

THE MONTHLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



# FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 2015 | VOLUME 32, NUMBER 1 | CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ISSUE

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New diocesan mobile app set for launch

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# Bishop Frank Caggiano

## Synod 2014 update

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope that you and your families had a blessed Christmas and New Year. You remain in my heart and in my prayers as we move forward with the important work of the diocese and, in particular, with the discernment of the Synod.

Over the past month, I have met several times with the Synod Commission members and the Study Committee chairs to review feedback from the November General Session and to explore ways to refine and focus the 60 challenges put forward by Synod Study Committees.

It is our hope that after an explanation and discussion, the delegates will approve the language of the challenges on February 7. The Synod will then be able to pivot to begin researching and presenting solutions to



designed to lay out priorities and practices in the coming years.

I look forward to meeting with all the members of the Synod Study Committees at the end of January to personally thank them for all of their hard work, and to map out their future tasks. I also want to recog-



move us forward. Our goal over the remaining sessions of this winter and spring will be to identify best practices for the diocese. At our May session, Synod delegates will be asked to formally approve a series of resolutions

nize and thank all of our Synod delegates for their commitment to, and participation in, the process, their continuing and honest feedback, and their prayers as we go forward.

As we reach out beyond just

the Synod delegates, I had the opportunity this past weekend, in two separate sessions, to consult with the youth delegates and co-delegates, and with the Spanish-speaking community, to further understand the special challenges and opportunities their communities face.

As part of the Synod process, I would like to encourage all of the faithful of Fairfield County to mark their calendars for the closing celebration of the Synod on Saturday, September 19, at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport.

I have recently met with the Presbyteral Council to begin making arrangements for that closing celebration, and it is my hope and prayer that thousands will come together to celebrate the success of the Synod and the renewal of our diocese. Please look forward in the months ahead to details about the event which will be available through your parish, on the Synod website, and through *Fairfield County Catholic*.

Finally let me encourage all Catholics throughout the diocese to learn more about the work of the Synod by speaking with their parish delegates, visiting the Synod website, and continuing to read report in *Fairfield County Catholic*.

Most importantly, I ask for your constant prayers for the success of the Synod as we work together to bring the Good News of the Gospel to the people of Fairfield County.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Frank J. Caggiano*

Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport

## Synod session gives strong voice to diocesan youth

By MICHAEL E. LENARD

On January 10, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and the Synod Committee convened with the young adults of the diocese for the Second Youth Consultation. Held at Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford, the meeting boasted a mixture of new participants and also many who attended the First Youth Consultation.

Following a review of the previous synod meetings, the young adults were introduced to eleven challenges facing the diocese today, as developed by intensive discussions and various study committees. The goal of this Youth Consultation, as stated by Bishop Caggiano, was to "tailor the challenges to the needs of young people." As such, the youth were asked to reflect on the presented challenges and share if and how it directly affected their life as a Catholic.



One of the major discussion topics of this consultation was the need to further develop religious education in our diocese. Many of the youth participants shared experiences about their peers who did not connect to the material taught in religious education classes. They went through the motions and, after completing Confirmation, stopped focusing on their faith. In addition, the participants expressed concern that religious education was only focused on the basic facts of our faith, and while important, many wanted these programs to engage students on a deeper level, with more focus on how to live out one's faith.

Another interesting topic was the use of technology in our diocese, with some participants supporting technological expansion, and others opposing it. The most popular response was a compromise between modern technology and face-to-face communication. Many of the youth emphasized the importance of reaching out directly to other people in a face-to-face conversation—to invite them to Mass or to a parish activity, for example. This discussion was very intriguing, especially to Bishop

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



### ON THE COVER

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**  
Victoria Dobrydney, a Pre-K student at St. Catherine of Siena School in Trumbull uses a tablet for interactive learning. Catholic schools are tops for learning and Faith formation.  
(See stories beginning p. 16)

**ABOVE THE MAST:** Students throughout the diocese benefit from a digital learning environment made possible by the latest technology.  
Photos by Amy Mortensen

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January 2015

# Local News

## Bishop announces new scholarship fund

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano introduced plans for launching the Bishop's Scholarship Fund that will substantially create a new financial model for diocesan assistance to schools before a gathering of almost 200 Catholic school principals, pastors and administrative staff at the Catholic Center on November 19.

"This is a significant, perhaps historic moment in the life of our schools," he said, as he rolled out the plan to ensure the long-term sustainability of Catholic education in the diocese. "This is a time to look at structural reform to move forward."

The diocese educates more than 9,000 students in its 35 (five high schools, 29 elementary schools, and one center for early childhood excellence) Catholic schools in grades Pre-K-12 throughout Fairfield County.

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.

The funds 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.

Bishop Caggiano said the new Bishop's Scholarship Fund will be a permanent fund designed to provide tuition assistance on an annual basis for students to attend our diocesan-sponsored schools.

"We're beginning to price the middle class out of our schools. We need to create a vehicle that provides scholarship for poor, working and middle classes," he said.

"Even in the affluent suburbs, people are struggling to meet the cost of tuition, particularly if they have more than one child in our schools. We want these and all families to know that regardless of income, they can benefit from scholarship aid," he said.

He said the fund will award scholarships of varying amounts to as many students as possible who otherwise could not attend or remain enrolled in the diocesan-sponsored Catholic school of their choice because of financial need.



**BISHOP'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND**—The new \$1.5 million fund will help all those who need financial assistance including families that have more than one child enrolled in Catholic Schools.

(PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

Scholarships will be renewable each year for as long as the student attends a diocesan elementary or high school and remains in good standing. The fund will disburse its scholarship grants beginning in the 2015-16 school year.

The first year of the fund will be 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 proposed 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.

During the meeting, Patricia Zaccone, director of school finance, unveiled a new budget-

ing process and Bishop Caggiano asked all schools to host registration tours for students in February 23-27, in addition to the priority registration for current students during National Catholic Schools' Week (January 25-31).

The bishop said the scholarship fund and new financial policies are meant to reverse declining enrollment in many of the diocesan elementary schools, and to address the current operating deficits of \$2 million they owe to the diocese and negative effect of long-term debts.

He said that enrollment in diocesan schools has decreased by 9.6 percent over the past five years, and 3.8 percent since last year. Most of the decline is in elementary school enrollment.

A recent study of demographic trends projected a decrease in overall school age population in Fairfield County in the future. In addition to the smaller pool of students, Catholic schools will compete with charter and pre-K public school offerings.

Acknowledging that many Catholic schools face significant challenges, the bishop said the

► *CONTINUED ON PAGE 11*

## Latino Catholics ask to be 'heard' by others

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

NORWALK—"If we don't serve them, we're going to lose them," said a catechist from St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bridgeport, of the growing number of Spanish-speaking Catholics in cities and towns throughout the diocese.

Almost 200 men and women turned out for the second consultation session with the Hispanic community, held January 11 at St. Mary Parish in Norwalk. In an intense, heartfelt and informative session, many of the speakers who came to the microphone asked for more help from the Church as they faced struggles in their own lives.

Others said they felt they did not "fit in" because Catholic parishes and schools don't welcome them or make them feel like they belong. Likewise, many parishes and diocesan offices lacked



**SPANISH-SPEAKING CATHOLICS**—People of all ages, including this young man from Bridgeport, stepped up to the microphone during the recent session in Norwalk. Speakers expressed a deep faith and desire to evangelize.

Spanish language capabilities, making communications difficult and inadequate, they said.

The session was held in English and Spanish with Father Gustavo Falla, vicar for Spanish-speaking Catholics in the diocese,

providing excellent translations in both languages following speakers' comments.

Many of those in attendance also noted that parents are failing to educate their children in the faith and that Hispanic

youth, like other young people in Fairfield County, are uncomfortable practicing their faith in the face of pressure from secular values.

Speakers also asked for more catechetical training for adults and for the Church's help in protecting youth and helping them to learn Catholic teachings and live in the faith.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and members of the Synod Commission listened to the speakers of all ages who came forward during the session. Many of the speakers read prepared remarks and eagerly awaited the bishop's responses.

"We don't feel protected by the Church," said a woman from St. Joseph Parish in South Norwalk, who said the Church can reach out to many who are suffering by helping with education and making Masses more available in Spanish.

Some speakers asked why Masses in Spanish are not available in churches in more affluent communities surrounding their inner-city parishes.

"I understand it's not simply a matter of having more Masses in Spanish but also having a greater understanding of the culture of Spanish-speaking Catholics," Bishop Caggiano said.

In response to the bishop's question about what evangelical churches do well, one speaker said they were less hierarchical in their approach, more welcoming, and that lay people were more involved.

A teenager from St. Mary Parish in Norwalk said many youth feel as if they're being criticized by the Church with a "bunch of don'ts" rather than experiencing "God's forgiveness and love."

Carmen Torres of St. Peter

► *CONTINUED ON PAGE 9*

# Thank you for your generosity!

Dear Friends in Christ,

It was during my first year as your bishop that I came to witness firsthand and appreciate with gladness the remarkable legacy of charitable giving to the Annual Bishop's Appeal. I was deeply gratified by this outpouring of personal sacrifice from our faithful that enabled us to reach our \$11,500,000 goal in 2014.

This generosity is not only inspirational, but a powerful testament to the desire of the faithful of our Diocese of Bridgeport to accomplish wonderful works of charity, education and service throughout our parishes and communities.

In this New Year, I hope you will continue to join with me in Building Bridges in Faith and Charity, working together with a common purpose and vision to bring the Lord's healing presence wherever we serve.

Every gift to the Annual Appeal truly helps our local Church stand by its commitment to hand on the faith through our schools, religious education and faith formation programs; through the agencies of Catholic Charities that reach out to the poor, elderly, homeless and marginalized members of society; through vocations recruitment, education of seminarians and caring for the special needs of our retired clergy; and through providing specialized ministries to our multicultural populations in our diocese.

On behalf of the countless individuals and families whose lives have been uplifted because you cared, I sincerely thank you! It is my special privilege to offer my gratitude to the over 25,000 Catholics and others of good will who lovingly extended the reach of their personal charity beyond their parishes to support the Appeal, and to the dedicated clergy and Pastors' Advisory Committee members whose tireless efforts contributed greatly to its success.

It is my prayer that all your gifts of love that you have freely given to the Lord for the common good of all His people come back to you a hundredfold.

With heartfelt thanks for your commitment to our Church and prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport



## Pastors' Advisory Committee

We are grateful for the leadership and the dedication of the 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal Pastors' Advisory Committee members.

### PASTORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz, chair  
Rev. Reggie Norman, vice chair  
Msgr. Matthew Bernelli  
Msgr. Frank McGrath  
Msgr. Walter Orlowski  
Msgr. William Scheyd  
Msgr. Robert Weiss  
Rev. Michael Dunn  
Rev. Michael Jones  
Rev. Joseph Malloy  
Rev. Paul Murphy  
Rev. Samuel Scott  
Rev. Thomas Thorne

### PARISH

St. Mary, Ridgefield  
Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton  
St. Mary, Bridgeport  
St. John, Darien  
St. Matthew, Norwalk  
St. Aloysius, New Canaan  
St. Rose of Lima, Newtown  
St. Francis of Assisi, Weston  
St. Lawrence, Shelton  
St. Clement, Stamford  
St. Thomas More, Darien  
St. Joseph, Danbury  
Assumption, Westport

### Individual Parish Results

	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>VICARIATE 1</b>			
Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford	\$100,000	\$113,391	113%
Holy Name of Jesus, Stamford	\$40,000	\$42,891	107%
Holy Spirit, Stamford	\$100,000	\$107,903	108%
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford	\$75,000	\$110,079	147%
Sacred Heart, Greenwich	\$50,000	\$124,611	249%
Sacred Heart, Stamford	\$45,000	\$46,928	104%
Saint Agnes, Greenwich	\$50,000	\$52,795	106%
Saint Benedict-Montserrat, Stamford	\$60,000	\$31,506	53%
Saint Bridget, Stamford	\$55,000	\$87,823	160%
Saint Catherine of Siena, Riverside	\$190,000	\$216,337	114%
Saint Cecilia, Stamford	\$105,000	\$97,891	93%
Saint Clement, Stamford	\$40,000	\$54,705	137%
Saint Gabriel, Stamford	\$55,000	\$57,108	104%
Saint John, Darien	\$200,000	\$380,355	190%
Saint Leo, Stamford	\$200,000	\$471,187	236%
Saint Mary, Greenwich	\$275,000	\$494,866	180%
Saint Mary, Stamford	\$45,000	\$45,000	100%
Saint Maurice, Stamford	\$60,000	\$52,301	87%
Saint Michael, Greenwich	\$250,000	\$399,319	160%
Saint Paul, Greenwich	\$110,000	\$119,410	109%
Saint Roch, Greenwich	\$55,000	\$52,670	96%
Saint Thomas More, Darien	\$400,000	\$734,126	184%
<b>VICARIATE 2</b>			
Assumption, Westport	\$160,000	\$199,597	125%
Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton	\$215,000	\$241,154	112%
Saint Aloysius, New Canaan	\$500,000	\$884,205	177%
Saint Francis of Assisi, Weston	\$95,000	\$108,545	114%
Saint Jerome, Norwalk	\$70,000	\$85,938	123%
Saint Joseph, South Norwalk	\$50,000	\$55,640	111%
Saint Ladislaus, South Norwalk	\$15,000	\$18,479	123%
Saint Luke, Westport	\$200,000	\$241,947	121%
Saint Mary, Norwalk	\$90,000	\$129,234	144%
Saint Matthew, Norwalk	\$180,000	\$212,114	118%
Saint Philip, Norwalk	\$75,000	\$80,173	107%
Saint Thomas the Apostle, East Norwalk	\$115,000	\$108,963	95%
<b>VICARIATE 3</b>			
Holy Cross, Fairfield	\$25,000	\$26,027	104%
Holy Family, Fairfield	\$70,000	\$73,432	105%
Notre Dame, Easton	\$105,000	\$120,551	115%
Our Lady of Assumption, Fairfield	\$130,000	\$168,054	129%
Saint Andrew, Bridgeport	\$65,000	\$76,226	117%
Saint Ann, Bridgeport	\$50,000	\$50,753	102%
Saint Anthony of Padua, Fairfield	\$80,000	\$158,804	199%
Saint Emery, Fairfield	\$20,000	\$21,030	105%
Saint George, Bridgeport	\$17,000	\$17,000	100%
Saint Peter, Bridgeport	\$40,000	\$46,783	117%
Saint Pius X, Fairfield	\$225,000	\$295,889	132%
Saint Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield	\$175,000	\$230,718	132%
Shrine of Saint Margaret, Bridgeport	\$25,000	\$34,194	137%
The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport	\$90,000	\$96,353	107%
<b>VICARIATE 4</b>			
Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport	\$10,000	\$16,351	164%
Christ the King, Trumbull	\$75,000	\$80,333	107%
Holy Name of Jesus, Stratford	\$55,000	\$60,910	111%
Our Lady of Fatima, Bridgeport	\$30,000	\$30,000	100%
Our Lady of Grace, Stratford	\$85,000	\$86,214	101%
Our Lady of Peace, Stratford	\$60,000	\$65,859	110%
Saint Catherine of Siena, Trumbull	\$155,000	\$199,167	128%
Saint Charles Borromeo, Bridgeport	\$45,000	\$45,755	102%
Saint James, Stratford	\$125,000	\$127,892	102%
Saint Joseph, Shelton	\$90,000	\$90,125	100%
Saint Jude, Monroe	\$160,000	\$186,447	117%
Saint Lawrence, Shelton	\$210,000	\$194,938	93%
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Shelton	\$50,000	\$50,448	101%
Saint Mark, Stratford	\$130,000	\$141,971	109%
Saint Mary, Bridgeport	\$25,000	\$28,311	113%
Saint Michael the Archangel, Bridgeport	\$45,000	\$48,595	108%
Saint Stephen, Trumbull	\$95,000	\$128,751	136%
Saint Theresa, Trumbull	\$180,000	\$188,065	104%
Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Bridgeport	\$18,000	\$20,285	113%
<b>VICARIATE 5</b>			
Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman	\$60,000	\$63,665	106%
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Danbury	\$20,000	\$20,762	104%
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Danbury	\$25,000	\$26,140	105%
Sacred Heart, Danbury	\$40,000	\$42,480	106%
Sacred Heart, Georgetown	\$65,000	\$92,160	142%
Saint Edward, New Fairfield	\$195,000	\$231,194	119%
Saint Elizabeth Seton, Ridgefield	\$80,000	\$107,208	134%
Saint Gregory the Great, Danbury	\$90,000	\$101,113	112%
Saint Joseph, Brookfield	\$115,000	\$128,485	112%
Saint Joseph, Danbury	\$125,000	\$138,777	111%
Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, Brookfield	\$65,000	\$70,407	108%
Saint Mary Parish, Bethel	\$145,000	\$187,224	129%
Saint Mary, Ridgefield	\$295,000	\$312,484	106%
Saint Patrick, Redding Ridge	\$45,000	\$66,400	148%
Saint Peter, Danbury	\$110,000	\$122,040	111%
St. Rose of Lima, Newtown	\$215,000	\$241,874	112%

Unspecified \$388,347

Total \$11,806,182

January 2015

# Thank you from Development!

To Our Generous Donors,

On behalf of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, thank you for your generosity to the Annual Bishop's Appeal in 2014. We are pleased to share with you an overview of the results of the 2014 Appeal. As of December 31, 2014, pledges and gifts totaling over \$11,800,000 from 25,047 families were received by the Appeal Office.

Our appreciation is extended to the clergy of the diocese and their staffs, our Pastors' Advisory Committee, especially its chair, Monsignor Laurence Bronkiewicz and vice chair, Father Reggie Norman, our lay Appeal co-chair couple, Cece and Michael Donoghue, the staff of the Catholic Center and the various ministries that the Appeal funds, and especially our own dedicated colleagues in the Development Office, Americo Camillo, Joan Trombetta, Janis Baldino, Marcy Haley, Pat DaSilva and Lauren Georgiades.

*The 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal funds were allocated as follows:*

Formation of Priests and Deacons .....	\$ 1,917,000
Catholic Schools .....	\$ 1,760,000
Clergy Ministries .....	\$ 1,548,000
Catholic Charities.....	\$ 1,250,000
Care of Retired Priests.....	\$ 1,000,000
Parish Life and Ministries.....	\$ 863,000
Inner City Elementary School.....	\$ 667,000
<i>Fairfield County Catholic .....</i>	\$ 500,000
Finance and Accounting Support for Parishes.....	\$ 460,000
Hospital Ministries .....	\$ 375,000

Gifts to the Appeal directly impact these programs, ministries and services that provide a broad range of spiritual, pastoral and human care. We are extremely grateful for the faithful and generous support from those in our local Church who make these good works possible.

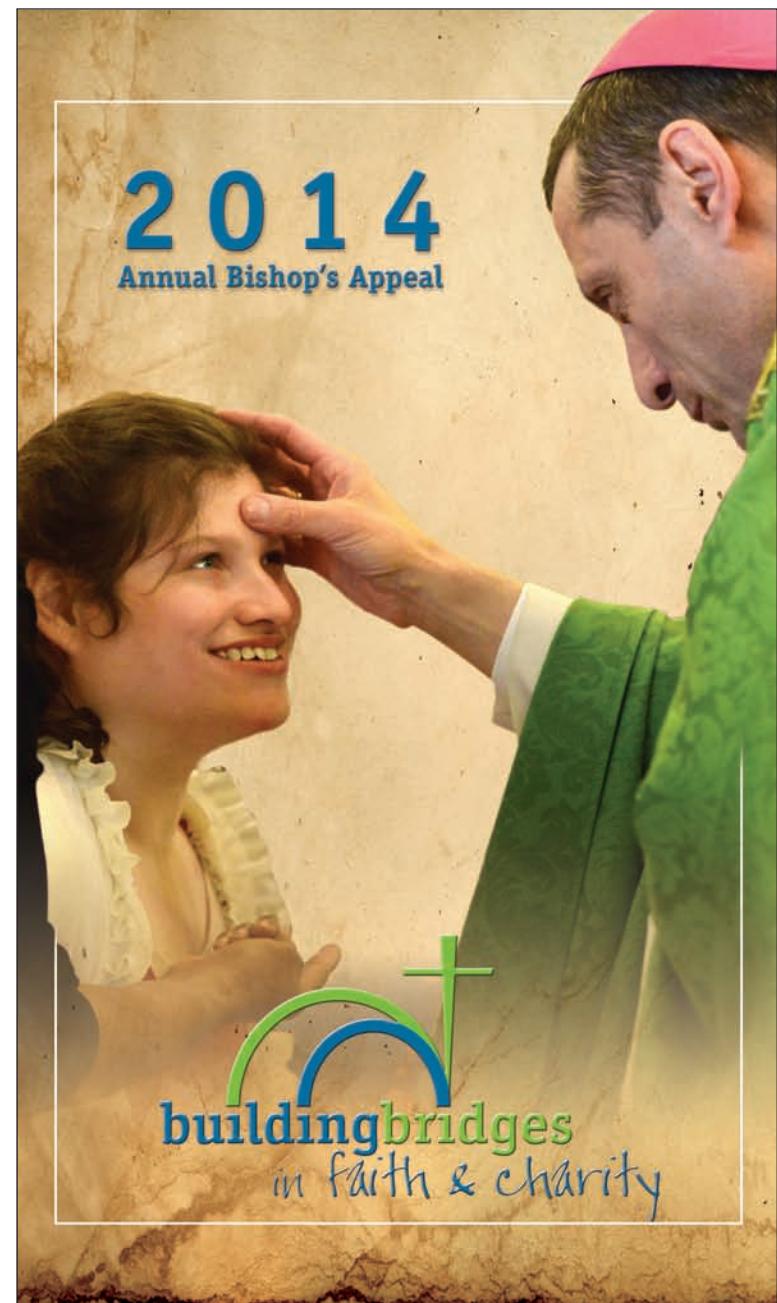
It is an honor and a privilege for us to serve the Diocese of Bridgeport and we look forward to the opportunity in assisting all 82 parishes and the Shrine in conducting a successful Appeal in 2015.

If you have any questions or observations about this report or any other issues related to financial development, please do not hesitate to call us at 203.416.1479.

Sincerely,

William M. McLean, Jr.  
Chief Development Officer

Pamela S. Rittman  
Director, Annual Bishop's Appeal



## 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal

## Highlights

- 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal Goal: **\$11,500,000**
- Amount Raised in Gifts and Pledges: **\$11,806,182**
- Cash Received To-Date: **\$11,401,299**
- Percent of Goal Achieved: **103%**
- Gifts received: **25,047**
- New donors: **6,512**
- Average gift: **\$471**
- Average gift increased by: **\$62 over 2012 and \$50 over 2013**
- Parishes exceeded their individual goals: **77 (93%)**



# Local News

## Bishop establishes new Education Commission

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Eight men and women have been appointed to serve on the new Education Commission of the Diocese of Bridgeport created by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano as part of an effort to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for Catholic education.

The newly established commission will make recommendations concerning the "viability and vitality" process of the Catholic Schools announced by Bishop Caggiano in his "State of the Diocese" address last September.

As part of its charge to promote the overall mission of Catholic schools, the commission will establish goals and objectives that support the key viability and vitality measures for diocesan elementary and secondary schools. The commission will also provide guidance in developing the strategic plan for the Office of the Superintendent.

"We are deeply grateful to those who have agreed to serve and have taken the challenge to move education forward in our diocese. We have more than 9,000 students in 35 schools," said Bishop Caggiano, "and the work of the commission will help preserve and grow Catholic education for future generations."

The Education Commission will work in coordination with Bishop Caggiano and Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, PhD,



A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE—Bishop Caggiano has empowered a new Education Commission that will help guide a strategic plan for Catholic education in the diocese and oversee the process of creating vitality and viability measures.

(PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

Superintendent of Schools.

"The Education Commission is in the formation stages and we will add new members as we move along," said Sister Mary Grace, who is serving as commission chair.

Members of the commission

were identified based on the following needs and expertise: Catholic identity and mission, education, marketing, recruitment and retention, governance structures, finance, advocacy and strategic planning. The representatives will be assisted in their planning by the staff of the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, as well as by principals, pastors, and local school advisory boards.

Education Commission members include the following:

Thomas A. Aquila, PhD, a member of Assumption School Advisory Board in Fairfield. Aquila served as chair for St. Francis of Assisi Preschool. He is a consultant to the Fromson Foundation for the Advancement of elementary and secondary education and an advocate for education.

Father Peter Cipriani, pastor of Our Lady of Assumption in Fairfield, former chaplain and teacher at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield.

Marc Delmonico, chair of the Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents and a manager in the commodities field.

Francis (Skip) Hagerty, a member of All Saints School Advisory Board, and managing director and partner of Mergers and Acquisition Advisory of Philo Smith & Company.

Sister Melanie Hannigan, OP, EdD, prioress of Our Lady of the Springs of Bridgeport, a former certification officer in the Secondary Education Program at Albertus Magnus College. She has an expertise in both special ed and higher education.

Kevin Lawlor of Cheshire, CT, executive vice president and chief operating officer at Fairfield University.

Patrick O'Keefe, chair of the St. Jude School Advisory Board and facilities chair of the St. Joseph High School Advisory Board. He is vice president of engineering & manufacturing at O'Keefe Controls Co.

Laura Wilson Smith is lead advisor for the Alliance for Catholic Education at the University of Notre Dame (ACE).

Both Bishop Caggiano and Sister Mary Grace are members of the Education Commission. ■

## Knights present ceremonial sword to Bishop Caggiano

BRIDGEPORT—“I have always wanted one of these,” said Bishop Frank Caggiano, admiring the ceremonial sword presented to him at the Annual Christmas Mass for employees at the Catholic Center in December.

The Knights of Columbus formed an Honor Guard for the Mass, which the bishop concelebrated in Queen of Saints Hall at the Catholic Center surrounded by a number of priests and deacons of the diocese.

Following the Mass, the Knights surprised Bishop Caggiano with the presentation of a ceremonial 4th Degree sword and Emblem of Order, which the bishop brandished and said, “It is a symbol of the courage we need to be faithful,” as he thanked the Knights.

During his homily only a short time earlier, the bishop had told the gathered employees that “many of us hesitate when faced with the challenge between doubt and the faith that God can do anything in our lives. Never tire in your witness. A loving God is here to stay.”

The Knights presentation gave symbolic emphasis to the bishop’s point. ■



**PLANNING TO BE IN FLORIDA THIS WINTER?**

Bishop Caggiano will attend a reception in Naples SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015

See you in the Sunshine State!

Please e-mail Pam Rittman at [prittman@diobpt.org](mailto:prittman@diobpt.org) to join the invitation list.

# March for Life

## National march to take place on January 22 in D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—“Every Life is a Gift” will be the theme of the 2015 March for Life this January 22. The March for Life began as a small demonstration and rapidly grew to be the largest pro-life event in the world. The peaceful demonstration that has marked this somber anniversary every year since 1973 is a witness to the truth concerning the greatest human rights violation of our time, abortion.

The event begins with a 12 noon rally on the National Mall. The March itself, leading past the Supreme Court building, will start at 1 pm.

This year, the Respect

Life Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport has made contact with an independent service called Rally Bus to assist with bus transportation to Washington, D.C. Participants are asked to go to [marchforlife.dcrallybus.com](http://marchforlife.dcrallybus.com), select a stop, and reserve a seat. Two stops are already planned, one at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull and one from the Danbury Fair Mall in Danbury. If enough people are interested and there isn't a stop nearby, Rally Bus can add one at a convenient location.

A number of parishes are planning to send delegations to the March. St. Mary Parish

in Norwalk and St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan have each chartered a bus; the St. Mary's bus already has a waiting list. Another bus company will make a stop at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown.

Catholic schools will add their presence to the observance. Representatives from all five high schools, Trinity Catholic in Stamford, Immaculate in Danbury, Kolbe Cathedral in Bridgeport, St. Joseph in Trumbull, and Notre Dame in Fairfield will be attending the march.

The Respect Life Ministry invites all those who want to join



Check with your local parish for similar prayer opportunities.

(Payment for the trip to Washington, D.C., is made directly to Rally Bus. To register, go to [marchforlife.dcrallybus.com](http://marchforlife.dcrallybus.com). Buses are for adults only. For the bus from St. Rose, contact John Waite: 203.509.3506 or [jeserla@gmail.com](mailto:jeserla@gmail.com). For additional questions, contact the Respect Life Ministry: 203.416.1445 or [respectlife@diobpt.org](mailto:respectlife@diobpt.org).) ■

### SECOND YOUTH CONSULTATION FROM PAGE 2

Caggiano, who was pleasantly surprised by the responses in support of balancing technology and face-to-face communication.

Other challenges addressed in this consultation included, but were not limited to, strengthening and supporting family life; community service opportunities across the diocese; and inviting people to the Church who feel they do not belong.

Overall, the consultation was successful, filled with powerful responses and reflection. Michael Falbo, a student at Norwalk High School, was impressed that so many young adults were present at the session, stating that their “involvement and initiative were great.” He also emphasized that teenagers need to learn to become leaders, and these youth consultations are a fantastic way for them to do so.

These consultations allow the youth a direct voice to the bish-

op and the Synod Committee, and committee member Deacon John DiTaranto of St. Jude

Parish in Monroe was very excited by the passion expressed during the meeting. For Deacon DiTaranto, it was important to hear directly from the young people of the diocese and truly feel the emotion behind their statements. Hearing this passion will definitely impact the outcome of the synod and the solutions it will discover.

“We know we don’t have all the answers,” DiTaranto said. “However, these initial consultations have established a strong course for the synod as it works vigorously towards discerning these answers throughout 2015.”

(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](http://www.2014synod.org) or [www.dob-youth.com](http://www.dob-youth.com).) ■

## Pope: ‘throwaway culture’



VATICAN CITY—During the annual papal address to ambassadors to the Holy See, Pope Francis decried the “throwaway culture” which spares nothing and no one: nature, human beings, even God himself.”

“From the very start, Christ is cast aside, left out in the cold, forced to be born in a stable since there was no room in the inn,” the Pope said on January 12. “If this is how the Son of God was treated, how much more so is it the case with so many of our brothers and sisters?”

“Losing their freedom, people become enslaved, whether to the latest fads, or to power, money, or even deviant forms of religion,” the Pope said. Various forms of enslavement “are born of a corrupt heart, a heart incapable of recognizing and doing good, of pursuing peace.”

Lamenting manifestations of the throwaway culture, the Pope decried the Peshawar school massacre in Pakistan, the Charlie Hebdo shooting in Paris, and conflicts in Ukraine and the Holy Land.

The Pontiff also decried the persecution of Christians and others by “fundamentalist terrorism” in Syria and Iraq.

Denouncing kidnapping and human trafficking, the Pope said that “comparable acts of brutality” are taking place in Nigeria. Lamenting conflicts elsewhere in Africa, he said, “Nor can we overlook the fact that wars involve another horrendous crime, the crime of rape.”

Pope Francis lamented other aspects of the throwaway culture, including “the way the sick are treated; often they are cast aside and marginalized like the lepers in the Gospel.”

The throwaway culture, the Pope continued, manifests itself in families.

“There are many other hidden exiles living in our homes

and in our families,” he said. “I think especially of the elderly, the handicapped and young people. The elderly encounter rejection when they are considered a burdensome presence, while the young are thrown away when they are denied concrete prospects of employment to build their future.”

The Pontiff decried the spread of “an individualistic and self-centered culture which severs human bonds.”

*(L’Osservatore Romano is the official newspaper of the Vatican. It can be found online at [www.osservatoreromano.va](http://www.osservatoreromano.va), and the Vatican website for daily news is [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).)*

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Carmela Manago  
Executive Director

# Catholic Charities, Stamford

## Long-time friends of NCH make major gift

STAMFORD—The New Covenant House of Hospitality Capital Campaign recently received a hefty boost when Board President Paul Harinstein was presented with a generous donation of \$100,000 from Bruce and Linda Koe of Stamford.

The goal of the New Covenant House Capital Campaign is to raise \$1.7 million. To date, the campaign has raised nearly \$1.2 million: 70 percent of its goal.

"We're very grateful for their

generosity," said Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities. "No one understands or can appreciate the need for this new facility better than Bruce and Linda. Their commitment to serving the poor and hungry, and their long-term service to New Covenant House, has been both a blessing and inspiration."

New Covenant House of Hospitality is one of two soup kitchens sponsored and managed by Catholic Charities of Fairfield County. It is Stamford's only



**FRIENDS OF NCH**—Long-time volunteers and friends of New Covenant House of Hospitality, Bruce and Linda Koe, recently made a \$100,000 gift toward the capital campaign. Looking on were Paul Harinstein (left), president of the NCH board, and Michael A. Boyd of the NCH Advisory Board. The Koes are members of Trinity Church in Greenwich.

soup kitchen. The NCH mission is to provide a nutritious meal to all those who are hungry.

"By creating a safe, warm and compassionate environment, we are taking the first steps toward empowering men, women, and children to reach their full potential and regain their dignity and self-respect," said Barber.

Bruce and Linda have been longtime supporters of New Covenant House, with Linda

being instrumental in her work as a former advisory board member and co-chair of the Harvest Table, one of New Covenant House's annual fundraising events. Along with participating in many New Covenant House events with his wife, Bruce is also on the Board of Neighbor's Link in Stamford.

Bruce and Linda are active parishioners of Trinity Church in Greenwich. Their Loaves and Fishes group frequently serves at

New Covenant House.

Recently, Catholic Charities announced the appointment of John Gutman as executive director of New Covenant House. Gutman, a long-time volunteer, brings a wide range of experience from the corporate world. He will be responsible for leading New Covenant House through the balance of the Capital Campaign.

The campaign is funding the move to a new facility across from its present location this spring. The "new" New Covenant House will encompass 8,000 square feet of space at 174 Richmond Hill, a major expansion from its current 2,000 square foot location.

New Covenant House of Hospitality serves the greater Stamford area, which includes Stamford, New Canaan, Greenwich and Darien. It is currently located at 90 Fairfield Ave. in Stamford. For more info, call 203.964.8228 or email [helpnch@gmail.com](mailto:helpnch@gmail.com).

*(Contributions to the capital campaign can be made at: [nchstamford.org/capital-campaign](http://nchstamford.org/capital-campaign), or send a check to: New Covenant House Capital Campaign, PO Box 10883, Stamford, CT 06904.)*



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## Order of Malta invests Bishop Caggiano

NEW YORK, NY—On Friday, November 14, the Order of Malta held their annual investiture at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York. Bishop Frank Caggiano was invested as a Conventional Chaplain in the order, and Father Ian Jeremiah and Father Bill Platt were invested as deputy chaplains.

Pictured (l-r) Lisa Marie Arnold, Mary Beth Fessler (area chair, St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan); Carrie Sindelar (St. Aloysius); Delores O'Callahan (St. Aloysius); Callie Dunn (St. Mary Parish, Greenwich); Valerie Vincent (Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Stamford); Father Ian Jeremiah (Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Fairfield); Bishop Caggiano; Richard Gross (St. Mary Parish,



Ridgefield); Gene O'Callahan (St. Aloysius); Bill Fessler (area chair, St. Aloysius); Joe Sindelar (St. Aloysius); Father Bill Platt (St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside); and Ray Dunn (St. Mary's, Greenwich).

The Order of Malta is a lay religious organization with a history reaching back more than 900 years. Its charism is service to the sick and the poor and defense of our Catholic Faith.

# World News

## Pope meets Haitian amputee athletes

VATICAN CITY—Three young men who survived the Haitian earthquake of 2010 were received recently at the Vatican by Pope Francis, along with attendees of a day-long event to mark the passing of five years since the devastating quake. They were in Rome courtesy of the Knights of Columbus.

All three are amputees, and two lost their legs during the January 12, 2010, earthquake. The athletes exemplify hope and healing against incredible odds. Undeterred by their disabilities they took up amputee soccer, showing off their remarkable skills in a scrimmage with Roman players at a K of C soccer field in Rome on Friday. The three are members of Team Zaryen—a Haitian amputee team in Port-au-Prince.

Wilfrid Macena, Mackenson Pierre and Sandy J.L. Louiseme received prosthetic and rehabilitation care through “Healing Haiti’s Children,” a program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the University of Miami-affiliated Project Medishare. The partnership made available free prosthetics and rehabilitation to every child who lost a limb in the earthquake.

With Medishare’s medical

expertise and the Knights of Columbus’s funding of nearly \$1.7 million to date, a sustainable program was forged by hiring local Haitians to do much of the fabrication and rehabilitation work. To date, approximately 1,000 people have received prosthetic limbs through the program, with more than 25,000 people receiving additional rehabilitation services.

Some of the Haitian amputees, including Macena, Pierre and Louiseme, signed on as members of a new soccer team composed of amputee athletes from Port-au-Prince and the surrounding region.

In Rome, they presented Pope Francis with a jersey with the number 5 on it to indicate the number of years that have passed since the event that changed their lives so dramatically. They also presented the soccer-loving pope from Argentina with a ball signed by team members.

The conference in Rome was called by Pope Francis to focus on the humanitarian catastrophe and its ongoing impact, and he used the occasion to affirm the Church’s closeness to the Haitian people. The meeting, organized by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and the Pontifical



MARKING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of the devastating Haitian earthquake, amputee and soccer player Wifred Macena gives Pope Francis jersey #5, with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and other members of the team in the background. A program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus made available free prosthetics and rehabilitation to every child who lost a limb in the earthquake.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF L’OSSERVATORE ROMANO)

Council “Cor Unum,” included a presentation by Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.

Carl Anderson and Dr. Robert Gailey, director of rehabilitation for Project Medishare, also greeted the pope together with the team.

“We are profoundly grateful to the Holy Father for calling this conference and for remembering the Haitian people, who are too often forgotten,” said Anderson. “The members of team Zaryen represent both the loss and the resilience of the Haitian people,

who have both endured and overcome so much since the Earthquake.”

The moving story of the prosthetic program and those it has served has been captured in “Unbreakable: A Story of Hope and Healing in Haiti,” a documentary that is being aired by several PBS affiliates in U.S. markets in January. Winner of the Most Inspirational Documentary Award at the DocMiami International Film Festival’s Florida Documentary Film Festival in September, the film also follows the story of the

amputee soccer team, named Zaryen (tarantula) after the spider known for its resilience—even after losing a leg.

The team has inspired not only Haitians but also Americans, as it traveled to the U.S. in 2011 to introduce amputee soccer to troops who lost limbs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One of the most active charitable organizations in the United States, the Knights of Columbus, which is based in New Haven, donated more than \$170 million and 70 million hours of service in 2013.

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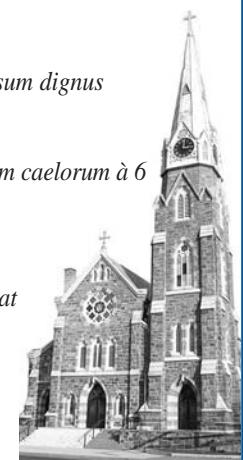
**January 18: Second Sunday after Epiphany:** *Missa Tecum principium* (Fayifax); *Tribus miraculis* (Palestrina); *Reges Tharsis* (Sheppard); organ music of Howells

**January 25: Third Sunday after Epiphany:** Mass for Four Voices (Byrd); *Domine non sum dignus* (Victoria); *Alma Redemptoris Mater* (Ockeghem); organ music of Bach

**February 1: Septuagesima Sunday:** *Missa In te Domine speravi* (Lassus); *Simile est regnum caelorum à 6* (Guerrero); *Circumdederunt me* (Byrd); organ music of Tournemire

**Monday, February 2, 7:30 pm: Feast of the Purification of Our Lady (Candlemas):**  
*Missa Salve Regina* (Langlais); *Lumen ad revelationem* (Palestrina); *Senex puerum portabat* (Byrd); *O admirabile commercium* (Josquin); organ music of Langlais

**February 8: Sexagesima Sunday:** *Missa L’ami Baudichon* (Josquin); *Perfice gressus meos* (Palestrina); *In illo tempore, cum turba plurima* (Morales); organ music of Bach



### LATINOS FROM PAGE 3

Parish in Bridgeport said the diocese has had some positive plans for reaching out to Hispanic Catholics in the past but has not implemented them. She said the local Church missed many opportunities to serve people who have since turned to other denominations.

The last speaker of the evening was a young boy from St. Mary Parish in Bridgeport, who stunned the gathering when he stepped up to the microphone and said it was important for men to get more involved in their parishes. “Women do everything,” he said. “If men got involved, we would be doing better.”

And then the young man added, “If people want healing, they should go to the Blessed Sacrament and feel the healing presence of God.”

(For more info, visit the synod 2014 website: [www.synod2014.org](http://www.synod2014.org))

“I thank you for your heartfelt input,” said Bishop Caggiano as the two-hour consultation was drawing to a close. “You’ve shared your difficulties and the suffering you are going through. I want to make sure that your needs and the needs of all families throughout the diocese will be addressed when we come out of the synod.”

# Legislative Issues

## Information session spotlights assisted suicide

By PAT HENNESSY

"What is dignity?" asked bioethicist Susan Piening, R.N., C.N.M., opening an information session on assisted suicide held at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull. "Assisted suicide reduces dignity to a matter of 'What can I do? What can I contribute?' In that view, death with dignity means being in control of your own death."

In the Catholic view, the dignity each person—no matter how fragile or how powerless that person may be—comes from being made in the image and likeness of God.

A distinguished panel including

speakers on bioethics, legislative issues, pastoral care, hospice, and medical information, anchored an information session at St. Theresa's in November. Four sessions were offered throughout the State of Connecticut during that month; two more in this diocese are planned for March. The information sessions are sponsored by the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference, the Archdiocese of Hartford Pro-Life Ministry, the Diocese of Bridgeport Respect Life Ministry and the Family Institute of Connecticut.

Those who support legislation permitting physician-assisted

suicide are often drawn by good intentions, trying to give terminal patients the ability to control their lives and working for the elimination of suffering. Observations of how those laws have worked over the last decade or so show that the reality is far different.

During the meeting, speakers defined the terms under discussion, and described how the process now on the books actually works. In assisted suicide, now legal in three states, persons who have been diagnosed with a terminal disease may receive a prescription for a lethal amount of medication. "Terminal" is defined as receiving a diagnosis



"CHRISTIAN HOPE SEES THESE FINAL DAYS as a time to prepare for our eternal destiny," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said in their policy statement on physician-assisted suicide "To Live Each Day with Dignity."

of having six months or less to live. In the assisted-suicide process, neither the doctor nor any other type of medical personnel is with the patient at the time of death—and no one is monitoring the process. Terminally ill patients are on their own.

"The Catholic Church does not insist that a patient receive extraordinary treatment to extend life," Piening explained. Indeed, Catholic teaching specifically allows medication for a painful condition, even if its side effects cause an earlier end of life.

Following Piening, Peter Wolfgang, executive director of the Family Institute of CT, walked those in attendance through the history of assisted-suicide legislation in the United States, starting with the state of Oregon in the late 1990s, Washington State in 2009 and, most recently, nearby Vermont.

Legislation supporting assisted suicide has been brought up twice in this state, even though medical societies, doctors and nurses are nearly universally opposed to the concept of doctor assisted suicide, as are most legislators and the majority of voters in the state.

The Family Institute of CT has been joined in opposition to this legislation by a coalition including civil rights activists, organizations for the rights of people with disabilities and others active in support for the elderly. "It's an unusual coalition. The laws against assisted suicide are there to protect the weak among us, the most vulnerable," Wolfgang observed.

"Assisted suicide is an attack on the very foundations of human dignity," agreed Father Brian Gannon, St. Theresa's pastor. "If we don't respect the most voiceless, it will bleed out into less respect for the sick. Legislation would allow the government to

decide who is weak and who is expendable."

The remaining three speakers focused on alternatives for those who might feel impelled to end their lives. "Requests usually come from people suffering from depression, loneliness, lack of support or fear of becoming a burden," said Dr. Lenore Snowden Opalak, MD, a board certified internist affiliated with St. Vincent's Medical Center. "The medical profession can become pro-active. People need to know that referrals are available to meet their needs. Even in an illness with no prospective cure, there is always the prospect of palliative care, of relief from pain."

Sister Frances Smalkowski, C.F.S.N., director of pastoral care at St. John Paul II Health Care Center in Danbury and Rita Logan, a Hospice nurse from Stamford, spoke of the importance of compassionate care for a terminally ill patient.

Sister Frances noted that a caring presence can be the greatest single gift to a dying patient. "People are struggling to find the meaning of their lives," she said. "Our job in pastoral care is often just to be present, to be listening to them. Many times deepening their relationship with another person leads to a deeper relationship with God."

"If we take the time to journey with a person at this time," said Logan, "the experience of their last days can be beautiful, strange though that sounds."

(Informational sessions will be held March 12 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Stamford and March 21 at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown. For more info, contact Maureen Ciardello, diocesan director of Respect Life Ministry: 203.416.1445 or respectlife@diobpt.org.)

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January 2015

# Social Media

## Parish reps embrace new diocesan mobile app

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Excitement and interest filled Queen of Saints Hall at the Catholic Center when almost 50 parish representatives turned out for training in the use of the new diocesan mobile app that will be launched in February.

The mobile app, which will feature Mass times, news, calendar events, video and photos, and parish information, represents a new era of communications in the diocese. It was designed by Deacon Patrick Toole of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Fairfield and will work on all smart phones and tablets.

"Everyone turns to an iPad or smart phone to get information today," said Karen Barton of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull. "When people have access to information quickly they're more apt to follow through. The new app should make the process easier for people to learn about the parish."

Deacon John DiTaranto, special assistant to Bishop Caggiano, began the meeting with a prayer and reminded those in attendance that "the purpose of the app is to bring people closer to the Lord."

The deacon said that the mobile app would support the major synod initiatives, particularly the call for improved communications and outreach



**SOCIAL MEDIA GATHERING**—Almost 50 parish representatives attended the recent training. The next session for those who couldn't make the first meeting is set for January 31, 9-11 am in the Catholic Center. (PHOTO BY RENÉE STAMATIS)

to youth. "One of themes of the synod is to focus on the young Church, and that means we need information that is fresh, timely and up to date."

In the two-hour session, the parish representatives asked a wide range of questions and brought considerable knowledge of social media and information technology to the training. They will play a key role in uploading information from their parish to the new app.

Each parish representative will be given a password to enter a secure website, where they can upload information.

"It's great," said Jonathan Torres, a member of St. George Parish in Bridgeport. "You have

to use every avenue available to communicate. People are on their phones all the time, and social media is a tool we need to use to reach them."

The diocesan website has an average of 20,000 visitors a month, but people increasingly are visiting the website by mobile phone as opposed to desktop computers. The app translates the voluminous information on the website into a format that makes information easier and quicker to find on the small screen of a smart phone.

Janet Gardella, office manager of Assumption Parish in Westport, welcomed the new app and the ability it gives each parish to post its own information. "I

think the Church should embrace social media. The app really offers another connection with parishioners because people want information at their fingertips."

"Anything that can get the word out is a good thing," added Kate Fitzgerald of St. Mary Parish in Bethel. "Our parish is on Facebook and Twitter. The new app will provide even more access to information."

"I work with youth all the time and they're constantly using social media. This is great," said Andrew Sheldon, a professional web developer who also serves as webmaster for St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish in Shelton.

Mark Murphy, a digital communications consultant to the diocese and to many parishes, conducted the training. "The app is all about improving the user experience, making it better and

making information more accessible on a mobile device," he said.

Murphy walked representatives through the content management system and the new diocesan portal that provides users with the tools for entering and editing information. It is accessible through all web browsers.

He fielded the frequent questions throughout the training and also responded to the many helpful suggestions to improve the app.

Jill Monroe, who serves as social media coordinator for the Office of Communications, also was on hand to answer questions about the new app and diocesan website. "The new app is about faith and building community," she said to the representatives. "It's about making your parish a welcoming home and family where people want to be." ■



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goal of the scholarship fund and revised policies is to create a "critical mass of resources" that will help schools achieve full enrollment. "If we get full enrollment, our schools will prosper," he said.

The bishop explained that each parish outside of Bridgeport is now assessed 8 percent of its offertory collection to support Catholic Schools, whether or not a school is located on parish grounds. The Bridgeport parishes are assessed varying amounts and also receive financial support through an endowment created by the Catholic Academies Advisory Board.

Total diocesan aid to schools provided by parish assessments is over \$3 million and is a growing burden on many parishes.

The bishop said that many

dioceses do not fund education through parish offertory collections and that the new funding plan should enable him to lower the assessment to 7.5 percent.

On December 16, the diocesan College of Consultors (priest leaders) gave final approval for the creation of the fund.

The bishop also announced the formation of a new Education Commission of the Diocese of Bridgeport to study the viability and vitality of schools, and to assist in developing a strategic plan for the schools and a comprehensive diocesan strategic plan for education.

The 10-member board, currently being formed, will include members of the general community with expertise in marketing, mission, admissions, finance and planning. ■

**Catholic Cemeteries Diocese of Bridgeport**  
Administrative Office, Catholic Center  
238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606

# St. Therese of Lisieux

## Trumbull resident pens ‘companion’

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Joseph Kochiss of Trumbull is celebrated by those who know him as a prolific talent—writer, artist, teacher, musician. Now, he has further added to his many creative accomplishments by writing what many have termed the definitive book on St. Therese of Lisieux, the “Little Flower,” whose “little way” seeks to bring great love to the most mundane acts of daily life.

His *A Companion to St. Therese of Lisieux, Her Life and Work and the People and Places in her Story* (Angelico Press, NY, 2014) has won praise for comprehensive documentation, meticulous research, and accessible style.

The nearly 700 page volume is both a great narrative of St. Therese’s life and times and the definitive reference book including her writing and artwork, family history, photographs, and other information. It details her childhood, life as a nun in the Carmel



**A LIFETIME'S WORK**—Twin brothers Jack and Joe Kochiss field questions at a recent event. Jack assisted his brother, the author, by taking hundreds of photographs for the book. They are members of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull, which was named for St. Therese of Lisieux but used an Americanized version of the spelling.

in Lisieux, and subsequent beatification and canonization as a saint by Pope Pius XI on May 17, 1925, when 500,000 people jammed St. Peter’s Square.

The timeline provided by the author is detailed and revealing. Born in 1873, the same year as the great tenor Enrico Caruso, St. Therese was three when Alexander Graham Bell invented

the telephone, and ten years-old when the Brooklyn Bridge opened.

Many of those who praised it have commented on its encyclopedic quality, which makes this the ultimate reference of her life and spirituality. However, it is written in a way that will appeal to those drawn to her for the first time and others eager to know more about her.

Hers was a remarkable life—and remarkably brief. Born Marie-Francoise Therese Martin at 11:30 pm on January 2, 1873, in Alençon, France, she entered the convent at age 14 and died of tuberculosis on September 30, 1897, at the age of 24.

Young Therese was traumatized at age four when her mother died of breast cancer. A deeply sensitive and intelligent child, her mother’s passing left her with extreme separation anxiety and mood swings, which she offered in prayer throughout her life.

In many ways her life story is one of great contradictions. She shut herself off from the world at 14 and “wanted to be unknown,” but was world famous within a few years after her early death. The more she worked to make herself invisible, the more people remembered what she said and did.

From her very earliest days, she wanted to be a saint, but knew that she could also be a handful and had many faults.

She never wanted to attract attention to herself, yet St. Therese was a naturally expressive writer and artist, leaving 62 poems, plays and even drawings.

She worked to be humble and self-effacing, yet as she lay dying

and unknown to the world, she had a sense that her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, which was then a collection of diary pages, would be read by millions.

So, in the 21st century, this quiet and anonymous life is known to millions, and St. Therese remains a vivid and engaging person who continues to speak to people today through her sanctity, simplicity and example.

“Therese Martin was an actual person who appeared on the earth in the last quarter of the 19th century and lived only twenty-four years. She was human in every sense of the word, but far above the ordinary in her spirituality. She experienced many of the illnesses, sorrows and joys of young people her age,” says Kochiss.

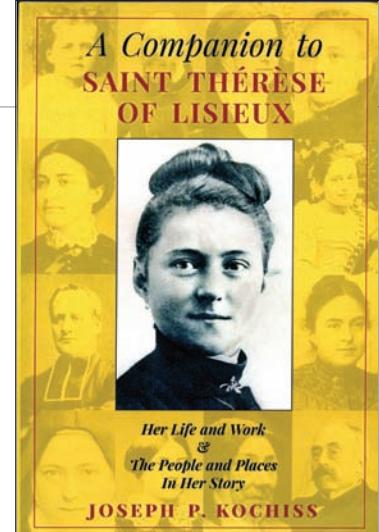
For the native of East Bridgeport, *A Companion to St. Therese of Lisieux* is both a labor of love and the work of a lifetime, beginning with his early interest in Therese and the twenty years that went into the research and writing of the volume.

A retired Stratford school teacher and frequent traveler, he honed his research and writing skills by working as a staff writer for the Apostolate of the Little Flower magazine out of San Antonio, Texas.

In his generous acknowledgements at the beginning of the book, Joseph Kochiss admits his French isn’t that good and credits many of those who helped him with translations. He’s also proud of the role played by his twin brother, John, a noted maritime writer and researcher, who accompanied him on his many trips to Europe and shot hundreds of pictures for the book.

“I must emphasize that what I have produced is basically a reference, a source book, a companion to the story of St. Therese. I do not in any way specifically delve into an analysis of her spirituality or her message to the world. This has all been accomplished by expert theologians,” he writes in his preface.

But his exhaustive research, personable writing style and extensive documentation and photos give a near cinematic sweep to his work and make the “Little Flower” come alive to a new generation of readers. That’s a great gift to his readers. ■



### What drew you to the life of St. Therese?

“I first became interested in her as an altar boy.

In some ways her early life was similar to what I experienced as a young boy at St. John Neupomocene in Bridgeport. We were taught by the SSNDs. One time I remember we were in seventh or eighth grade when one of girls had to go on errand in the convent. She came back astonished because as she went by the teacher’s room, she actually saw the Sisters eating. They were like saints to us.”

**It's interesting that you didn't originally set out to write a book. It seems that it evolved from your personal devotion and extensive travels.**

“I read a lot about her and thought of her when I went to Europe for the first time, but I never thought that I would actually write a book about her. But in my travels and reading, I became more curious about the people and places she knew. In all, I went to Europe six times and visited the places where she lived.

It slowly dawned on me that I should record this data methodically. This led me to believe that other people might also want to seek this knowledge.”

### Why does the life of St. Therese continue to fascinate people?

“She matters, especially to women. If I mention anything to a woman about Therese, either her name is Therese or she is aware of her in some way. She has a mystique about her that is of the any era. Other saints seem enclosed in the period in which they were born. She seems timeless to me.” ■

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# St. Mary, Norwalk

## Altarpiece earns national award

BY PAT HENNESSY

"This is not about beauty for its own sake," says Father Greg Markey, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Norwalk. "It's to give God greater glory and lift us out of ourselves."



"THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN," a painting by artist Leonard Porter dominating the wall above the main altar of St. Mary Church in Norwalk, was recognized by the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art for "an original work of art that functions seamlessly with the design and satisfies liturgical and devotional needs."

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The beauty of St. Mary's Church restoration, in particular Leonard Porter's masterpiece of "The Assumption of the Virgin" dominating the wall above the main altar, was recognized by the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art (ICAA) with the 2014

Stanford White Award for Craftsmanship and Artisanship at their annual banquet in Manhattan this December. The award recognizes achievement in architecture, and building craftsmanship and artisanship throughout the tri-state area.

Porter's 13.5 x 7-foot altarpiece in oil depicts the Assumption of the Virgin with the twelve Apostles and angels. The finished painting was installed within a 27 foot reredos—a decorative frame, in this case, columns lending a classical character to the setting. In the image, the Virgin is seen being taken up into heaven with the Apostles marveling as they surround her tomb.

"The painting is the crown of a four-year restoration that began in 2010," says Father Markey. He is particularly grateful for the generosity and patience of



parishioners and all those who sacrificed to bring the project to completion.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was among the first to send congratulations on hearing of the award. "It is well-deserved, and one the

parish will be thrilled to receive," he said in a note.

The altarpiece was part of a larger architect-designed renovation that included a redesign of the sanctuary and extensive decorative painting. "The artist worked closely with the architect, client and other contractors to create an original work of art that functions seamlessly with the architectural design and satisfies liturgical and devotional needs," the award states. The renovation project was designed by architect Duncan Stroik and features decorative painting by John Canning & Co.

"The painting is totally in harmony with the space," Father Markey points out. St. Mary's, the mother church of Norwalk, was built in a Neo-Gothic style. "They drew on centuries of Catholic church practice. These churches were built so that your

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



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## EDITORIAL

### Choose both

A Pro-Life billboard on Route 25 in Newtown shows the image of a young mom with a baby. "Love them both," it proclaims. Another in the Danbury area shows a pregnant woman hugging the life within her. "Two Hearts are Beating," it says.

The needs of the young mothers often take a distant second to their infants in Pro-Life materials. But to the unborn child, mom is central to life—before and after birth. No campaign to end the horror of abortion will succeed unless the trauma overwhelming these mothers is recognized. Yes, the teenage girl was careless. Teenagers often are. But she's still a kid herself, scared, afraid to tell her parents. A young single mother chose the wrong way to gain some comfort in a life of struggle, and the consequences are more than she can handle. A married couple already raising children doesn't see how they can deal with one more mouth to feed. (It's astonishing how many married women feel pressured to have abortions.)

They've made bad choices. So have we all. With any luck, our bad choices were met with love, support, and a helping hand to get us back on our feet. For children to survive, before and after birth, their mothers need an extra large dose of love, prayers by the bucketfuls, and lots of helping hands.

Start by joining the March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 22 or join a prayer service closer to home. Don't stop there. Love the mothers, help them love their child, and the scourge of abortion will wither. Love them both.

## Good news for parents

The newly created Bishop's Scholarship Fund, a \$1.45 million tuition assistance program, holds great promise for the future of Catholic education in Fairfield County.

The fund announced in this issue (full story on page 3) will not only ensure the viability and vitality of our schools for years to come, but also be a source of support, particularly for parents who have more than one child enrolled in our schools, whether they be located in the inner city or the suburbs.

The bishop's message is loud and clear: "We need to create a vehicle that provides scholarships for poor, working and middle class families. We know people are struggling to meet the cost of tuition, particularly if they have more than one child in our schools. We want all families to know they can benefit from scholarship aid."

Early response to the concept has been very positive, with some major donors already stepping up to make contributions. The fund will be supported by a yearly gala and other events with the hope of growing it into a major source of scholarships for all families who want a Catholic education for their children.

Many of the stories in this issue demonstrate the creative ways in which our schools have re-invented themselves for a new generation of students. They've become digital learning communities with the latest technology. But one thing hasn't changed: Catholic schools form our youth in the faith, and nurture a strong Catholic identity that will serve them throughout their lives.

There's no better way to celebrate National Catholic Schools Week (January 25-31) than to move forward with this plan to make Catholic education more affordable and accessible for all of our families!

## Parting Gift

Perhaps, one of the great gifts of the last Sunday of the Christmas season each year is the reading of this verse from Isaiah (55): "For My thoughts are not your thoughts/Nor are your ways My ways, declares the LORD." The words are found in a passage often referred to as the "Free Offer of Mercy." At a time when we remain divided by ideology and hardened in our individual certainties, the words remind us to be humble, to be open, and to continue to be amazed by the great gift of creation and the presence of God in our lives. There's no better gift for the New Year.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### Secular Franciscans

FAIRFIELD—Deepening their life of prayer and faith, seven newcomers were welcomed into the Holy Spirit Fraternity on January 10. The welcoming ceremony and Mass were celebrated by Msgr. Ernie Esposito.

The Secular Franciscan Order is a community of lay Catholic men and women who seek to pattern their lives in Christ in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. The Franciscan emphasis is on the fact that God is love. While every Christian believes this, Franciscans devote themselves to living the Gospel according to the spirit of Francis, especially to careful reading of the Gospel and going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel.

"I was professed a Secular Franciscan in 2010 in the Holy Spirit Fraternity," says Fran Karpie, OFS, who took the photo at right. "It's been a blessed experience. I was exceptionally pleased to see that Bishop Caggiano is also expressing interest in Ecclesiastical Movements."



## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS



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

### ADMINISTRATOR

REVEREND SAMUEL KACHUBA, to Administrator, Saint Pius X Parish, Fairfield. Effective date was 1/5/15, and to Pastor, Saint Pius X Parish, Fairfield. Effective date is 6/30/15. Father Kachuba will remain as the Vocations Director. Father Kachuba will also continue as Episcopal Chaplain for Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford through 6/30/15.

### DEACON

DEACON FABIO TAVAREZ, new to diocese, to Deacon, Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date was 12/1/14.

### RETIREMENT

REVEREND MICHAEL BACHMAN, Pastor, Saint Ladislaus Parish, Norwalk to retirement. Effective date is 1/31/15.

REVEREND WILLIAM G. CAREY, Parochial Vicar, Saint Aloysius Parish, New Canaan to retirement remaining at Saint Aloysius Parish. Effective date was 10/1/14.

REVEREND MONSIGNOR WILLIAM GENUARIO, full-time Tribunal Judge, to retirement. Msgr. Genuario will remain a Judge and continue to reside at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford. Effective date was 10/31/14.

### RESIDENCE

REVEREND MICHAEL DOGALI, to Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Stratford. Effective date was 1/5/15.

REVEREND JOSEPH PARAMPATH, retired, the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford, to Kerala, India. Effective date was 11/14/14.

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

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# Editorial



## Family comes first

CATHOLIC BY GRACE

BY DENISE BOSSERT

*Denise Bossert is a national Catholic writer and columnist.*

**I**t was two years ago this month.

Our unmarried daughter met us for dinner and announced that she was pregnant with her third child. I tossed and turned that night as I thought about this third grandson who would be born into my daughter's single-parent family.

Less than twenty-four hours later, my son called to say that his baby girl had arrived, but was being taken by life-flight to Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. They didn't know if the baby would survive. The neurological team said she

would have brain damage if she managed to make it through her first day of life.

In the moment my daughter told me she was pregnant again, I immediately began doing damage control. Instantly, I knew that I would not sign a teaching contract for the following year. Maybe my daughter could move back in with us. Maybe we could babysit, and she could work. Maybe these grandchildren would have some concept of family through grandparents and extended family.

When my son called with the news about his baby girl less than a day later, I couldn't think at all.

I wasn't planning. There was no strategy in my head. It was too big, the news too unexpected, too awful to analyze and process and mitigate. We took each day as it came. The first family crisis sent me into damage-control mode. The second family crisis left me adrift. No mother could wrap her arms around this.

I took the overnight shift at the hospital. My daughter-in-law could barely walk in the days that followed the traumatic birth. She and my son seemed to be in post-traumatic stress. That's how it is when a baby is born without life signs, when you are told she may not survive, when you watch her have two seizures in her first 24 hours of life, and the experts say that she will have brain damage.

Instinctively, I activated a social teaching of the Church that isn't talked about very much. The *Compendium on Social Doctrine of the Church* says that there is to be a "social priority of the family" (252). It goes on to say there must be "the recognition on the part of

civil society and the State of the priority of the family over every other community" (254).

In short, family comes first.

That night, my husband and I talked it over, I talked to my parish priest, I prayed a lot, and then I submitted a letter of resignation. We both knew what I had to do. It was time to be a mother and grandmother before anything else.

I believe God honored our desire to put family first. Within months, my daughter and her three sons converted and entered the Catholic Church. The very next day, an MRI showed that my granddaughter had been miraculously spared brain damage. She has had two surgeries since her birth to address other complications stemming from the traumatic birth, and my son and his family stay with us often to be close to physical therapy sessions in St. Louis. But the two-year old that was supposed to have brain damage has met or exceeded all mental development milestones. And the physical therapy is helping in the areas affected by the

nerve damage.

The eyes of the Church are on the World Meeting on Families in September 2015. It is an important time in the life of our Church. Now, more than ever, we are being called to put family above all earthly things, and that includes our employment.

Family comes first.

We must help to meet their temporal needs, but we must also meet their spiritual needs. Corporal works of mercy and spiritual works of mercy begin at home. Our number one job is to get our family members to heaven. Just as the Church helps us along our personal pilgrimage to heaven, the domestic church is a vehicle for the salvation of the family.

Rarely is one called upon to set aside work for family. Typically, work is necessary for the financial viability of the family. But we must never get our priorities out of whack. The family has priority over every other community on earth. Solidarity begins in the home. ■



## Everything worth doing is hard

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

**C**lara is studying the flute. She practices at home in the evenings. She gets in 15 or 20 minutes of work, on average, every day. There are days when she's not into it. She gets frustrated.

"Remember," I say by way of encouragement. "Anything worth doing is going to be hard sometimes." Clara sighs and slumps her shoulders—the way ten year-olds do when Dad is giving one of his pep talks. Then she takes a deep breath and plunges back in.

These buckle-down moments make me combustible with pride. She'd rather be doing anything

else besides slogging through elementary flute compositions that are, by cruel design, just above her skill level. Her persistence is inspiring.

If only I could remember to take my own advice: everything worth doing is hard.

Paddy is six. He's shown a remarkable ability to master new skills. In fact, he learned to ride a bike in a single day. One morning he just decided he wanted to do it. He got the bike out of the garage, strapped on his helmet, and got down to business.

I was glad it happened that way. Teaching someone to ride a bike isn't easy. The first few

times Clara tried were such failures that she almost turned against the idea. "I don't care if I ever learn," she said when I asked if she wanted to give it another shot.

After some falling, some crying, and some "Everything Worth Doing Is Hard" pep talks from Dad, Clara eventually got the hang of it. But with Paddy, there were no bumps, no bruises, no tears, no frustration, he just jumped on that bike and started riding.

Some things come easy for people. It's a fact. My older sister can learn languages the way I can eat a pizza—rapidly. I know a guy who is so coordinated that within minutes of learning a new sport he can dominate even long-time players.

But here's another fact: we all have our challenges. Having things come too easy can itself be a challenge. Often those who are first out of the blocks find it hard to keep up the pace. Then they get down on themselves. Success requires discipline. When things come too easy, discipline doesn't

develop.

Worse, when things come too easy, we may not appreciate how hard they can be for others.

Magdalena has Down syndrome. She struggles with a whole host of cognitive and

"Some things come easy for people. It's a fact. My older sister can learn languages the way I can eat a pizza—rapidly."

motor delays that mark her as different from her peers and classmates—even from her siblings. She's two years older than Paddy, but still needs training wheels on her bike. It would take far more than 15 or 20 minutes of nightly practice for Magdalena to learn to play the flute.

We've often spoken with Clara and Paddy about how to deal

with reactions to Magdalena. We know they will meet people—especially curious, uninhibited children—who don't have much experience with Down syndrome. Lots of people don't know what it is or aren't sure how to address it directly.

We've told them that a good place to start is by saying that it takes Magdalena a little longer to learn how to do certain things. What comes easy for you and me can be a challenge for Magdalena.

And we all have our challenges.

In part to honor how hard kids like Magdalena work, I'm going to the March for Life this year in Washington, D.C. I've always wanted to go, but found it hard to fit into my schedule. Something always got in the way. Last year it was the weather. The year before it was work. The year before . . . who knows?

This year, though, I'm going. I know it'll be hard to get up early and get on that cold bus. But everything worth doing is hard.

(Follow Matt on Twitter @matthennessey.) ■

# Catholic Schools Week

## Parents choose Catholic values for their children

By KAREN KOVACS  
DYDZUHN

"My four-year old daughter says, 'Good morning and God bless you,' every chance that she gets," says Bill Conron, a parent of a preschool student at All Saints Catholic School in Norwalk. Conron, who is a member of the Parent Advisory Board, also has a six-year old daughter attending the regional school.

His attitude mirrors that of Catholic school parents throughout the diocese. In addition to an excellent education, parents are looking for a lived experience of faith—one that extends beyond the classroom.

"My older daughter went to daycare before she started at All Saints and we can see such a dif-

ference in the community here," Conron says. "There's a sense of respect that the children have for each other, their teachers and anyone else who comes into the building."

"The academics here are very good, but what's woven throughout their day are values that teach them how to be disciples of Christ," says Denise Vuoso, the school's director of admissions, whose daughter attends All Saints.

Children begin each day hearing that the school's mission is "to enable students to love God and support the development of body, mind, spirit and service to others." Morning prayers follow.

Prayers are also offered before and after lunch and the Act of Contrition is said before dismissal.

All Saints currently has 520 students enrolled in preschool to eighth grade. "Although it would be easy for a child to get lost in a large school like this, we have created a family atmosphere," says Principal Linda Dunn. "I know every child by name, and the children themselves feel a sense of responsibility to the school community."

In a practice common to a number of diocesan schools, as part of the Buddy Program at All Saints, upperclassmen are regularly paired with children in the lower grades. Many middle school students also volunteer to tutor younger students after school.

Tutoring is just one of many service projects that the All Saints' students participate in.



PRACTICING MUSIC for an upcoming Mass, children at All Saints School learn the cultural richness of their Catholic faith while building a sense of responsibility and community spirit.

(PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

efit from the families' generosity in putting their faith in action.

"Students here learn to have respect for those inside of the building and outside of the building," says Noelle Debes, a school parent. They not only enjoy attending Mass, but they often participate in Church ministries. "It's wonderful to see that the way these kids behave inside of the school's walls is the way they behave outside."

Vuoso agrees. "My daughter couldn't wait until she was old enough to be an altar server," she says.

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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# Catholic Schools Week

## Technology increases learning potential

By PAT HENNESSY

As technology evolves, the diocesan schools continue to be at the leading edge of best learning practices. "Our schools were early adopters of the interactive white board and tablet technologies, and now with the fiber optics we improved our technology infrastructure," says Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, PhD, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Diocesan elementary and high schools are all now on a high capacity Internet line, which is particularly effective for the tablet technology that is becoming more common in schools.

Sister Mary Grace points out that, in and of itself, technology is merely a tool—one that needs to be used appropriately and effectively. "It's not about the specific device but, more importantly, about how we engage learners so they can achieve their full potential," she says. "Not only the students, but also administrators, teachers and staff all need to be proficient with technology."

A look at how technology assists instruction is evident at St. Catherine of Siena School in Trumbull, which currently has the largest implementation of LearnPads in the school system and has already run classes to train its staff in the new possibilities available to enhance students' learning.

"This is where education is going in our era," says St. Catherine's principal, Peter Rodgers. "Our teachers quickly integrated the new system into their instructional pedagogy."

Jamie Debicella, technology coordinator at St. Catherine's, adds that "technology doesn't supplant the traditional lesson plan process; it supplements it." He points out the variety of ways this new learning tool enhances instruction. "It lets students check weather through a NASA space station site, open a Torah scroll to the appropriate Scripture passage, look at a monument in Rome or listen to breaking news."

Martin Tristine, assistant to the superintendent for the diocese, explains the latest upgrades

by comparing them to a pipeline. "When you have a narrow pipe and all the kids are on the computer at the same time, their activity chokes the pipe. Now we have a wide pipe, and you can put as much data as you want through it."

In practical terms "schools can join in video conferencing for the Mandarin Chinese lessons now in place in many of our schools," Tristine says. "At the high school level, it can be used for students to join in a physics conference."

At St. Catherine's, the LearnPads enrich instruction far beyond the math and science topics parents usually expect. "It encourages critical thinking," explains social studies teacher Kimberly Carter.

A recent social studies lesson demonstrated the enormous potential of the new technology and the changes it brings to classroom instruction. During a class studying the Boston Massacre, students examined the most famous depiction of the event, a color engraving by none other than Paul Revere.



"TECHNOLOGY IS GOOD both for the students and for the teachers," says Kimberly Carter, social studies teacher at St. Catherine of Siena. "Students take an active part in their own education."

(PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

LearnPads to pull up primary sources of information, both from the viewpoint of the American colonials and that of the British.

"When they take part in discussion, comparing and contrasting the differing accounts, they take an active part in their own education," Carter says. "It makes teaching so much more

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

**"UB helped me get the internship that led to my first job."**

—Yunjae Smith  
Mass Communications

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# Catholic Schools Week

## Immaculate H.S. Danbury partners with Habitat

DANBURY—Students at Immaculate High School have new opportunities to serve and to grow through a partnership the school's Campus Ministry Program has entered into with Housatonic Habitat for Humanity.

"The Holy Father has said that we need to discover our self-worth through service," says Father Jeff Couture, Immaculate's chaplain. "Each IHS student is required to complete 25 community service hours a year. The Habitat for Humanity program offers a structure that provides students with opportunities to serve, have a positive effect on the local community, and grow through experience and mentoring."

A wide variety of service opportunities are available. Students are able to work on Housatonic Habitat for Humanity's current house project in New Milford under the guidance of Housatonic Habitat for



IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS and chaperones warm up after completing a grounds clean-up project for Housatonic Habitat for Humanity at Brookfield Assisted Living. (l-r) Standing: Devin Imperati, Phil Kallberg, Father Jeff Couture, Mary Catherine Kallberg, Jeremy Fisher, Wendy Wu, Lily Duan, Kristal Zhou. Seated: Maeve Reilly, Kayla Lanza, Hailey Davis, Taylor Guth, Patricia Buckley, Katelyn DeMarco.

Humanity volunteers, or help in Habitat's Danbury store, ReStore. In addition, Immaculate students helped staff the "Wrapping for a Cause" table at the Danbury Fair

Mall during December.

Several Immaculate students have completed internships at the Housatonic Habitat for Humanity office, creating social media postings and updating databases. One of those students, Katelyn DeMarco, says that, "Serving and helping those at Habitat for Humanity encourages us to show responsibility, reverence, creativi-

ty and leadership in our everyday lives. Habitat for Humanity is a great organization and I'm very lucky to have had the opportunity to help around the office and grow stronger in my faith."

Habitat has smaller one-day job needs, like raking leaves at Brookfield Assisted Living. Student participant Julia Decker recalls, "In spite of all of our busy

schedules we were able to get a group of more than 20 students to clean up the grounds. When we were done, we were pleased with the difference we had made. We benefit as much as the recipients do."

With the sponsorship of A.M. Rizzo Electrical Contractors and DeMarco Construction, Immaculate hosted a "Contractor Roundup" for three consecutive Saturdays in December. During the Roundup, students received donations of building supplies, fixtures and tools that people brought to a storage pod located in the school's parking lot. Habitat will sell these items in their ReStore and the funds raised will be applied to this year's New Milford house project.

So far this year, 45 Immaculate students have been involved with Habitat projects. "Our experience with Housatonic Habitat for Humanity has been wonderful," says Father Couture.

"Students become part of a volunteer community, they receive instruction and mentoring, and the end result is housing for families. Our goal is to eventually be able to build a Habitat house on our own." ■



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# Catholic Schools Week

*TECHNOLOGY FROM PAGE 17*

interesting, too. The technology is good both for the students and for the teachers."



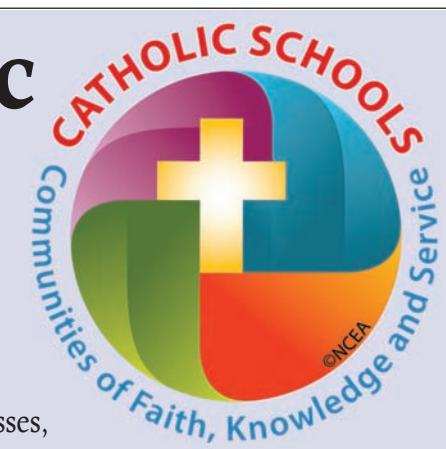
St. Catherine's is simply one example of the new teaching initiatives. At St. Raphael Campus

of the Cathedral Academy in Bridgeport, alternatives are being explored to deliver technology geared to the little hands of the K-3 students. Some students in elementary schools can take high school level classes without leaving their building, while high schools can offer specialized math opportunities or science conferencing to advanced students.

"Students are familiar with this technology from an early age," says Principal Rodgers. "Our teachers are using it to make them more attentive and engaged with the instruction. We're meeting them where they are."

## National Catholic Schools Week

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2015 is January 25-31. Schools in this diocese will observe National Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our Church, our communities and our nation.



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# Catholic Schools Week

## Pick up the phone!

By HENRY BANVILLE

I spent four formative years of high school at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT, where I received an excellent education. It was quite similar to Fairfield Prep except we didn't have any proms! It was a growing-up period because that was my first time away from home.

My geometry teacher, Father Joseph P. (Boom-Boom) Donahue, was quite popular with the students. I had him for two years and he was an excellent teacher. His nickname came from the fact that his voice resounded like a drum trailing off when he would exclaim after he completed a formal proof with, "QED, gentlemen, QED!" (That stands for "quod erat demonstrandum" in Latin, "that which was to be shown.")

I grew very close to him because he was my spiritual advisor as well as my teacher. He was the one I notified of my decision to leave the "sem."

The years passed by. I got married, had three children and got involved with night school, parish, Little League and tutoring many students in math, thanks to Boom-Boom. Every once in a while I would think of my favorite high school teacher.

After attending a weekend retreat in Farmington, I got the thought to go to the "sem" to see if perhaps he was still there

after all this time. Before entering the building, I went for a walk around the grounds, down to the "butt grounds," the gym, the pond where we skated in winter and the ball fields. It was just like in a movie when a person went back to the old homestead and recalled memories with music playing in the background.

I went inside and walked down the corridor, looking for the cigar label "JP" he had attached to his door many years before. Not only did I not know if he was still there, but even if he was still alive! Finally, I saw JP on a door!

"He's probably not in on a Sunday afternoon," I thought. I knocked anyway. "Come in!" There he was, sitting at his desk. He recognized me immediately! I told him about what had transpired over all those years and he was genuinely interested.

Many more years passed without contact, being so busy raising a family and working a job. I kept saying to myself that I have to give him a call "sometime."

One day at work I thought, "You know, if you keep putting it off, it's going to be too late and you're going to kick yourself." Right then I put my pencil down and called the parish to which he retired in Naugatuck. While the phone was ringing, I thought, "Please let him be there!" The secretary answered. "Do you have a Father Donahue there?" I held

my breath. "We certainly do!" she gladly exclaimed. "Would you like to speak to him?"

Did I, did I! We made an appointment to go to lunch the very next day.

I was to meet him at the 12:10 Mass he would be celebrating. I was a little late getting there from work. As I walked into the fine old church, a couple was bringing up the gifts. I couldn't quite make out his face to confirm if it actually was Boom-Boom, but when he went back to the altar, raised the gifts and prayed, "Blessed are You, Lord God...", the years just melted away! That was my Boom-Boom! I was overwhelmed with emotion. His voice was still the same as way back in the sem.

There is a little luncheonette a block away from the rectory. When we walked in, there was a chorus of "Hi, Father," "Good afternoon, Father!" He hadn't lost

his Irish charm in all that time.

After we placed our orders, I told him that the main reason for visiting was so that I could tell him face to face how much I appreciated what he had done for me in high school as a teacher and spiritual advisor. He replied that it is rare for a teacher to receive feedback from his students like that. Then he thanked me and his eyes started to fill up. Frankly, so did mine. It was a great lunch!

More years go by. I then learned that he resided at a local long-term care facility and, unfortunately, was in the early stage of Alzheimer's. I still had to see him.

I went to his floor and found him walking down the corridor towards me. Physically, he looked quite trim and fit. Knowing his condition, I didn't play the "You know me" game, and just introduced myself. He smiled and shook my hand, but



HENRY BANVILLE

I could tell there was no recognition of his former best student.

Thinking back, I am so grateful that I took the initiative and picked up the phone that day so I could thank Boom-Boom when he could still appreciate the compliment.

The moral of this story is: Don't wait! Pick up the phone NOW!

*(A mechanical design engineer, Henry Banville developed a Math Magic presentation to show middle-school students that math can be fun. He has made the presentation over 340 times, and is currently working on a math self-help book. He and his family are active parishioners at St. Jude Parish and school in Monroe.)*

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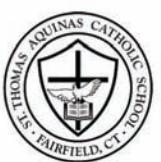
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# Priest Profile

## Msgr. Surwilo forms priests

By FATHER COLIN MCKENNA

In a seminary, the role of spiritual director is critical and unique. He is given a special trust with respect to the seminarians in his care. Whatever they confide to him must remain in his heart alone, within a bond as sacred and solemn as the seal of the confessional. In fact, he regularly serves as confessor for the seminarians in addition to providing communal and personal spiritual guidance.

In an invisible but very real wall of separation within the seminary, the spiritual director resides in the realm of the "inner forum." This makes his role in formation unique. All other formators in the seminary community are in the "outer forum," which means that they are actively evaluating candidates for the priesthood.

The spiritual director is vital to a healthy and productive seminary, and Bridgeport's own diocesan seminary residence—St. John Fisher—now has Msgr. Edward Surwilo as its spiritual director.

In his 51 years of priestly service, Msgr. Surwilo has served 50 of them within the city of Stamford. It is fitting that Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has invited him to continue to serve in Stamford at Fisher, although the Fisher residence is scheduled to move to Trumbull in the near future.

"As pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea for 30 years," Bishop Caggiano said, "Msgr. Surwilo was a mentor for a number of seminarians, helping them to grow in their pastoral skills and love of service. Many of those seminarians now serve as priests in our diocese, united in their

appreciation of Monsignor's guidance."

Father Robert Kinnally, chancellor of the diocese and rector of the Fisher Seminary, appreciates Msgr. Surwilo's contribution to the formation program. "Monsignor's prayerfulness and the joyful way in which he serves God's people have been an inspiration," he said.

Ideally, the spiritual director in a seminary needs to be readily approachable, and with his calm, gentle, and friendly demeanor, Msgr. Surwilo seems the perfect fit for the role. During the journey toward priesthood, most seminarians experience some doubts and fears, and a spiritual director is someone with whom they can hope to find solace and comfort.

In addition to serving as spiritual director at Fisher, Msgr.



"IT'S A SPECIAL BLESSING to have her," said Msgr. Edward Surwilo, visiting with his mother.

Surwilo will remain pastor emeritus at Our Lady Star of the Sea, the church and rectory whose construction he oversaw some 25 years ago.

In recognition of his outstanding service to the diocese, he was named a monsignor in 1991.

At 77 years of age, Msgr. Surwilo is pleased that "retirement" is proving so fruitful. In addition to his experience and wisdom, Msgr. Surwilo brings impressive academic credentials to Fisher. Throughout his priesthood, he has immersed himself in ongoing academic formation and has earned three advanced degrees: Master of Divinity, Master of Systematic Theology and Master of Religious

Education.

Although his work at Fisher represents a significant change for Msgr. Surwilo, one constant throughout his priesthood for which he is very grateful has been the presence of his mother, Rose Surwilo. At 94, Rose still lives in the family home in Darien where Monsignor grew up. She is a parishioner at St. John's, the family's home parish.

Msgr. Surwilo knows that it is unusual for a 77 year-old priest to still be able to visit with his mother in the home where he grew up. For her part, she is proud of all of his success during his long priestly career.

"It's a special blessing to have her," Msgr. Surwilo said. ■

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# Nuestra Voz

## Una nueva oportunidad

POR PADRE GUSTAVO FALLA

El siguiente relato corresponde a un caso real; los nombres de las personas envueltas han sido cambiados con el propósito de garantizar su privacidad.

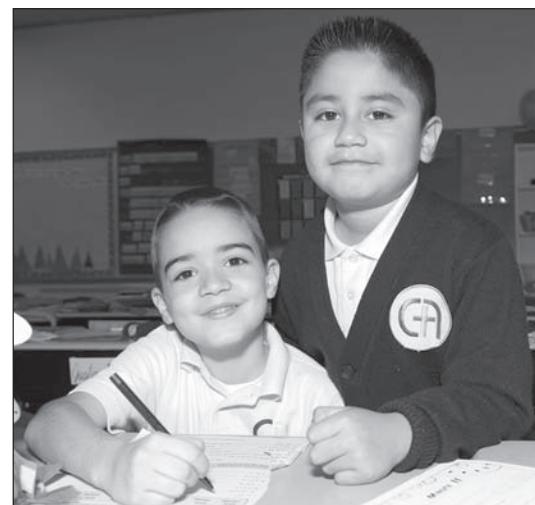
Maria y Santiago se casaron por la Iglesia hace unos 15 años y desde entonces han vivido una vida de muchos esfuerzos, dedicada al trabajo y a salir adelante juntos. Tienen un hijo, Fernando, por quien se han sacrificado desde su nacimiento. Cuando el niño nació se descubrió que tenía ciertas dificultades con su sistema respiratorio; dichas dificultades han sido superadas gracias a un costoso tratamiento médico e interminables horas de atención en casa. Fernando ha crecido rodeado de amor y apoyo. Ahora tiene 13 años y está en el noveno grado, en una escuela pública local.

Sus padres siempre han querido para Fernando la mejor educación posible y, conociedores de lo que cuesta una buena educación privada, decidieron planear desde muy temprano pero debido a los altos costos del tratamiento médico para su hijo sus planes se han visto truncados. Sin ninguna otra opción, Fernando siempre ha estudiado en la escuela pública.

Hace dos semanas, Fernando y sus compañeros de clase fueron enviados a casa debido a un acto

de violencia que tuvo lugar en su salón de clase cuando un compañero de estudio hirió gravemente a otro estudiante haciendo uso de un arma corto punzante. El agresor fue arrestado y su víctima se recupera en un hospital. Aunque este ha sido el tercer caso de violencia en su escuela en menos de seis meses, pocas personas nos hemos enterado de ello debido a que los medios de comunicación parecen no tener interés en publicar este tipo de historias. Como es sabido, los delincuentes que son menores de edad reciben un tratamiento diferente al tratamiento que reciben los adultos.

Maria y Santiago desean transferir a Fernando a una escuela más segura pero no pueden hacerlo debido a las normas que gobiernan a las escuelas públicas. Ellos saben que la solución es transferir a su hijo a una escuela privada. También saben que aunque va a ser mucho mejor también lo va a ser mucho más costoso. Haciendo un mayor esfuerzo y buscando trabajar más horas, están dispuestos a levantar el dinero que se necesita para que su hijo asista a una escuela Católica. El problema ahora es que Fernando teme no poder pasar los exámenes de admisión porque, a pesar de que su escuela pública cuenta con los mejores recursos didácticos, maestros que son verdaderos profesionales y



MANY FAMILIES WOULD LIKE to be able to send their children to Catholic schools but can't afford it. Bishop Caggiano's scholarship initiative will give all families the chance for a Catholic education for their children.

lo último en tecnología, el nivel educativo es extremadamente bajo en comparación con el de la

escuelas están interesadas en admitir a estudiantes que desean

escuela Católica. Fernando no se cree capaz de pasar el examen de admisión.

Este es solamente uno de los muchos casos de familias y niños o jóvenes que anhelan lo mejor pero creen no tener la capacidad de alcanzarlo. La verdad es que hay muchos mitos y malos entendidos acerca de la escuela Católica y es necesario hacer a un lado esas percepciones negativas. Nuestras

salir adelante. Ellas hacen un gran esfuerzo por mantener los costos tan bajos como sea posible; comparadas con las demás escuelas privadas de la región, las escuelas Católicas son las más baratas. Los exámenes de admisión sirven para establecer las necesidades del estudiante más que los intereses de las escuelas.

Nuestro Obispo, Monseñor Frank J. Caggiano, está introduciendo un proyecto de becas que va a favorecer a cientos de chicos y chicas que demuestren tener el deseo e interés en obtener la mejor educación posible. Si usted ha pensado en darles a sus hijos la mejor oportunidad educativa, esta es la oportunidad.

(El Padre Falla es Vicario Episcopal para Católicos de habla hispana y párroco de dos parroquias en Stamford: St. Benedict-Our Lady of Montserrat y Santa María.) ■

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# Fairfield Preparatory School

## Prep president-elect named

FAIRFIELD—Fairfield University President Father Jeffrey P. von Arx, S.J., announced today that following a national search, Father Thomas M. Simisky, S.J., has been appointed president-elect at Fairfield College Preparatory School, a division of Fairfield University. Father Simisky will assume leadership of the school on July 1, succeeding current president, Father John J. Hanwell, S.J., who has been

named Socius for the Jesuit USA Northeast Province.

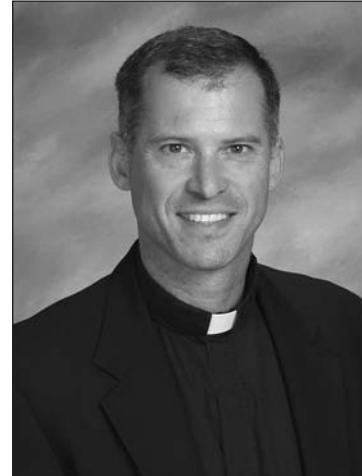
"I am pleased to appoint Father Simisky to lead Fairfield Prep," Father von Arx said. "In his short time already at the school, his passion for and commitment to the school, the students, and Jesuit education has been evident to all. He has my full support and confidence, and I pledge to him and the Prep community the university's continued and steadfast support."

Father von Arx added that "I would also like to thank Father Hanwell for his service and contributions to Prep. We are going to miss him and wish him well in his new upcoming assignment helping to administer the Jesuit USA Northeast Province."

Father Simisky, 44, currently teaches Spanish at Prep and fulfills additional administrative and pastoral roles. Since arriving in August, he also celebrates Sunday Mass in Spanish at St. Charles Borromeo parish in Bridgeport, where many Prep students volunteer in service.

Commenting on the mission and his new position, he stated, "Fairfield Prep is a school committed to excellence, knowing that with opportunity comes responsibility. We form leaders who will engage the world from a core of faith and justice. Being at Fairfield Prep allows me to share my love for Ignatian spirituality and secondary education, combined with a missionary spirit that finds creative ways to express itself."

Outgoing President Father Hanwell added his own praise. "I'm delighted that Father Simisky will become my successor in leading our great school. Prep



FATHER THOMAS SIMISKY, S.J.

has already been blessed by his wonderful presence among us this year. He is a very fine Jesuit priest who will bring his many gifts in maintaining our important Jesuit, Catholic mission in the years to come. I can only hope that he will be as happy at Prep as I have been these last nine years."

The Search Committee was led by Timothy H. Murphy '85, chair of Prep's Board of Governors, and included additional representatives from the Board of Governors, the Fairfield Jesuit community, University

Board of Trustees and administration, Provincial's Office and Prep parents and alumni.

The committee solicited input from the Prep community and actively considered the input provided. The committee unanimously recommended Father Simisky as Prep's next leader. "Father Simisky brings many strengths to answer our community's call: a deep commitment to Ignatian spirituality, strong leadership skills that have been tested in many settings, a powerful ability to communicate and connect, and global vision," said Murphy. "He'll build on the very strong foundation we've enjoyed under the leadership of Father Hanwell."

Originally from Worcester, Mass., Father Simisky's life has included many journeys marked by teaching, leadership, and a global perspective. After graduating from Assumption College with a degree in politics, he served as an artillery officer in the Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf and Western Pacific. He later was a district sales manager for an industrial manufacturer before returning to school and

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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January 2015

# Newtown

## Newtown students remembered at Cathedral Academy

By PAT HENNESSY

BRIDGEPORT—"Violence is overcome day by day, choice by choice, person by person," declared the opening of the prayer service at the Cathedral Academy Upper School. The school community had gathered on December 16 to remember the 26 victims of Newtown Elementary School.

The prayer service was the centerpiece of 26 Acts of Kindness taking place at the school during December and early January. "We followed the lead of Notre Dame High School's observance, modifying it for younger students," explains Principal Larry DiPalma, who had been on the staff of Notre Dame at the time of the shootings.

During the month, students had a day to say "Thank You" to their parents, said prayers for police, firefighters and first responders, and took time to "Be Kind to Yourself." For this prayer service, eight Notre Dame students who had graduated from the Academy were on hand to pray with their younger contemporaries.

Elijah Trotman, now in eighth grade, led some of the intercessory prayers for nonviolence. He was in sixth grade at the time of



WHILE STUDENTS at the Cathedral Academy bowed their heads, Principal Larry DiPalma read the names and tolled a bell for the 26 victims at Sandy Hook School.

the shootings. "At that moment, I felt less safe in school because now I knew something like that could happen anywhere."

He has reflected on those events over the past two years, and approaches them with more maturity. "As a school, it brings me comfort to know that we can come together and remember. I feel that it's a privilege to remember the lost souls."

Elijah includes all the lost souls. "I try to understand the



viewpoint of other people, and I try not to react with violence first. React with love, not hatred. I take it seriously, and a lot of my friends do, too. They have become more

forgiving and patient."

One of the prayers he read requests that the students "allow God to disarm our hearts of the violence within us, that we might be nonviolent to ourselves and to every person we meet."

Matteo Canu, now in the fourth grade, was the same age as the Sandy Hook children. "I felt very sad for their mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers," he remembers.

Principal DiPalma had been named the National Distinguished Teacher for Connecticut in 2011,



"When we make a circle and pray together, a community prayer, I feel emotional," says young Matteo. "I think of everyone. I feel part of my family and my school, and I feel part of those kids."

### Sandy Hook remembered

Charlotte Bacon, 2/22/2006  
Daniel Barden, 9/25/2005  
Olivia Engel, 7/18/2006  
Josephine Gay, 12/11/2005  
Ana M Marquez-Greene, 4/4/2006  
Dylan Hockley, 3/8/2006  
Madeleine F Hsu, 7/10/2006  
Catherine V Hubbard – 6/8/2006  
Chase Kowalski, 10/31/2005  
Jesse Lewis, 6/30/2006  
James Mattioli, 3/22/2006  
Grace McDonnell, 11/4/2005  
Emilie Parker, 5/12/2006  
Jack Pinto, 5/6/2006  
Noah Pozner, 11/20/2006  
Caroline Previdi, 9/7/2006  
Jessica Rekos, 5/10/2006  
Avielle Richman, 10/17/2006  
Benjamin Wheeler, 9/12/2006  
Allison N Wyatt, 7/3/2006

### Teachers and staff:

Rachel Davino, 7/17/1983  
Dawn Hochsprung, 6/28/1965  
Anne Marie Murphy, 7/25/1960  
Lauren Rousseau, 6/8/1982  
Mary Sherlach, 2/11/1956  
Victoria Soto, 11/04/1985

### CATHOLIC VALUES FROM PAGE 16

Advent services and Stations of the Cross are held seasonally in the school's chapel. Principal Dunn says that she loves to see children stop to make a sign of the cross when they are walking by the chapel. "The chapel doors are open all day and even when there's no one around, I see them stop to bless themselves," she explains. "They are not doing it because I am there. It's just what they've learned to do."

Although All Saints students attend a religion class beginning in preschool, "We're teaching a way of life," says Assistant Principal Daniel Ferreira. As the school's "disciplinarian," he often brings Jesus and his teachings into the conversation when he talks to children about their behavior.

Guidance Counselor Roseann Corrente also uses the Lord as a role model for the youngsters. "I say to them, 'WWJD—What would Jesus do,' to help them understand and conceptualize the teachings," she says. "I laminate this saying and give it out to them. I have it hanging on the door. The kids love it."

When they search for a school, Catholic parents want an environment that supports the faith and creates a link between home and school. Fifth-grade teacher Laura Wrinn believes that students embrace the concepts taught in religion class because these values are an extension of what is being taught and modeled in their homes.

"Our kids truly enjoy religion class because they can relate to

what we talk about," says Wrinn. "You can talk until you're blue in the face, but families have to show kids how to walk the walk." Putting their faith into action, children learn about "respect, faith, God and themselves."

Bill Conron says he's observed alumni return to visit teachers and staff after they graduate. "Many also become involved in community service and mission trips when they are in college," he notes. "All that they've learned here becomes part of their life."

He is excited to be on the faith journey with his young daughters. "There's an enthusiasm that my children have for Church and the Catholic faith," he says. "We were always regulars at Mass, but now they wouldn't give me a choice. They're going to go."

receiving a striking hand-held school bell during the ceremony. At that time he was principal of Prendergast School in Ansonia, now the location of the Catherine Hubbard playground, one of the 26 playgrounds built in memory of the Sandy Hook victims. During the prayer service, he rang the bell 26 times as the name of each child and adult was read aloud.



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# Obituary

## Sister Doris Bérubé, DHS

Sister Doris Bérubé, DHS, 94, a member of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, died on November 7 at the Holy Spirit Health Care Center in Putnam where she was in residence since September 2012.

Born on January 3, 1920, in Hartford, Doris entered religious life in 1942 and made her profession at the Holy Spirit Provincial House on July 1, 1943. She was given the name Sister Thérèse Thomas.

Sister Doris received a B.A. from Diocesan Sisters' College, South Woodstock, CT, a Certification in TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) from St. Michael's College, Winooski, VT, and an M.A. from Fairfield University.



A teacher and educator for most of her religious life, Sister Doris taught at the former Holy Family School in Fairfield from 1960-64.

Using her ESL training, from 1965-72 she was director of the International Institute at Annhurst College in Woodstock, CT. Returning to Annhurst College in 1974, she was both an ESL teacher and administrator of the institute as well as assistant professor in the Education and English Departments until 1980.

Following that she was in parish service until becoming Secretariat aide at the Provincial House. Sister Doris retired in 2002.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Doris on November 11 at the Holy Spirit Provincial House Chapel. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery in Putnam. ■

## Sister Cecilia Marie Tippin

Sister Cecilia Marie Tippin, IHM, of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, died on October 15 at St. Joseph Convent in Scranton, Penn. She was 75 years old.

She was born on May 20, 1939, in Masontown, Penn., with the given name of Margaret Ann. She entered the IHM Congregation on September 8, 1957, and made her temporary profession of vows on March 14, 1960, and her final profession of vows on March 14, 1965.

Sister Cecilia Marie received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree in elementary education from Marywood College. She was a teacher and a principal, teaching in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. She came to Connecticut in 1979, teaching at St. Ambrose Elementary School in Bridgeport from 1979-82.

Following her years in education, she served as a computer operator at the Marian Convent in Scranton from 1994-2006; and at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton from 2006 until her sudden death in October.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Cecilia Marie on October 21 at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton. Interment followed at St. Catherine Cemetery in Moscow, Penn. ■



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## DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT: JANUARY 18—FEBRUARY 14

### JANUARY

- |    |                                 |      |
|----|---------------------------------|------|
| 18 | Rev. Edward J. Small, SJ .....  | 2010 |
| 19 | Rev. Andrew L. Horvat.....      | 1973 |
|    | Rev. William D. Thompson .....  | 2004 |
| 20 | Msgr. Ralph P. Buongervino..... | 1994 |
|    | Msgr. Andrew T. Cusack.....     | 2004 |
|    | Rev. Andrew L. Farkas .....     | 1967 |
|    | Rev. Robert E. Onze .....       | 2010 |
| 22 | Rev. Felix P. Werpechowski..... | 1972 |
|    | Rev. John Mitchell .....        | 2006 |
| 23 | Rev. James J. McCormick .....   | 1965 |
| 27 | Msgr. Francis G. Galla .....    | 1996 |
| 28 | Msgr. Joseph R. McCarthy .....  | 1964 |
| 30 | Msgr. John F. Cavanaugh .....   | 1990 |
|    | Rev. James F. Desmond .....     | 1963 |

### FEBRUARY

- |    |                                    |      |
|----|------------------------------------|------|
| 2  | Rev. Joseph W. Kupec .....         | 1978 |
|    | Deacon Bartholomew J. Mauceri..... | 2004 |
| 3  | Msgr. Martin F. Doran.....         | 1967 |
|    | Rev. Robert F. Albert .....        | 1995 |
| 4  | Msgr. William F.X. Casey .....     | 1978 |
| 6  | Msgr. Martin J. McDermott .....    | 1986 |
| 8  | Rev. James F. McGrath.....         | 1971 |
| 10 | Rev. William R. Nagle .....        | 1979 |
|    | Rev. John R. Polinski .....        | 2001 |
| 12 | Rev. John J. Filip .....           | 1984 |
| 13 | Deacon Matthew Ashe .....          | 2008 |
|    | Deacon Rodney L. Varney .....      | 1988 |

# Obituary

## Sister Judith Kenhart, DHS

Sister Judith Kenhart, DHS, a member of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, died on November 20 at the Holy Spirit Provincial House in Putnam, where she had been in residence since 2005. She was 77 years old.

Born on August 21, 1937, she

entered religious life in 1955 and made her religious profession on April 24, 1957, at the Provincial House in Putnam. She was then known as Sister Stephen of the Passion.

A graduate of the Diocesan Sisters' College, South Woodstock, CT, with a B.A. in

education, she later earned an M.A. in history from Boston College and a second M.A. in theology from Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, MA.

Sister Judith taught in Connecticut, including her years at Cathedral High School in Bridgeport (now Kolbe Cathedral) from 1966-71.

After her years of teaching, Sister Judith was appointed special assistant to President Buchanan at Annhurst College. In 1980, she served as director of the Family Refuge Center

Shelter in Sweet Springs, WV. She later became program developer at Catholic Charities in Cambridge, MA; served as volunteer Coordinator at Women's Educational & Industrial Union in Boston; and served as volunteer chaplain at Mass General Hospital in Boston.

She retired to the Provincial House in Putnam in 2005

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 22 at the Holy Spirit Provincial House. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery in Putnam.



## Sister Catherine Green, SSND

Sister Catherine Green, SSND, a teacher and administrator for 61 years, died on October 11 from cancer of the pancreas and cardiac arrest at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton. She was 81 years old and had been a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 61 years.

Ann Eileen Green was born in Dumont, New Jersey. She entered the Candidature of the School Sisters of Notre Dame on August 18, 1950. In 1952 Ann Eileen entered the novitiate in Baltimore and received the name Mary Catherine de Ricci. On July 24, 1953 she pronounced her first vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame.

She taught in New York City; Providence, R.I.; and New Jersey before she was named principal of St. Mary School in Bethel from 1966-72. Her years of dedicated teaching continued in New Jersey until she retired earlier this year. She moved to Lourdes Health Care Center in August.

Sister Cathrine received her bachelor of science degree in education from Catholic Teachers College in Providence and a master of arts in secondary education from Seton Hall University, N.J. She earned a second master's degree in pastoral ministry, with honors, also from Seton Hall.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Catherine on October 16, in the Chapel at Villa Notre Dame in Wilton. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery in Bethel.



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PREP PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 24

earning a master's degree in economics from Boston College. BC is where he first met Jesuits and experienced Ignatian spirituality.

Ordained in June 2014, Father Simisky has lived in Jamaica, Bolivia, Chile, Russia, and Kyrgyzstan. He speaks Spanish and Russian. Additionally, he received a degree in philosophy from the Universidad Alberto Hurtado in Chile, as well as master's degrees in divinity and theology from Boston College. He previously worked at Cheverus High School in Maine, Boston College

High School, and Catholic Memorial in Boston. He has been a member of the Cheverus High School Board of Trustees for the past five years.

Over the next several months, Father Simisky will take advantage of this time of transition in preparation for assuming leadership of the school. Fairfield Prep enjoys an outstanding reputation and history of success due to the efforts of the excellent administration, faculty, and staff, as well as the support and commitment of students, parents and alumni.

# Column: Joe Pisani



## BFF sent to us by God

### SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

**O**ne night during my college-carousing days, I'd had too much Boone's Farm wine while I was out with my buddies, feasting on chili dogs and cheese fries. On our way home, I stumbled, fell and nearly hit my head against a ledge.

"Wow, that was a close call," my friends said. "You're one lucky dude." This was during the "dudism" era.

"That WAS close!" I said. "No more chili dogs for me."

When I told my mother the story, she had an entirely different interpretation. After lecturing me about my immature behavior and hanging out with the wrong crowd, she said, "Your guardian angel was watching over you."

My guardian angel? What an interesting concept—one that I laughed off because at the time I didn't have enough spiritual

maturity. "Mom, it was pure luck," I responded.

A few years later when I was in Paris, walking down a dark alley after a dinner of frog legs and French wine, two muggers tried to accost me. I was about to be mugged—I should have been mugged—and I don't know why I wasn't mugged, but I got away.

When I told Mom, she said, "You better say a prayer of thanksgiving to your guardian angel."

As children, she taught us the wonderful prayer, "Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide."

Years later, I've left behind the Boone's Farm and the frog legs, and I have a different view of guardian angels. Mom was right, I realize after a lifetime of experiences that were just too coincidental to be coincidence, along with too many perilous situations where I had to conclude someone was watching over me.

I'm not alone in this belief. A poll by the Associated Press said 8 in 10 Americans believe in the existence of angels. The research found that 88 percent of Christians, 95 percent of Evangelicals and 94 percent of those who attend religious services of any faith are believers.

In addition, a majority of non-Christians, along with 4 people in 10 of those who don't attend religious services, say angels exist. Other polls have shown that only 34 percent believe in UFOs and ghosts while 92 percent believe in God,

so there's some sanity left in America after all.

My sons-in-law scoff at the idea because they only believe in what they can touch, see, taste and drink, which means to say frog legs are more real than angels in their opinion.

But everyone with an open mind and heart, even the positivists among us, eventually comes around when they realize the accumulation of coincidences is too great to be denied. I've

"My sons-in-law scoff at the idea because they only believe in what they can touch, see, taste and drink, which means to say frog legs are more real than angels."

met people who've had personal encounters with angels—supernatural beings sent by God to help them when they needed help. Usually, they're hesitant to share their experiences because they're afraid of sounding foolish. I've also heard stories of people on their death bed being visited by angels to help them cross over to the other side.

Theologians from Thomas Aquinas right down the line say there are angels all around us, waiting for us to ask for

assistance, offering advice and defending us from evil influences. All we have to do is seek their help in prayer, and it will come. That's a simple thing to do and something we should encourage our children and grandchildren to do throughout the day. All you have to do is ask ... and the help will be there.

When I was in an antique shop recently, I found a book published in 1870 titled, *Memoirs of a Guardian Angel*. Now, that's something you'll never see on the Amazon best-seller list.

In his preface, the author wrote, "An angel tells what his duties and his impressions were from the moment a soul was entrusted to him, to that moment when she took her place at his side in glory."

In the memoir, the angel talked about the many occasions when he guided his charge away from temptation, Satan, calamity and the mishaps and misfortunes we all encounter in daily life.

Upon the woman's death, the angel said, "What consolation for me to introduce her into eternal repose with those she had loved, a soul I had so long guided through the temptations and dangers of life. After having made it my delight to share in her tears, how sweet it was to take part in her joy!"

Only when we meet our guardian angels face to face in heaven will we realize the full extent of their solicitous, loving and vigilant care for us – and wish we had said "thank you" more often to these tireless friends, these supernatural beings of love that God gave to each of us.



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# Column: Thomas Hicks



## Meeting Oneself

### POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

**Y**ou have to live your life forward, but you can only understand it backward.”  
*(Soren Kierkegaard)*

I have now my full share of years and am perhaps close to port. Sometimes I think about my life as just another fleck of life, a speck amid the billions of history, who has his own small importance as an individual for a brief span of time. Sometimes I wonder if it can be true of me what the Scriptures say about Paul, Jeremiah, Isaiah, that I was known by God “from the foundation of the world,” as Paul says, or as Jeremiah has God say, “before I formed you in the womb, I knew you”? Was I really

someone God thought of from all eternity, before time was?

I’m at a time now when I have an urge to look back at my past and wonder—wonder what it might be telling me about myself. I try to listen to my life and attempt some sort of assessment.

There’s a First Communion photo of me. In it is a lad of seven dressed in preposterous navy-blue knickers with a navy-blue jacket, white shirt, large white bow tie, with navy-blue shoes and long navy-blue socks. Clutched in his hands is a white covered prayer book and a white rosary intertwined through his fingers. He’s a handsome enough boy, but that boy looking out at me from the photo has sad, frightened eyes.

Sometimes I think of writing a letter to the boy I once was. I sort of liked that kid.

How they live on in me, those giants of my childhood—the people who loved me and whom I loved, the people who taught me things. I wish I could have known my father when he was nineteen. I wish I could have been his friend.

When it comes to adolescence, a couple of scraps of memory keep rising up: shopping at Kresge’s, taking dates to ice cream parlors. I vividly remember the time when my bare knee touched the knee of a teenage girl on the Canarsie pier.

During those formative years when we, generally speaking, become lifelong readers or not, a kind of heaven opened for me. Reading became one of the greatest graces of my life. Books are my narcotic.

In adulthood, the world made a niche for me, and I found a place in the scheme of things. I was more a plunger than slugger, indefatigably tenacious. Early on I saw I lacked the smooth self-oblivion required for a public career. I had little talent for administration,

and I knew it. I was called to fight inward battles instead. Alone, working among my books, was where I felt most at ease. I was never bored. I was self-entertaining.

I have been afraid of too many things. I was never not afraid, my mind turning to illness, the dwindling of the days, the inevitability of the fading, the dying of the brightness. I cannot remember a time when I was not dreading something. My nature was always to expect the worst, generally ready to receive bad news. I yearn to be more at ease in life, but I continue to worry my worries.

Reflecting on my past, I think of all the happiness behind me, the many waltzes that have ended, the brightness and beauty that could not last. There’s a sorrow for chances missed. There are things I regret and would like to undo, tears I would like to dry. Remorse bites at me. I’m aware of some weaknesses that seem to be inescapable and ineradicable. Looking back, I see some of the roads not taken, and long for all I have not known, for all I have missed. There are things I did not do when I could and should have, and they come back to shame.

But there were times when, now and then, I displayed a little courage, was at my best and bravest. Some things were done in wisdom and love.

I came to know certain sorrows, certain estrangements, my mother’s early death. The central wound in my history was the death of my wife. How I loved her, and how I lost her. I often wonder over her attraction for me.

I have developed a lively awareness that we do not have a lasting city here (Hebrews 13:14). I recognize that we ourselves are our primary problem.

When I look back at the way my life has unfolded, I have a conviction that my life was not haphazard. I even begin to think of my life as a sacred journey. We have a history, He and I. I think I can be aware of myself as a person who is known and loved by God. I even think I’ve been close to God a few times. Right now I have no doubt that I am in the place where Providence wished me to be.

However, I’m just not that interested in myself anymore. But the voyage continues and I must continue to put up with me.

### ALTARPIECE FROM PAGE 13

attention was directed to the center and then up—people are drawn out of themselves into God’s sacred presence. We wanted to show that the tradition of the Church is still alive.”

The sense of the sacred at St. Mary’s is enhanced by the four choirs who sing at the weekend Masses, including at the traditional Mass in Latin. The parish also celebrates Masses in Spanish.

The renovation, and the award it received, has drawn an increasing number of visitors to St. Mary’s. The beauty of the church invites people to drop in for a few moments of quiet prayer. Father Markey also sees an increasing number of people coming in for the 12:10 Mass every day. “It gives them sense of the sacred, a space for peace in their chaotic lives,” he says.

“Beauty has a role to play in worship. God is beautiful.”

*(St. Mary’s is open daily from before the 8 am Mass until 3 pm in the afternoon. For more info, visit their website: [www.stmarynorwalk.net/](http://www.stmarynorwalk.net/))*

## SAINTLY LIVES

BY ED WALDRON

**Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich**



b. 1774

~ d. 1824

ANNE CATHERINE WAS BORN TO VERY POOR, PIous PARENTS IN FLAMSKE, GERMANY. HER PRAYER LIFE WAS REMARKABLE EVEN AT AN EARLY AGE. LATER IN LIFE, SHE WOULD RELAY THAT DURING CHILDHOOD SHE OFTEN EXPERIENCED VISIONS AND WAS ROUTINELY VISITED BY ANGELS AND SAINTS. SHE NAIVELY THOUGHT THAT OTHERS EXPERIENCED THE SAME, BUT WERE TOO MODEST TO DISCUSS THEM OPENLY. SO SHE KEPT QUIET.



SHE YEARNED TO ENTER THE RELIGIOUS LIFE, BUT WAS SO POOR AND FRAIL THAT MOST WERE UNWILLING AND/OR UNABLE TO ALLOW HER ENTRY. FINALLY, AT THE AGE OF 28, SHE ENTERED THE NOVITIATE IN AN AUGUSTINIAN CONVENT IN AGNETENBERG, AND TOOK HER VOWS A YEAR LATER. SHE WAS TREATED WITH DISDAIN BY HER SISTERS BECAUSE OF HER STRICT OBSERVANCE TO THE RULE AND INTENSE PRAYER LIFE, BUT SHE ENDURED THEIR ATTACKS IN SILENCE AND HUMILITY.



AFTER SERVING NINE YEARS IN THE ORDER, THE CONVENT WAS SUPPRESSED BY THE RULER, JEROME BONAPARTE. ANNE CATHERINE WAS HIRED AS A HOUSEKEEPER BY A PRIEST WHO HAD FLED BONAPARTE’S TYRANNY, BUT BECAME BEDRIDDEN SHORTLY THEREAFTER. AT THE AGE OF 24, ANNE CATHERINE HAD RECEIVED THE PAINS OF THE STIGMATA AND ENDURED THEM THROUGHOUT HER RELIGIOUS LIFE, BUT NOT LONG AFTER THE SUPPRESSION OF THE CONVENT, THE MARKS OF THE STIGMATA BECAME VISIBLE. THOUGH SHE WANTED TO REMAIN HIDDEN, WORD OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PHENOMENA SOON GOT OUT. SHE RECEIVED MANY VISITORS, MANY FAMOUS, AND HER VISIONS AND PROPHESIES WERE RECORDED IN WRITING. AN EPISCOPAL COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE, AND LATER, A GOVERNMENT TASK FORCE. THE LATTER SUBJECTS ANNE CATHERINE TO INTERROGATIONS AND ISOLATION.



THOUGH MANY SAY THAT ANNE CATHERINE EMMERICH WAS ONE OF THE CHURCH’S GREATEST MYSTICS, THE VATICAN PREFERS TO FOCUS ON HER PERSONAL PIETY, PROCLAIMING THAT SHE “LIVED A LIFE OF HEROIC VIRTUE AND SANCTITY.”

SHE ONCE SAID, “MAN’S VALUE BEFORE GOD IS ESTIMATED BY THE DISPOSITIONS OF HIS HEART, ITS UPRIGHTNESS, ITS GOOD-WILL, ITS CHARITY, AND NOT BY KEENNESS OF INTELLECT OR EXTENT OF KNOWLEDGE.”



# Bits & Pieces

**ENCOURAGE** apostolate for parents, friends and family members of loved ones with same sex attractions meets monthly on Sat. mornings at 10:30 am and is strictly confidential. For more info, contact the Norwalk Chapter: [encouragenorwalk@gmail.com](mailto:encouragenorwalk@gmail.com).

**CURSILLO ULTREYAS**, Mon., **Jan. 19**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, at 7:30 pm; and Thurs., **Feb. 5**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, at 7:30 pm. For more info, email [jkovacs@snet.net](mailto:jkovacs@snet.net). What is Cursillo? Find out at [www.natl-cursillo.org/bridgeport](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/bridgeport).

**"THE BAPTIZED CHRISTIAN:** Signed, Sealed, Sent!" talk by Dr. Joan Kelly on the Sacrament of Baptism, Mon., **Jan. 19**, will take place at 7:30 pm at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield. For more info, email [assumptionfairfield@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionfairfield@gmail.com).

**MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE** on Mon., **Jan. 19**, at 7:30 pm at St. Lawrence Parish, Huntington, with Fr. Charles Allen. For more info, call 203.268.8253.

**NEW COVENANT HOUSE VOLUNTEER** recruitment open house, Wed., **Jan. 21**, from 6-8 pm in the Italian Center, 1620 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Light snacks served. For more

info, contact Beth Merrill: 203.972.1212 or [merrill.bethj@gmail.com](mailto:merrill.bethj@gmail.com).

**PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR** with Eucharistic Adoration, Thurs., **Jan. 22**, from 7-8 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull, concluding with Benediction. Prayers will be offered in solidarity with those at the March for Life in Washington, D.C., for an end to abortion and for an increased respect in our nation for the gift of human life. A pro-life Rosary will be prayed during the course of the hour. For more info, email [respectlife@diobpt.org](mailto:respectlife@diobpt.org).

**MARCH FOR LIFE** at National Mall, Washington, D.C., Thurs., **Jan. 22**. Rally Bus will provide transportation. Visit the site, select a stop and reserve your seat. If you don't see a stop near you, add one and you can even set the location of where it picks up. Payment is made directly to Rally Bus. Buses are for adults only. For more info, call 203.416.1445 or [respectlife@diobpt.org](mailto:respectlife@diobpt.org). For general March for Life info, go to [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org).

**WOMAN'S LITERACY** program at the Mercy Learning Center, 637 Park Ave., Bridgeport, is seeking volunteers to teach reading, math, and English as a Second Language to women in its program. Tutors

meet with their students twice weekly, two hours each session. Training session for volunteers will take place Fri., **Jan. 23**, from 9 am-3 pm. Lunch provided. For more info or to register for the session, contact Lynn Gabriel: 203.334.6699.

**WINTER CARNIVAL** at St. Mark School, Stratford, Sat., **Jan. 24**, from 11 am-3 pm. A fun-filled indoor event includes moon bounces, games of skill, food, popcorn, candy, raffles, face-painting and more. For more info, call 203.375.4291 or visit [www.stmarkschool.org](http://www.stmarkschool.org).

**CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS** of Greater Danbury (ages 18-35) meet Fri., **Feb. 6**, at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, from 7-9 pm for a movie and popcorn. For more info, call Maria: 203.798.6923 or [mvhasmullen@gmail.com](mailto:mvhasmullen@gmail.com).

**AN EVENING OF CHANCE**, sponsored by Catholic Charities to benefit Morning Glory Breakfast Program, Sat., **Feb. 7**, from 7-11 pm at Anthony's Lake Club, 10 Christopher Columbus Ave., Danbury. Casual business attire, please. Cost: \$60/ pp or \$100 per couple. For more info, go to [aneveningofchance.eventbrite.com](http://aneveningofchance.eventbrite.com) or call Michele: 203.748.0848, ext. 231, email [mconderino@ccfairfield.org](mailto:mconderino@ccfairfield.org).



**AN EVENING WITH NY YANKEES MARK TEIXEIRA** hosted by the Cardinal Shehan Center to benefit the After School Program will be held Tues., **Feb. 10**, at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield. (Park at Notre Dame High School, Discovery Magnet School or Discovery Museum—shuttles provided.) at 7 pm. Private reception 5:30-6:45 pm. VIP tickets \$150; lecture only, \$75 adults ; 12 and under, \$35. For more info, 203.336.4468 or [tjo@shehancenter.org](mailto:tjo@shehancenter.org).

**A DAY WITH MARY** at St. Ann Parish, Bridgeport, Sat., **Feb. 7**, from 8:45 am-3 pm. The day will include movies, prayer, Reconciliation, meditation, praying the Rosary, Adoration and the consecration to Our Lady. Mass at 2 pm. Bring a bag lunch. Visit [www.StAnnBlackRock.com](http://www.StAnnBlackRock.com) for more details.

**MASS & SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:** The Order of Malta invites those struggling with health challenges, the elderly and the handicapped to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick on Sat., **Feb. 7**, at 3 pm at St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan; and Sun., **Feb. 8**, at 3 pm at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Bridgeport. Refreshments follow. For more info, call Karen: 203.834.5029.

**FREE THROW COMPETITION** for girls and boys ages 9-14 sponsored by Knights of Columbus to be held at Rippowon Middle School Gym, 381 High Ridge Rd., Stamford, on Sun., **Feb. 8**, at 3 pm. Winners will advance to the district competition. For more info, email [KofC5833@gmail.com](mailto:KofC5833@gmail.com) or call Dan: 203.327.9027.

**WOMEN'S GROUP** at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, to meet Mon., **Feb. 9**, at 10 am. Fr. Larry Carew will be the featured speaker. For more info, call 203.261.8020.

**COLLEGE RETREAT WEEKEND** held **Feb. 13-15** at Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford. Centered on the liturgy of the Church and enhancing the experience of community among college students. Begins Friday with buffet dinner at 6 pm and ends at 12 noon on Sunday. Offering \$75. Visit [www.holyfamilyretreat.org/collegeretreat](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/collegeretreat) to register.

**GOSPEL OF LIFE SOCIETY** meets the second Sat. of the month (**Feb. 14**) at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, at 10 am after the 9 am Pro-Life Mass. Physician Assisted Suicide with Sen. Joseph Markley will be the topic. For more info, contact Eileen Bianchini: 203.847.5727 or [stmarygols@aol.com](mailto:stmarygols@aol.com).

**"COME & SEE" VOCATIONS MASS:** The Secular Franciscan Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Emery's Church, Fairfield, on Sat., **Feb. 14**, at 9:30 am. Fr. Norman Guilbert will celebrate a Mass, followed by a social and meeting. "Come and See" if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order. For more info, call 203.255.8801.

**LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY** celebrated at St. George Parish, Bridgeport, on Sun., **Feb. 15**. Noon Mass; lunch at 1 pm. For more info and reservations, call 203.878.0519.



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# Bits & Pieces

## Schools Open Houses

*Mark your calendar today  
for Open Houses  
at our Catholic Schools!*

**BROOKFIELD**  
St. Joseph School  
January 25, 12-2 pm  
[www.sjsbrookfield.org](http://www.sjsbrookfield.org)

**FAIRFIELD**  
Assumption Catholic School  
January 25, 10 am-2 pm  
[www.assumptionschool-fairfield.org](http://www.assumptionschool-fairfield.org)

St. Catherine Academy  
Special Education School  
January 21, 9:30-10:30 am  
March 25, 9:30-10:30 am  
[www.stcatherineacademy.org](http://www.stcatherineacademy.org)

St. Thomas Aquinas  
Catholic School  
January 25, 10 am-12 noon  
[www.stasonline.net](http://www.stasonline.net)

**GREENWICH**  
Greenwich Catholic School  
January 28, 9 am  
[www.gcst.org](http://www.gcst.org)

**RIDGEFIELD**  
St. Mary School  
February 3, 9-10 am (K-8)  
February 5, 9:30-10:30 (PreK)  
[www.smsridgefield.org](http://www.smsridgefield.org)

**SHELTON**  
St. Lawrence School  
January 25, 11 am-1 pm  
[www.stlawrenceshelton.com](http://www.stlawrenceshelton.com)

**STAMFORD**  
Holy Spirit School  
January 25, 10 am-12 noon  
January 26, 9:30-11:30 am  
January 27, 9:30-11:30 am  
[www.holyspiritschool.info](http://www.holyspiritschool.info)

Our Lady Star of the Sea School  
January 25, 10 am-12 noon  
January 27, 9-11 am  
[www.lssschoool.org](http://www.lssschoool.org)

Trinity Catholic Middle School  
January 31, 9-11 am  
February 28, 9-11 am  
[www.trinitycatholicms.com](http://www.trinitycatholicms.com)

**STRATFORD**  
St. Mark School  
January 25, 9 am-1 pm  
[www.stmarkschool.org](http://www.stmarkschool.org)

(For more information  
on Catholic Schools of the Diocese  
of Bridgeport, call 203.416.1380.)

## Celebrate with Bishop Caggiano Week of Prayer for Christian Unity!



*So we, who are many, are one body in Christ,  
and individually we are members one of another.*

*Romans 12:5*

Join us for an Ecumenical Service of Worship

*Jesus said to her: "Give me to drink"*

**January 25, 2015 — 4:00pm**

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
768 Fairfield Avenue  
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**The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano**

*Bishop of the Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Bridgeport will preach*

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