of the great honors of his life.

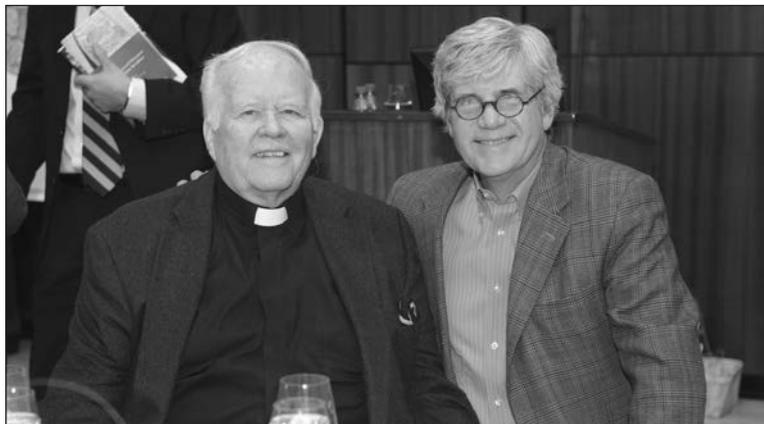
The morning started out when Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrated Mass in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on the Sacred Heart University campus. Referring to Catholic educators as "ambassadors of God's love to the world," the bishop told them "your mission and mine have everything to do with the cross."

He said that Catholic schools welcome everyone "because we are all loved by the Father now and forever."

(The Annual Educators' Communion Breakfast is sponsored by CAPP, a lay group that promotes Catholic Social Teaching, and Sacred Heart University. For more info, contact www.CAPP-USA.com.)



MOTHER DOLORES HART



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR Father William Sangiovanni, with his friend Judge Dan Caruso.

person who just spoke, the person who asks me something. By loving we discover ourselves."

Dressed in her trademark beret over her nun's habit, she was every bit the Hollywood actress and cloistered nun as she held the gathering spellbound with stories about legendary movie stars and her own sudden decision to enter the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Conn., at the height of her fame in 1963.

She said that she didn't leave Hollywood behind because she continues to pray for everyone she met in Hollywood and they are a part of her life.

"Looking for the light in the other person's eyes and heart," she said, speaking in a soft and clear voice. "What do they see that I can't see? It's a shock to learn that each human being is totally unique and original in a way that only God understands."

The former Dolores Hart still seemed amazed by her vocation and said that her job now is to "learn to pray better." Noting that she prays seven times a day "and in the middle of the night," she said it is an act that also unites her

to me. He was very accepting and open," she said.

She said that she tells many people who don't know what to do with their lives to follow their inner voice. "Hold the truth, hold the love, no matter how lousy it gets," she said, adding that the best way to follow God's will is often to fathom your own and to choose to love.

Prior to her talk, Father William Sangiovanni, president of Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield, was presented the CAPP Educator of the Year Award.

His brief and heartfelt acceptance remarks were followed by a standing ovation for his service as a priest and educator. Telling the gathering that he just celebrated his 38th anniversary as a priest, Father Bill said he was filled with gratitude and "thank God for the gift of life." He said his mother played an important role in his life along with "two amazing women," his Grandmother Muldoon and his Grandmother Sangiovanni.

He said that the trust that students placed in him has been one

KOLBE FROM PAGE 19

Capitol in Hartford. If she is chosen as Connecticut's State Youth, she will have the chance to go on to the national competition.

The generosity of individual benefactors and institutions is "making a difference" by affording Kolbe with the resources to directly impact 65 percent of the student population who are in need of financial aid. One of Kolbe's

individuals, including Greenwich resident Stratford Wallace, whose sponsorships include Freshman Gianfranco Alvarez, one of 20 Wissel Scholars currently benefiting from donor support, the fund is "making a difference" by opening the doors to a quality college preparatory education which would otherwise have been out of their reach.

Senior Wissel Scholars Danielle Trotman and Ariana

den Broek and The William H. Pitt Foundation, in recognition and appreciation of their continued commitment to transforming deserving young people's lives through education, The awards will be presented at Kolbe's "2015 Making a Difference Celebration." The celebration will feature a Mass on May 31 in honor of Msgr. Wissel at 5:15 pm at St. Mary Parish in Greenwich, followed



PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE: nine of the 2014-15 Wissel Fund scholars. Back Row (l-r): Mario Dataram, Bryan Tacuri, Kevin Carbett, Mark Dataram, Gianfranco Alvarez and Christopher Lopez. Front Row: (l-r): Danielle Trotman, Ariana Trotman and Carolyn Spencer.

designated scholarship funds, the Monsignor Frank C. Wissel Scholarship Fund, honors Msgr. Wissel's lifelong commitment to young people. During his ten year tenure as principal, he coined the motto "Work Hard and Be Nice," which has remained a centerpiece of the school's standard of behavior.

Through the generosity of

Trotman have earned college acceptances at Albertus Magnus, Fairfield, Iona, Quinnipiac, Sacred Heart, SCSU, WCSU and the University of Connecticut, and Wissel Scholar Carolyn Spencer has the opportunity to enroll at Cornell University next fall.

Kolbe Cathedral is proud to announce the "2015 Making a Difference" Award Honorees: Walter Luckett, Jr., Albertus van

by dinner at Gabriele's Italian Steakhouse in Greenwich 6:30 pm. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Monsignor Frank C. Wissel Scholarship Fund and the Jonathan O'Herron, Sr., Scholarship Fund.

(To learn more about Kolbe Cathedral's "Making a Difference" campaign, contact Jo-Anne Jakab: 203.368.2648 or jjakab@kolbecaths.org.)

High School Sports

Prep, St. Joe's, Notre Dame have great seasons

By **DON HARRISON**

Year in and year out, basketball is played at a high level at Fairfield County's Catholic high schools. For proof positive, one need look no further than the season that concluded in late March with championship games at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville. Consider:

Top-ranked Fairfield Prep defeated No. 2 Westhill of Stamford, 51-50, for the Class LL state title, capping a 25-2 season and putting an emphatic end to a string of runner-up finishes (2014, 2013, 2011) for Coach Leo Redgate's teams.

St. Joseph Girls Varsity, sparked by a group of seniors, built a 15-point halftime lead,

then held on to upend Cromwell, 50-44, for the girls Class M state championship. It was the Cadets' second state title and first under Coach Chris Lindwall.

Notre Dame of Fairfield led top-seeded Weaver of Hartford for three quarters before coming up short, 73-59, in the boys Class M state title game. Still, Coach Vin Laczkoski's Lancers could find considerable solace with their runner-up finish in the state tournament and 21-7 season.

Over the past five seasons, head coach Leo Redgate has guided the Jesuits to 119 victories versus just 17 defeats, a remarkable 87.5 winning percentage.

The last of those wins, the Class LL state championship game at Mohegan Sun Arena—over

Westhill High of Stamford, brought Prep its third state title and the first since 1997.

"We were down by 11 against Hillhouse in the semis," recalled Redgate of the hard-fought game. "But we came back to win, 59-57, in overtime."

Over at St. Joe's, Coach Lindwall had high praise for his team. "They were undefeated as a freshman team," Lindwall said. "At the end of the year, we had those kids in the locker room. ... and we said to them, right then and there, 'this team can win a state championship if you make the commitment,' and those kids made the commitment."

St. Joe's co-captain Bridget Sharnick, among nine seniors on the squad, provided 16 points and



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN ABRAHAM

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8 rebounds in the championship game victory over fourth-ranked Cromwell.

The Cadets, fueled by five three-pointers and 50 percent shooting from the floor, constructed a 31-16 lead at halftime. But Cromwell rallied and reduced St. Joe's lead to 47-44 with 1:02 left to play. Junior Jackie Jozefick ensured the win by making all eight of her free throws in the final quarter, finishing with 10 points and a team-high 11 rebounds.

Notre Dame, ranked sixth in the Class M field, opened the

season 5-5, then won 16 of 17 games entering the title game against Weaver. Despite the loss of a starting player, junior Jesse McIntosh, throughout the tournament, the Lancers reeled off four straight wins and went toe-to-toe with Weaver until the closing moments.

Junior Jordan Pettway led a three-pronged attack against Weaver with 17 points, while seniors Jake Heaton supplied 15 and Clinton Davidson 14. Andre Lyons sparked Weaver (27-2) with a game-high 23 points and took down 11 rebounds.

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT: APRIL 19—MAY 16

APRIL

19	Rev. Philip J. O'Farrell.....	1992
20	Rev. Martin J. O'Connor.....	1988
23	Rev. Vincent P. Bodnar.....	1988
25	Msgr. William A. Nagle.....	2013
29	Rev. Joseph F. Cleary.....	1971
	Rev. Andrew Dube.....	2006
	Rev. Austin R. Saunders.....	1986

MAY

1	Rev. Gregory J. Huminski.....	2010
2	Msgr. James F. Murphy.....	1958
3	Msgr. Michael J. Carnicke, P.A.....	1980
9	Rev. John B. Fonseca.....	2002
16	Rev. Alfred J. Bietighofer.....	2002

April 2015

High School Sports

Fairfield Prep's Redgate: 'It's about the relationships'

By DON HARRISON

Leo Redgate has proven his mettle as head coach of the Fairfield Prep basketball team these past five seasons, guiding the Jesuits to 119 victories versus just 17 defeats, a remarkable 87.5 winning percentage. The last of those wins was the most notable, coming as it did in the 2015 CIAC Class LL state championship game at Mohegan Sun Arena—a 51-50 verdict over Westhill High of Stamford, which brought Prep its third state title and the first since 1997.

Here are some of Redgate's thoughts about the championship, his teams and his family:

Prep's road to the championship wasn't easy, was it?

We were down by 11 against Hillhouse in the semis, and our best player, Tommy Nolan, fouled out in the final three minutes. But we came back to win, 59-57, in overtime.

When Westhill's game-winning three-point attempt bounced off the rim at the final buzzer, Nolan ran over to you on the sideline and the two of you hugged.

We've been through a lot together. Anytime a player and coach are together for four years, there's a certain love and trust. He's really taken the weight of the world on his shoulders. He wears his emotions on his sleeve.

Nolan is heading to Fairfield University on a basketball scholarship next season, correct?

Tommy had multiple Division-I offers. He averaged 15 points a game, but he does so many things to win a game. As a team, we celebrate the good pass, the deflection, taking a charge. Somebody might score 30 points or so, but it doesn't matter if they don't make the big play.

Your four previous teams featured All-State players and won 20-plus games, but three of those squads (2011, 2013, 2014) came up short in the state championship game and

the 2012 team lost in the state semi-finals.

Well, we didn't have the star power of our first two teams... Terry Tarpey, who's playing so well now at William and Mary... and our last two teams, Paschal Chukwu, the 7-footer who's now playing at Providence. This year we had four players who averaged double figures, and a nucleus of six or seven who were important contributors.

Who was the most unsung member of this group?

Matt Gerics, a junior most people have never heard of, helped win the state championship game for us with his defensive play against Westhill's outstanding guard, Jeremiah Livingston. He and Ryan Foley held him to one field goal, and Livingston (the FCIAC's Player of the Year) was averaging 24 points a game.

You've put together an impressive resume as head coach at your alma mater.

I'm a teacher; I like to inspire people. It's not about the wins. It's about the relationships. If you ask a good coach what he remembers most at the end of his career, it's not the win-loss record. It's the relationships.

Some of your former players have kept in touch.

Terry Tarpey, who is the best player I've coached, was at the championship game. Paschal and Tim Butala, who's now at MIT, have been texting and calling me.

Your wife, Lynne, what are her thoughts about coaching and the time it takes?

I think she knows I'm reaching the kids. I think she knows how much I love Fairfield Prep. If I considered myself just a basketball coach, I don't think she'd like it. I see coaching truly as an extension of the classroom.

Do you plan to return next season?

I can't answer that just yet. There are some things to be worked out. If I do something, I'm all in. We have three kids

(Leo, Shannon, Brian), and I know that when they're doing homework, I'm out coaching. I've missed a lot of their games. At least I got to Worcester (Mass.) for Shannon and her St. Thomas team. They won the New England CYO fifth- and sixth-grade basketball championship.

Any final thoughts?

I am proud of the current

state of the program. Before I took over, it was in disarray, averaging just under .500 and never a factor. I was brought in and we immediately changed the style of play and got the boys to believe in our approach; we created a winning attitude and culture.

The turnaround is amazing, and I would argue Prep is well positioned to be a powerhouse in basketball for a long time.



COACH REDGATE with senior star Tommy Nolan.

Perhaps the greatest joy in retiring is knowing you can live life to its fullest.

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Column: Joe Pisani



In case of emergency—call a priest

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

At lunchtime, I went to the rectory at St. Agnes Church in Manhattan to have a Mass said for my friend who died. On the counter was a pile of pocket calendars that had a picture of the Madonna and Christ Child with the words, “I am a Catholic.”

Inside the calendar was a place for personal information under the title “In case of emergency.” It’s been years since I’ve seen

cards and medals that say, “I am a Catholic. In case of emergency ... call a priest.” There was a time when most Catholics had some form of identification like that in their wallets, with their names, addresses and phone numbers.

“In case of emergency, call a priest.” For many people, the days are gone when the first person they’d think to call in an emergency is a priest to hear their confession and ensure their eternal salvation.

Who would you call in case of emergency? Your wife, your husband, your kids, your stock broker, your cardiologist, your primary care physician, your boss—the list of possibilities is a long one. Yet at one time, we thought the most important person to call was a priest.

I usually had one of those cards in my wallet. I even visualized the situation where it would come in handy: I’d be crossing Lexington Avenue, probably jaywalking, and a taxi or bicycle messenger would come careening around the corner and plow into me.

There I’d be, lying on the city street with a crowd of onlookers gathering around me, and one of them would be astute enough to say, “Check his wallet to see if he’s a Catholic. Maybe we better call a priest.”

They’d find the identification

card—and hopefully not go rifling through my credit cards, my family pictures or my cash. Someone would run to the phone booth, and a priest would arrive before the ambulance and EMTs. Amid this gathering of gawkers, he’d kneel down beside me and hear my Confession—just like in some Spencer Tracy movie—and give me absolution. I’d be “good to go” to the next life.

Have our attitudes changed so much in a few decades?

The card I got at the rectory was updated from the traditional version. It said, “I am a Catholic. In case of emergency, please contact, first of all, a priest.”

Then, there was a line for another relation and one for your doctor. (Although I suspect it’s a lot easier to get a priest to make a house call than a doctor.) There was also a section to fill in your name, age, blood type, allergies, medications and medical conditions.

A few days later, I went to Confession on Saturday afternoon. The church was deserted, and I was happy to be the first one there, alone with time for prayer. I thought a line would eventually form, but it didn’t.

The priest arrived, walked into the reconciliation room and turned on the light. I followed him, confessed my sins, said my Act of Contrition, was absolved, said my penance, lit a few holy candles and

then left. That afternoon no one else came to Confession.

When I was young, my aunt would take me to Saturday confession at St. Augustine’s, where there were several priests ensconced in confessionals at the back of the church, with long lines at each of them—except maybe the one where everyone knew the priest was prone to yelling. We usually waited a while, but we believed it was worth the effort to confess our sins and be forgiven.

Are we more enlightened now? Do we sin less? Do we feel there’s not a real need to confess our sins? Do we not believe in sin? Or do we think we can confess directly to God without the priest in the role of Christ?

Just from reading the headlines every morning, I have to conclude we sin more, not less—a lot more. But maybe we don’t take it as seriously, and that’s a problem. Sin, of course, has become popularized. Just watch a typical reality TV show, and you’ll understand what I mean. In the olden days, if we did the things you see on TV, the nuns would tell us in no uncertain terms, “You better change or you’re headed for hell.” But in the popular mentality, I suspect there’s no hell either.

All I know for sure is I am a Catholic. In case of emergency ... call a priest. ■

ANSWERING THE CALL

Service & Charity
in the Civil War



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WORCESTER, MASS.—Two teams from this diocese, St. James, Stratford, Varsity girls (shown here) and St. Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield, JV girls, won at the New England CYO School Division Basketball Championship in Worcester on March 29.

St. James Varsity: (Front) Mascot Michael Lucifora, Caroline Oman, Morgan Colacurcio, Julia Torreso; (back) head coach Pete Hynes, Lexi Kretvix, Kristin Zack, Makenzie Helms, Serena Mbachiantim, Kylie Lucifora, Theresa Hynes, Skylar Robotti, Lilia Ivanovich, Elizabeth Garfield, assistant coach Dave Ivanovich; and (far back) assistant coach Angelo Lucifora

Column: Thomas Hicks



April and Resurrection

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

Earth throws winter's robes away, Decks herself for Easter Day. *(Gerard Manley Hopkins, Easter)*

We are enjoying the first weeks of the spring which broke our long, hard winter. Now the long lovely light of April falls on the land lately so deep in snow. New green is everywhere, as sunlight strengthens in hyacinth blue skies. It is the time of renewal, rebirth. There is the common connection between the earth reborn in spring and human life remade by Christ's resurrection. Martin Luther wrote: "Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

Possibly our deepest dread is the fear of extinction, of being blown out like a candle, of ceasing to be. But our faith tells us that death does not gain the victory. We die into Resurrection. We shall rise and bloom to fade no more.

We come to recognize that our hold on existence is fragile. We engage in long holding actions against death which everyone loses eventually. Death always wins in the long run, and we all join the majority. Death excludes no one. As Psalm 89:48 puts it: "Who can save himself from the grasp of the grave?" More and more I come to realize that I am temporary, a loose knot that will come untied.

I've heard people say they are just as glad to leave the whole show behind and get going; they will be glad to leave the battlefield. But I'm still disinclined to exit. My mind sends up a silent scream at the thought of the cosmic party going on without me. I will miss the world. Leaving my place at the table will be hard. Overall, I loved the world I was

privileged, in my interval of light, to witness and experience, and I see the self as a window on the world I can't bear to think of shutting. I make desperate efforts to get as much in as I can before the window shuts. Probably like most people, I don't want the world to end. I'd like to walk down these streets a lot more times, share a lot more meals. But, then, aspects of this world are hard, cruel, sad and obscene, and I'd cheerfully roll them up.

But the Scriptures tell us that our final home is not here. We are only strangers and nomads on earth in search of our real homeland (Hebrews 11:13-16). Our mortal body is a temporary habitation. We camp in it for a while as in a tent to be razed to go to

another camping ground, where we will have "a dwelling not made with human hands that will last eternally" (2 Cor.5:1). As a participant in nature we are under nature's laws, and so we die. On the other hand, we are a child of God and under the promises of God and so we die, as the funeral liturgy says, "in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life."

Our physical dissolution will be miraculously undone and we will rise with radically transformed bodies. When Paul was asked what the resurrected body would be like, his tone became lyrical, exultant: "What is sown corruptible, rises incorruptible; what is sown in dishonor, rises in glory; what is sown in weakness, is raised in power; what is sown a material body, rises a spiritual body" (1 Cor.15:43-44). A "spiritual body" means one that will escape from wasting and decay.

Theologians speculate about Paul's words in Philippians 3:21: "He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body." Jesus was translated at his resurrection into a new mode of existence. Jesus did not take back the same body he had three days

earlier. For example, at times his own disciples did not immediately recognize him. He was no longer limited by space and time. Apparently, he could pass through locked doors. He could be where and when he wanted. He could appear and disappear with an unnatural suddenness (Jn.20:19-29). Will our own risen bodies have the same properties as those of Christ? Resurrection is not resuscitation; it is entry into another mode of life. Interesting.

I find particularly interesting that the marks of Jesus' suffering were still upon his risen body. Possibly our sufferings, borne as best we could, will not be lost or forgotten either, but will count as a noble mark, imperishable, holy and glorious.

So now winter is behind us. The snowdrifts have melted away, and the earth is busy with resurrection. The hills are tenderly green, and we hear the birds at morning and evening singing again the ancient songs. The sun is gaining at the rate of more than three minutes a day. Now all things seem to smile. These are the bright days of the Resurrection, when we celebrate life and hope and the ultimate

substance of our faith.

There are a couple of Resurrection quotes I particularly like:

He will make the dead,
like flowers, rise
Youthful and fair
to see new skies.
*(Henry Vaughn,
"The Day of Judgment")*

But from the Grave, this Dust,
My God shall raise me up, I trust.
*(Sir Walter Raleigh,
"Even Such Is Time")*

But none can top the words from Ezekiel and Job.

Thus says the Lord God:
O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them... Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them...I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord (Ezekiel 37:12-13).

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and in the last day, I shall rise out of the earth. And I shall be clothed again with my skin, and in my flesh I shall see my God...This is my hope laid up in my bosom (Job 19:25-27).

SAINTLY LIVES

BY ED WALDRON

Rose Hawthorne Lathrop



b. 1851 ~ d. 1926

ROSE WAS THE SECOND DAUGHTER OF FAMED NOVELIST NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE. SHE WAS BORN IN MASSACHUSETTS, BUT THE FAMILY MOVED OFTEN, SO SHE SPENT THE MAJORITY OF HER FORMATIVE YEARS IN EUROPE BEFORE RETURNING TO NEW ENGLAND. SHE WAS NEVER A RENOWNED AUTHOR, BUT LIKE HER FATHER, SHE WAS A GIFTED WRITER. ROSE MARRIED AUTHOR GEORGE PARSONS LATHROP IN 1871.



THE COUPLE'S ONLY CHILD, FRANCIS, SUCCUMBED TO DIPHTHERIA AT THE AGE OF 5. GEORGE AND ROSE CONVERTED TO CATHOLICISM 10 YEARS AFTER THEIR SON'S DEATH, BUT THEIR MARRIAGE WAS TROUBLED. GEORGE WAS AN ALCOHOLIC AND HIS DRINKING SPUN OUT OF CONTROL, ULTIMATELY SHATTERING THEIR RELATIONSHIP. WITH HER PRIEST'S APPROVAL, ROSE MOVED TO NEW YORK CITY TO LIVE ALONE, STUDY NURSING AND PURSUE A MORE PURPOSEFUL LIFE.



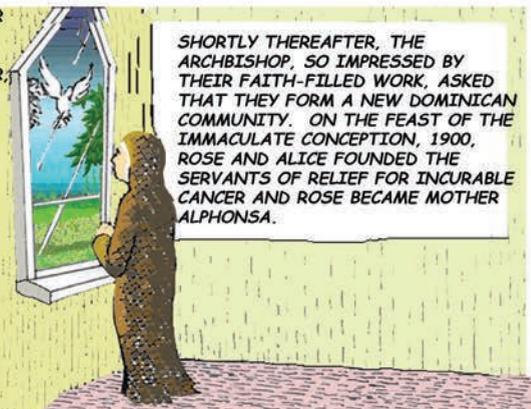
ROSE BEGAN VISITING TERMINALLY ILL CANCER PATIENTS AND LATER SET UP A HOSPICE IN APARTMENTS THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO RENT WITH MONEY PROVIDED BY DONATIONS. SHE BEFRIENDED POET, EMMA LAZARUS, WHO WAS STRICKEN WITH CANCER AND NURSED HER UNTIL HER DYING DAYS. "A FIRE WAS LIGHTED IN MY HEART, WHERE IT STILL BURNS..."



I SET MY WHOLE BEING TO ENDEAVOR TO BRING CONSOLATION TO THE CANCEROUS POOR." WITH ENCOURAGEMENT FROM A FRIAR, ROSE AND HER FRIEND, ALICE HUBER, BECAME DOMINICAN TERTIARIES. THEY OPENED ST. ROSE'S FREE HOME FOR INCURABLE CANCER - DEDICATED TO ST. ROSE OF LIMA WHICH QUICKLY HOUSED 15 CANCER PATIENTS.



SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE ARCHBISHOP, SO IMPRESSED BY THEIR FAITH-FILLED WORK, ASKED THAT THEY FORM A NEW DOMINICAN COMMUNITY. ON THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, 1900, ROSE AND ALICE FOUNDED THE SERVANTS OF RELIEF FOR INCURABLE CANCER AND ROSE BECAME MOTHER ALPHONSA.



Bits & Pieces

ENCOURAGE apostolate for friends and family of loved ones with same sex attractions meets monthly on Saturday mornings at 10:30 am and is strictly confidential. For more info contact the Norwalk Chapter: EncourageNorwalk@gmail.com.

COURAGE INTERNATIONAL: a spiritual support system to assist men and women with same-sex attractions in living chaste lives in fellowship, truth and love. For the Norwalk Chapter, email: courage@diobpt.org.

TEENS EPIC SCAVENGER HUNT, Sun., **April 19**, from 6-7:30 pm at St. Matthew Parish, Norwalk. Dress for all weather! For more info, call 203.838.3788 or go to www.stmatthewnorwalk.org.

MASS MOB IV IN BRIDGEPORT! Join us for Mass Mob IV at St. Patrick Parish, Bridgeport, on Sun., **April 19**, at 12:30 pm. What is Mass Mob? Find out at: massmobfc.webs.com.

YOUNG ADULTS MASS & BRUNCH, Sun., **April 19**, at St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan, beginning with 8:30 am Mass. Open to all; event is held monthly. For more info, email starcc.youngadults@gmail.com or go to Facebook: St Aloysius Young Adult Fellowship.

TACO TUESDAY & BIBLE STUDY for young adults (ages 18-35), Tues., **April 21**, at St. Marguerite Parish, Brookfield, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Open to all; great night out to meet other young adults in our area. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or call Maria: 610.505.7272.

STEVE D'AGOSTINO CONCERT at the Bijou Theater on Fri., **April 24**. Comedy and Music Show starts at 8 pm. Tickets: \$40 and \$45. Concert benefits St. Joseph High School. For more info, call 203.378.9378 or go to www.sjcadets.org.

GOOD NEWS GOSPEL CHOIR with Chris Coogan, Sat., **April 25**, at 7:30 pm at St. Cecilia Parish, Stamford. Concert helps parish outreach ministries. Admission: non-perishable ingredients to make a pot luck meal for 4. For more info, go to www.stceciliastamford.org, call 203.322.1562 or email: stceciliastmfrd@optimum.net.

HOME ITEMS DONATION DAY: "Off the Streets" of Bridgeport, Fairfield, & Trumbull works to help the homeless find a home and get basic furnishings and household goods. Next drop-off day is Sat., **April 25**, from 10 am-1 pm in the parking lot of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield. Donations of clean and

in good condition small kitchen tables and chairs, dressers, floor lamps, pots and pans, flatware, and linens are accepted. For a complete list of items needed, go to offthestreetsnow.com/bft.

MYSTERY THEATER & Classic Car Show, Sat., **April 25**, from 6:30-10 pm at St. Theresa School, Trumbull. \$40 includes dinner, beverages, dessert, BYOB and Mysterious Interactive Production by Crime & Merriment, LLC. There will be a free Classic Car Show (weather permitting) in the parking lot before the show. For more info or for tickets, call 203.268.3236. All proceeds go to the school.

GUITAR VIRTUOSO joins conductor Mark Kaczmarczyk and orchestra in Joaquin Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez" at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside, on Sat., **April 25**, at 8 pm. The famous guitar concerto evokes images and melodies of Spain. Tickets: \$25; \$10 students, available online at www.stcath.org or phone: 203.637.3661.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY (ages 18-35), Sat., **April 25**, at 10 am at St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull. No Bible study experience necessary. Light refreshments served. For more info, email raytar.theresa@gmail.com.

TEEN ICE SKATING PARTY sponsored by St. Matthew Parish, Norwalk, Youth Group held Sun., **April 26**, from 1:30-3:30 pm at the rink at 300 Wilson Ave., Norwalk. Crew is covering the cost of ice skates and skating. For more info or to RSVP, contact Mariko: 651.233.4917 or thecrewatstm@gmail.com.

SERRA CLUB Charter Mass with Bishop Caggiano, 4 pm on Tues., **April 28**, at St. Pius X Parish, Fairfield. For more info, email Serrabridge@gmail.com or go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/serraclubofbridgeport>.

Scripture Scramble Answer:

"Jesus is transfigured before his disciples in order to allow them to see the great goal so that they might have courage as they struggle on the way." St. Thomas Aquinas



A TASTE OF ALPHA & GETTING STARTED

A TASTE OF ALPHA INFO SESSION—What is ALPHA? Want to bring ALPHA to YOUR parish? Find out on Sat., **April 25**, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 46 Stone St., Danbury, from 8 am-4 pm. Breakfast & lunch provided. Explore the meaning of life and faith, and revitalize your parish! Open to all; pastors, volunteers, Youth Leaders, DREs. Register at: <http://alpha-forcatholics.eventbrite.com>. For more info, email Jean Benitez: jbenitez0731@gmail.com.

DISNEY'S BEAUTY & THE BEAST at St. Joseph High School on Thurs., **April 30**, at 7 pm; Fri., **May 1**, at 7 pm, and Sat., **May 2**, at 6:30 pm. For tickets email SJHSTickets@gmail.com.

EMMAUS TEEN RETREAT by St. Aloysius Youth Group, New Canaan, the weekend of **May 1-3**. Go to www.staemmaus.org to register to submit an application. For more info email saintaloyusemmaus@gmail.com or call David & Christine Wagner at 203.966.0020.

DANBURY EMMAUS "PIE 32" retreat for young adults 18 and up who have completed high school, to be held the weekend **May 1-3**, at the Seton Newman Center in Danbury. Deepen your relationship with God while you make friendships that will last a lifetime! For more info, call Kristin Nauheimer: 203.512.5285 or visit www.danburyemmaus.org.

HOMEFRONT PROJECT sponsored by St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Sat., **May 2**, from 9 am-5 pm. Open to all adults and teens 14 years and older. HOMEFRONT is a community-based volunteer home repair program that provides quality of life repairs at no cost to the homeowners in need. Refreshments and lunch provided. To join the team or for more info, contact Kay Byrnes: kaybyrnes@optonline.net.

"ABOUT PASSION & PURPOSE: MARRIAGE" at St. Matthew Parish, Norwalk, on Sat., **May 2**, from 6:30-10:30 pm. Speaker Dr. Allen Hunt on the Five Love Languages, along with acoustical music by George Lower. For more info, call the parish: 203.838.3788.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS to be held on Thurs., **May 7**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, at 7 pm;

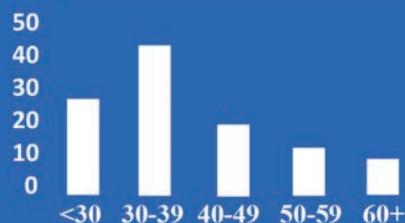
The Changing Age of Vocations

Think You Have To Be in Your 20s To Become a Sister? Think Again.

74% of sisters begin religious life at age 30 or over.

Are you in your 30s or 40s? Consider religious life!

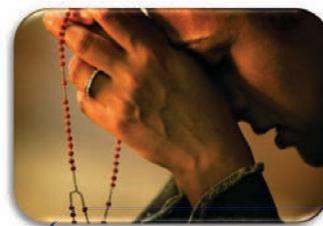
Women Beginning Religious Life in 2014



CONTACT: Congregation of Notre Dame
Have a conversation with Sr. Mary Ann Rossi, CND.
Phone: 203-613-0637 * Email: mrossi@cnd-m-org

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Benedictine Sisters of Chicago * CARA

Women's Day of Reflection



"The Rosary of Our Lives"
with Amy Ekeh
www.amyekeh.com

All ladies are invited for a day with talks, quiet time, reflection, and prayer.

Saturday, May 30
Saint Margaret Shrine
2523 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

8:15am Mass to 2:30pm
Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Bring a rosary.
\$25/person

Would you like to see the rosary in a new light?

The rosary is not only the story of Jesus and Mary - it is also your story! This classic symbol of Catholic faith symbolizes your own life - the beads are like steps along life's path. Your life has had its own "mysteries" - its own significant moments - sorrowful, joyful, glorious, and luminous. Join us for a day of reflection as we imitate Mary by pondering in our own hearts the presence of God in the "Rosary of Our Lives."



RSVP by Friday, May 22
Maureen Ciardiello at 203-416-1445
Gina Donnarummo at 203-416-1446
womensconference@diobpt.org

To register, mail check, made payable to: "Office of Faith Formation"
Attn: Gina, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606

Bits & Pieces

and Mon., **May 18**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, at 7:30 pm. For more info, email jkovacs@snet.net. What is Cursillo? Find out at www.natl-cursillo.org/bridgeport/.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES Jubilee Mass with Bishop Caggiano for couples with significant anniversaries of 15 years or longer (anniversary years ending in "0" or "5") or anniversaries of 50+ years will be celebrated at St. Theresa Church, Trumbull, on Sun., **May 17**, at 3 pm. Registration needed by Fri., **May 8**. For more info, contact your home parish.

WEST SIDE STORY presented by Immaculate High School, Danbury, on Thurs., **May 7**, through Sat., **May 9**. Shows are at 7 pm, with a 1:30 pm matinee on Sat. Tickets purchased online at www.immaculatehs.org. Reserved tickets \$25, adults \$20, seniors and students \$15, matinee tickets \$10. For more info, go to ihswestside.weebly.com.

MUSICAL COMEDY "The Drowsy Chaperone" at Notre Dame High School, Fairfield, on Fri., **May 8**, at 8 pm and Sat., **May 9**, at 2 pm and 8 pm at the Edgerton Center for Performing Arts at Sacred Heart University. Tickets \$15; \$10 for seniors and \$7 for students and children. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Theresa Marzik: tmarzik@notredame.org or 203.372.6521.

"COME & SEE" MASS: The Secular Franciscan Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Emery's Church, Fairfield, on Sat., **May 9**, at 9:30 am. Msgr. Ernest Esposito will celebrate a Mass, followed with a social and meeting. All are welcome. For more info, call 203.255.8801.

MASS IN THE SYROMALABAR RITE, one of the largest of the Eastern Rites of Catholic Church, centered in India, will be celebrated on Sun., **May 10**, at 4 pm at Christ the King Church, Trumbull. The Mass will also celebrate

the 85th birthday of Fr. John Punnakunnel, resident priest at Christ the King. For more info, call 203.816.8655.

WOMEN'S GROUP at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, on Mon., **May 11**, at 10 am in the parish hall. "Spring into Health and Wellness" will be the topic of Theresa Cyan, wellness nurse. For more info, call 203.261.8020.

SWING DANCING by Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury (ages 18-35) on Tues., **May 12**, at St. Marguerite Parish, Brookfield, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Open to all. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or call Maria: 610.505.7272.

ST. JUDE SCHOOL GOLF CLASSIC held Fri., **May 15**, at Whitney Farms Golf Course, Monroe. Golf 1 pm; cocktails, silent auction 6 pm; dinner with open bar, prizes, DJ/dancing starts at 7 pm. Open to all. For more info and for registration, go to www.SJSGolfClassic.com.

WALK FOR WATER by St.

Mary Parish, Ridgefield, youth group on Sat., **May 16**, is a walk to supply the people of Santa Maria de Jesus in Guatemala with clean drinking water. Registration begins at 9:30 am; walk begins at 10:30 am, followed by music and food at noon supplied by their sister parish, St. Peter's in Bridgeport. For more info, go to mgrenchus@smcr.org.

GALA & AUCTION at St. Mary School, Ridgefield, on Sat., **May 16**, at 7 pm. There will be a Bubbles and Bling drawing and both a silent and live auction. Great food, fun and fellowship. For more info, call 203.438.7288 or go to www.smsridgefield.org.

WORSHIP CONCERT: Christian Rock music with the Vince DeFelice band held Sun., **May 17**, at St. Maurice Parish, Stamford, beginning with Mass at 5 pm. Tailgate Party/food at 6

pm and concert at 7 pm. Concert tickets: \$10, 18 and under; \$20 for adults. For more info, call 203.324.3434.

MUSIC RECITAL sponsored by the St. Cecilia Society of St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, on Sun., **May 17**, at 4 pm featuring Charlotte Dobbs, soprano, and David Hughes, piano, performing the music of Karg-Elert, Copeland and Hughes. A reception will follow. For more info call 203.866.5546 or visit www.stmarynorwalk.net/recitals. Cost: \$15; \$10 students.

MASSES OF HEALING AND HOPE, Mon., **May 18**, at 7:30 pm at St. Lawrence Parish, Huntington, with Fr. Ed Nadolny; and Mon., **May 18**, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Fr. Larry Carew. For more info, call 203.268.8253.

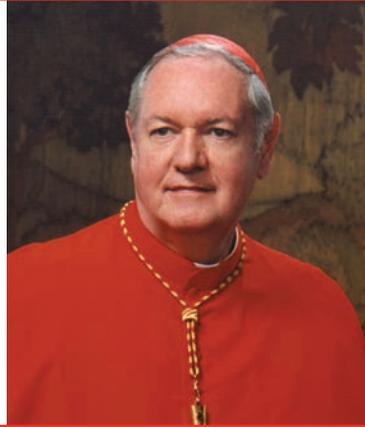


**MEMORIAL MASS
CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF CARDINAL EGAN**

ON SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015
A MEMORIAL MASS
WILL BE HELD AT 1:00PM
AT ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

ALL ARE INVITED

IN THE HOLINESS OF TRUTH





SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 • 11:00 A.M.
WEBSTER BANK ARENA AT HARBOR YARD, BRIDGEPORT

CELEBRATION OF **SYNOD 2014**,
AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT.
JOIN 9,000 FAITHFUL THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE
FOR MASS, MUSIC AND THANKSGIVING.







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