

FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

APRIL 2014 | VOLUME 31, NUMBER 4 | HOLY WEEK/EASTER ISSUE

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Listening Sessions Set to Begin

Are you ready for the synod?

By MSGR. DARIUSZ ZIELONKA

The month of April marks an important event in the life of the Church. We are preparing for the annual celebration of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the summit of all liturgical celebrations of the year: Easter. We try to keep afresh our Lenten resolutions, go to confession, maybe squeeze into our calendar a day or a few hours that we spend on retreat or reflection.

In a similar way, our preparation for the synod requires us to make certain plans and commitments to various efforts. Last month we opened the synodal website (www.2014synod.org) and invited you to give your input to the process. I am happy to report that the responses are coming in in good numbers, as many decided to share their comments and ideas. We need you to continue to do so!

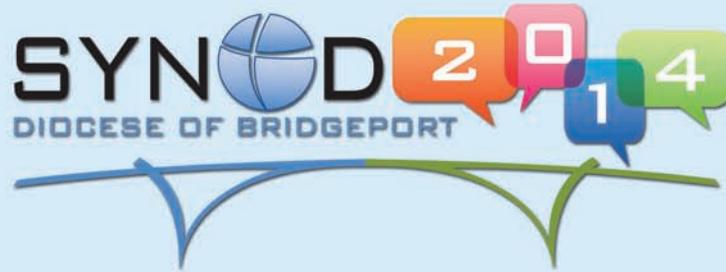
At the same time, we are getting ready for the next step, which is selection of the General Delegates to the synod. Who is a General Delegate and what is his/her role? I am glad you asked!

The General Delegates for the diocesan synod are the lay men and women, religious and clergy of the diocese who represent the general population of Fairfield County. Their role is to directly advise the bishop about the state of the diocese and present some possible solutions to the current issues. They are chosen from

different groups. We have priests, deacons and religious (both men and women), Catholic schools representatives, youth, some directors of religious education, representatives of the ecclesial movements, ethnic groups, staff of the Catholic Center and, of course, our parishes. At this time, pastors are involved in the process of selecting two General Delegates from each parish. Since each parish has a different dynamic, the process of selection is left to the discretion of the pastor and his leadership team.

While this process of selection continues throughout the diocese, we need to remember that it is not a political process but a spiritual one. The difference? The General Delegates are not running for an office. Rather they are people selected from their respective communities and groups to be the conduits of the Holy Spirit in our diocesan-wide process of discernment. They need our prayers and support. They do not need to be influenced by personal preferences and agendas, but rather see the greater good of the Church as the ultimate goal of the synod. Not an easy task!

As a matter of fact, I tend to think of General Delegates as true models of commitment and the love of the Church. There are many things that are required of a General Delegate. Please read the list to the left to learn more. ■



Time Commitment

For a list of parishes in each Vicariate see page 21.

Attend at least one of the Listening Sessions:

Monday, May 5, at 7:30 pm:

Vicariate I—*Trinity High School, Stamford*

Friday, May 16, at 7:30 pm

Vicariate II—*St. Aloysius, New Canaan*

Saturday, May 17, at 1:30 pm

Youth Listening Session—*Notre Dame High School, Fairfield, attending adults MUST have completed back ground check and Virtus training. Go to www.bridgeportdiocese.com/youth for details and forms.*

Monday, June 2, at 7:30 pm

Vicariate III—*St. Thomas, Fairfield*

Sunday, June 8, at 5:00 pm

Spanish Community—*The Catholic Center (in Spanish)*

Tuesday, June 17, at 7:30 pm

Vicariate IV—*St. Catherine, Trumbull*

Saturday, June 21, at 1:00 pm

Vicariate V—*Immaculate High School, Danbury*

Attend ceremonies & general sessions of the synod:

Opening ceremony

Friday, September 19, 2014

First Session

Saturday, September 20, 2014

Second Session Saturday,

November 15, 2014

Third Session

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Fourth Session

Saturday, May 2, 2015

Closing Session

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Formation of the Delegates

(dates to be determined)

Attend one Formation Day (offered 3 times this summer: TBD)

One online component this summer (reading and study)

Online study/formation component after each General Session

Day of Recollection with the Bishop: March 21, 2015

Theological Reflection after the completion of the synod (TBD)

Formation lectures are provided to the delegates free of charge

Working Knowledge of Church Teaching

Delegates should have some basic knowledge of Church doctrines and principles. No in-depth theological knowledge is required (but certainly appreciated).

Some knowledge of the current moral, legal and ethical issues the Church is struggling with.

Communication and Other Skills

Delegate should be comfortable with public speaking and expressing clearly and concisely his or her ideas.

The language of the synod is English.

Basic knowledge of computers

and the Internet use will be required for the delegates to take the online courses.

If not done so previously, each delegate has to complete the Safe Environment Awareness Training (Virtus) and background check (via own parish). Please check the website for available training sessions dates and registration: (www.bridgeportdiocese.com/safeenvironments/training). The last training sessions prior to synod will be offered on September 6 at 9:30 am (location TBD) and September 17 at 6:30 pm (location TBD).

Other Requirements

A passport photo (or similar) for the synod ID badge. Electronic version is preferred, but others are also acceptable.

Working email address for communications purposes.

Access to the Internet (online study/formation classes).

As you can see, the list of requirements is rather extensive. Hence, my deepest gratitude goes to the 400+ General Delegates to the Fourth Diocesan Synod. Their role is invaluable not only on the diocesan level, but also in their parishes as liaisons.

In a few days we will journey with Jesus on his way of the cross towards his glorious Resurrection. May the joy of the risen Lord permeate our entire existence. May it touch and renew our spiritual lives, families, places of work and study. May Christ bless our preparations for the synod. Only with him we will be truly ready! ■



ON THE COVER

THE WAY TO EASTER—About 20 teens from St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan portrayed biblical figures and powerfully presented meditations and songs to offer further reflection for over 150 people who came to join Christ on his journey to Calvary through the Stations of the Cross. New Canaan High School senior George Herde stepped up to play Jesus and Annelise Butler, a junior at Lauralton Hall, took on the role of Mary.

ABOVE THE FOLD: George Herde portrays Jesus "Being a part of it reminds me of what Lent is about and how our sacrifices are small in comparison to what they had to go through." (Photos by Chris Otis)

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April 2014

Local News

Bishop announces six-year terms for new pastors

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has announced that beginning in June of this year all newly-named pastors will be appointed to six-year renewable terms.

The change does not affect pastors currently in office at a parish but will be effective with all new appointments throughout the diocese after June 1, 2014.

Bishop Caggiano first announced the change during a meeting with all priests of the diocese at St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk on March 28.

The news of term-limits was met with surprise by the 200 or so priests gathered to hear the bishop speak on a variety of topics and issues important to the diocese. Bishop Caggiano made it clear that he had made this

decision on his own after much reflection, after seeing it work successfully in other dioceses across the country where it has been a policy for several years.

“I believe that this is a change that will be well received by our priests and the lay faithful,” said Bishop Caggiano. “It allows for continuity and stability in pastoral relationships, but at the same time creates a process for change when it’s in the best interest of the pastor and parish.”

The bishop said that term limits offer priests an opportunity for growth and new service opportunities, while also providing the flexibility to respond to parish needs and concerns, and to make the most effective assignments throughout the diocese.

Under the new policy, a pas-

tor may be moved to another parish or ministry after the first term, but it is expected that most will serve a parish for at least 12 years. The bishop can also request that a pastor remain in office beyond his term limit.

Diocesan administrative appointments and appointments of episcopal vicars will vary from three to five-year terms renewable by the bishop. When a pastor approaches the end of a term, he will receive a letter inquiring about his interest in a new assignment.

Canon law (c. 522) states that pastors should be appointed for an indefinite period of time. However, a provision in that canon that was approved by the Holy See and promulgated on September 24, 1984, by the

Bishop’s Conference, permitted the diocesan bishops to establish a “specified period of time” (six years) for a pastor’s term of office.

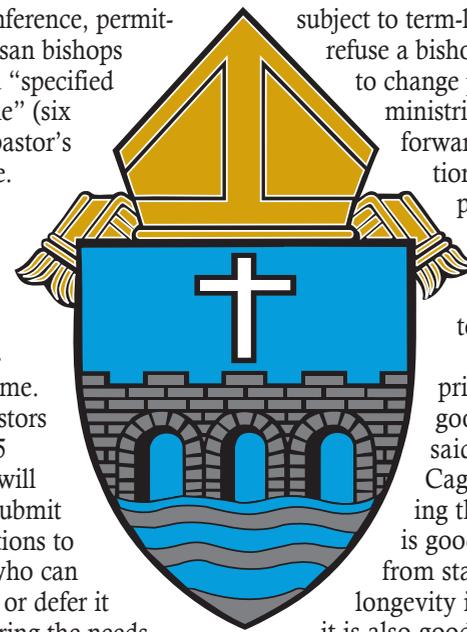
Under canon law, all pastors have the right to offer their resignation at any time. Likewise, pastors who reach 75 years of age will be asked to submit their resignations to the bishop, who can either accept or defer it after considering the needs of a parish.

Under canon law, pastors not

subject to term-limits, may refuse a bishop’s request to change pastorates or ministries, but going forward the expectation is that all

pastors will be flexible if the bishop asks them to do so.

“The guiding principle is the good of souls,” said Bishop Caggiano, noting that while it is good to benefit from stability and longevity in leadership, it is also good to set limits; all souls will benefit from an occasional change. ■



Anne McCrory to lead new diocesan office

BRIDGEPORT—Attorney Anne O. McCrory of Fairfield has been named chief legal and real estate officer of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The appointment, effective April 1, was made by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

She will continue to serve in her current position of chancellor until June 30, when the diocese introduces its reorganization plan.

“Much of Anne’s excellent work over the past three years has been concerned with legal issues affecting the diocese and the management of diocesan properties, particularly in the 16-month interim when the diocese was without a bishop,” said Bishop Caggiano. “She has been an invaluable resource to parishes, ministries and the entire diocese, and we’re deeply grateful for her many contributions during a time of challenge and change. I welcome her continued leadership in this critical new position as we move forward.”

In the newly-created position, McCrory will provide legal counsel to departments, offices, parishes, and agencies of the diocese in areas of immigration, contracts, corporate governance, compliance issues, safe environments and other matters requiring legal



ANNE O. MCCRORY

expertise. She will also oversee all use of outside counsel.

Her responsibilities as chief real estate officer, a new role in the diocese, will include negotiating the sale, lease, acquisition and management of diocesan properties, which include 82 parishes and 35 schools in addition to youth centers, Catholic Charities offices, a network of senior living residences and other facilities.

The bishop said that many dioceses have created chief real estate officers to leverage property assets to support the mission and

strategic goals of the Church. The diocese currently has an inventory of empty or under-used buildings that could become new revenue sources for parishes and other ministries.

Anne McCrory was named chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport in February 2012 by Bishop William E. Lori. She succeeded Nancy Bundock Matthews of

Fairfield who held the post for 12 years before relocating to Florida. McCrory first came to the diocese as a legal consultant; she was named vice chancellor in November 2011.

Prior to becoming a member of the chancery, McCrory held a number of voluntary posts in the diocese, including service as a member of the Diocesan Finance Council, president of the Cardinal Shehan Center Board of Directors, president of St. Thomas Aquinas Home School Association and chair of its

Advisory Board.

In the past she served as managing attorney/senior attorney and counsel for the Southern Connecticut Gas Company and UIL, the parent company of United Illuminating, at its Bridgeport, Orange and New Haven offices. While with the utility, she provided counsel for corporate, finance, regulatory, environmental and health and safety projects.

She began her legal career in the environmental and corporate practices of Hunton & Williams, L.P., in its New York and Washington, D.C. offices, where she represented the utility trade group on issues relating to water and hazardous waste, and on legislative issues.

McCrory received her law degree from Boston College Law School, and attended Fordham University School of Law as a visiting student. She earned a B.A. in English from Boston College and spent a semester at the University College Dublin, Ireland, as part of the honors thesis program.

Among her many volunteer commitments has been service as board chair and director of the Executive Committee of the United Way of Coastal Fairfield

County. She and her husband, Hugh, are the parents of four children. They are members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Fairfield.

Diocesan Reorganization

Under Bishop Caggiano’s leadership, the diocese has announced two major initiatives to guide its restructuring:

Earlier this year the bishop called for the Fourth Synod of the Diocese of Bridgeport, the first in 32 years, to plan for the future. The synod, which will involve more than 400 delegates from diocesan parishes, will hold its first general session on September 19-20, at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. The year-long process will conclude in September 2015 with the synod’s final recommendations for future initiatives.

In February, the diocese asked the National Executive Service Corp (NESC) to begin a strategic analysis of the offices and programs at the Catholic Center. The review of the structure and functions of the administrative and program offices will determine how best to identify critical issues and opportunities and create an administrative structure that supports the needs of parishes and ministries. ■

Building Bridges in Faith and Charity

900 years of enduring, steadfast, faithful service

The foundations of a bridge are particularly critical because they must support the entire weight of the bridge and the traffic loads that it will carry. When we talk about "Building Bridges in Faith and Charity" we would be remiss if we did not recognize the very foundations of our bridge. Many of the critical foundations of the Bridgeport Diocese reside at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of

Clergy Retired Priests Residence in Stamford. These are the very men who supported and helped to steady our diocese through the changing tides over the years. These very special priests are the foundations of our bridge that have helped to keep our diocese sound.

We had the pleasure of sharing a meal with a number of the retired priests who reside at The Queen of Clergy. What a privilege

for us to dine and visit with the men who have served our church for generations and generations. Collectively more than 900 years of building, upholding and ministering to the people of the Bridgeport Diocese.

The priesthood is a life-long gift, and just because these men are retired it does not mean they have lost their desire to serve and minister to our diocese. On the contrary, the retired priests who reside at Queen of Clergy demonstrate how deeply they love Christ and the people of our diocese by their continued service. They are saying Masses, filling in for parish priests, doing hospital ministry and celebrating Mass in nursing homes—and they couldn't be more thrilled to carry on their vocations and share their knowledge, faith and pastoral gifts.

The Queen of Clergy Retired Priests Residence is located on the campus of St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Stamford on Strawberry Hill Avenue. Presently, 18 priests call the residence home. A home where retired priests live in community

with one another, care for each other as family, and live an everyday life of mutual support and concern for each other.

It was clear to us on our visit that the residence is exactly that, a residence, not a nursing home. A resident can come and go as he pleases. The day to day operations of the residence are overseen by Vickey Hickey, who has been the administrator since Queen of Clergy opened its doors 14 years ago. She is highly regarded and loved by all at Queen of Clergy and, over the course of the evening, she referred ever so lovingly to all of the resident priests as "my boys."

These good and holy priests are so deserving of our gratitude. We have been baptized, married, confirmed, forgiven our sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, received Holy Communion, received comfort through the Sacrament of the



Cece and Mike Donoghue tour St. Catherine Academy

2014 Appeal Chair Couple

Sick during illness. Many of these priests have helped our loved ones enter eternal life. Our priests walk the journey of our faith life with us even far into their retirement. Giving to the Annual Bishop's Appeal gives us the opportunity to say "thank you" to these men whose commitment to walking in the footsteps of Christ and shepherding and caring for his flock is their life's mission. ■

'He inspires others'

If Angelo Cocco had his way, the Annual Bishop's Appeal would be called "Christ's Appeal." For six years, he has been ABA coordinator at St. Margaret's Shrine in Bridgeport, and each year, under his leadership, his parish has exceeded its goal. They have already met their goal for this year, but "I am still raising money," Cocco said.

For Cocco, it is very important that Catholics gather in church to worship God through the Mass. Conversely, he said that it is equally important that "we practice our religion when we leave church." For him, "helping the poor is what defines us as Catholics."

A life-long Bridgeport resident, Cocco has been a parishioner at Holy Rosary and St. Raphael parishes, and now St. Margaret Shrine. Six years ago, as rector of the Shrine, Father Alphonso Picone invited Cocco to lead the ABA because Cocco impressed him "as a man of faith with a deep commitment to helping others."

Having accepted the invitation, Cocco approaches his "volunteer" role with gusto and zeal. Indeed, the success of the appeal depends on dedicated volunteers like him.

As part of his role as lay leader of the Annual Appeal, Cocco arranges for guest speakers, distributes materials, provides bulletin announcements and even takes to the pulpit himself. "The people have made it easy for me to ask, and I spell out clearly where the money goes and how much it is needed," he said. "It feeds the hungry, puts a roof over people's heads, supports youth activities at places like the Sheehan Center and supports all kinds of Christian charity in the diocese."

Because of his fund-raising success, it is helpful to analyze his approach. "First," he said, "I tell everyone to stop what they are doing and follow Jesus Christ!" He frames the appeal within the context of an invitation: "The Bishop's Appeal is the same invitation that Jesus gave to St. Peter. Our God is a living God and he hasn't stopped sending out invitations."

Ultimately, "This is a labor of love for me," he said. "I inherited this labor of love from my parents who instilled in me the importance of helping people in need. It is like a passion with me. When I speak to people, I speak from my heart."

"I thought he would be just right to run the appeal," Father Alphonso said. "He brings the whole thing together and inspires others to give." ■



APPEAL VOLUNTEER INSPIRES OTHERS: Deacon Don Foust, administrator of St. Margaret's Shrine in Bridgeport meets with parishioner Angelo Cocco, who inspires others to give to the appeal.

Ways to contribute to the 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal

PLEDGES - A gift to the Appeal may be paid through December 31, 2014.

GIFTS - Checks may be made payable to the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Please do not send cash.

CREDIT CARD - A credit card gift may be payable online or by pledge card.

ONLINE GIVING - www.2014ABA.com.

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

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

If you have questions, please email us at: 2014aba@diobpt.org or call us at: 203-416-1470. All gifts to the 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal will be acknowledged by the Diocese of Bridgeport and are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult with your tax advisor on the tax treatment of all gifts, as they may vary from individual to individual.



Give online:
www.2014ABA.com





Passing the Flame: A Homecoming and A Leavetaking

Come wish the Daughters of Charity Godspeed as they continue their mission in new ministries. Celebrate the contributions of these selfless women by attending a homecoming of Daughters of Charity who are currently or who have previously served at St. Vincent's Medical Center, its affiliates, St. Ann's School or within the Bridgeport ministry.

As the heirs to their legacy, please join us in recommitting to that spirit and legacy of compassionate care that the Daughters have embodied over their more than 100 years of service to St. Vincent's and the community.



Sunday, May 18, 12 Noon

Public Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Bridgeport.
Soup and Bread Reception in Parish Hall to follow



For more information, please contact Pastoral Care at 203-576-5110
or Deborah.Botticelli@stvincents.org



Local News

New St. Catherine Center for Special Needs

FAIRFIELD—The Diocese of Bridgeport has announced plans for the new St. Catherine Center for Special Needs to officially open in Fairfield on July 1.

The center will bring together services currently provided by the Ministry for People with Disabilities of the Office of Pastoral Services, a new Inclusive Support Program for Catholic schools, and St. Catherine's Academy, the special education school of the diocese.

The announcement was made by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D, superintendent of schools. "The center will oversee unified pastoral and educational support for individuals with disabilities and serve as a valuable resource for the diocesan community as it centralizes all related services within one organization," said

Sister Mary Grace. "Our leadership team is well positioned to move forward in their new roles." "We thank Bishop Caggiano for his support and direction as we seek to consolidate the pastoral and educational outreach to individuals with special needs and their families."

Bishop Caggiano is grateful for all of the board members and diocesan staff who have created the new vision for services. "The diocese and the Advisory Board of St. Catherine Academy spent the past year working both with consultants and internally to strategically plan for the hope-filled future of St. Catherine Academy and services to young people with disabilities," he explained. "The restructuring will bring all of our diocesan ministries pertaining to education and catechesis under one roof to support those with



LAUGHTER, LEARNING AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION go hand in hand at St. Catherine Academy in Fairfield. Their facility will be the home for the new St. Catherine Center for Special Needs.

special needs."

Charles Chiusano, chair of the board of St. Catherine Academy, said the new center will expand and coordinate overall resources.

"The establishment of the St. Catherine Center for Special Needs will mark a new beginning for people with special needs in the Diocese of Bridgeport. The

faculty and staff will have even more resources that can be used to help this very special segment of our population."

The new center will be located at St. Catherine Academy, which will continue to operate as the school for students with special needs for the diocese.

The Ministry for People with Disabilities, currently located in the Catholic Center, is responsible for the spiritual formation of individuals with disabilities and providing the bridge between these individuals, families and the greater diocesan community.

Michelle O'Mara, director of the Ministry for People with Disabilities, will transition to the new role of director of Pastoral Care and Outreach at the center. The new inclusive support program will work collaboratively

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

St. Vincent's celebrates Daughters' legacy

BRIDGEPORT—St. Vincent's Medical Center will recognize the enormous contribution of its founding order of Sisters, the Daughters of Charity, and the continuation of their legacy, with a two-day celebration for staff and the community called, "Passing the Flame: A Homecoming and A Leavetaking." All Daughters of Charity from all over the country who have previously served at St. Vincent's, at St. Ann's School or within the Bridgeport ministry are invited back to participate in the series of events which will take place on May 18 and 19.

In June of this year, the Daughters of Charity will conclude more than 110 years of remarkable service to St. Vincent's. The Daughters will continue their mission of caring for the poor and vulnerable in locations where they are more desperately needed.

More than one hundred years ago, the Daughters of Charity received a call from Father James Nihill, pastor of the nearby St. Patrick Parish in Bridgeport, to bring their mission to meet the expanding healthcare needs of the European immigrant populations who were flocking to the growing industrial city of Bridgeport.

A group of six young Sisters travelled from Emmitsburg, Md. and arrived in the city in 1905 to accept the huge responsibility for the new St. Vincent's Hospital on the site of Hawley Farm and establish their legacy of compassionate care.

"The Daughters of Charity have brought their skills and commitment to the life of St. Vincent's—and they have moved mountains with their faith as the original hospital has evolved into a sophisticated regional healthcare system that cares for people throughout every stage of their lives in ways that simply would have been unimaginable when they made their first trip to Bridgeport," said St. Vincent's President/

CEO Stuart G. Marcus, M.D.

St. Vincent's Vice President of Mission and Ethics Bill Hoey explains that St. Vincent's is seeking all those who have known the Daughters of Charity at St. Vincent's, St. Ann's or in the Bridgeport area, "to join us in celebrating these selfless women by attending the homecoming event and thanking them for their tremendous work. It will also be a chance for our staff members to wish them Godspeed and recommit to the legacy, mission and spirit the Daughters have embodied over their many years of service to patients and our community."

The celebration includes the following:

On May 18, at 12 noon, a Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick's by Father Peter F. Lenox, administrator of the Cathedral Parish in Bridgeport. The Mass is open to the general public. A soup and bread reception, which symbolizes the mission of St. Vincent de Paul and the Daughters of Charity to serve the sick, poor and vulnerable will follow in the parish hall.

On May 19, a series of events are planned at St. Vincent's. The day will begin at 9 am with the celebration of Mass by Father Thomas McKenna, the provincial director of the Daughters of Charity. Former St. Vincent's Board chair and current Daughters of Charity visitatrix, Sister Louise Gallahue, will offer closing remarks.

The Daughters will be escorted by St. Vincent's staff on a tour of the hospital and its affiliates, escorted by past and present employees. Following a lun-

cheon for the Sisters, a reception from 2-3:30 pm in the hospital's Hawley Conference Room will give St. Vincent's employees and volunteers the opportunity to greet them.

A "Passing the Flame" ceremony and reception from 5-6:30 pm for St. Vincent's administration, medical staff, boards of directors, benefactors and civic leaders will pay tribute to the achievements of the Daughters and will include a passing of the flame symbolizing their indelible mission that is being carried on by the leadership and staff of St. Vincent's.

"For more than one hundred years, the Daughters of Charity have cared for generations through their leadership and dedicated work at St. Vincent's Medical Center," said Dr. Marcus. "Despite the fact that they will no longer be here in physical presence as they are yet again heeding the call to a new, more urgent mission, their mission and legacy still inspire us every day to offer safe and compassionate care for all with special concern for the most poor and vulnerable."

(For more information, contact St. Vincent's Pastoral Care: 203.576.5110 or Deborah.Botticelli@stvincents.org.)



RECOGNIZED IN THE PAST by the white comette headdresses they wore, the Daughters of Charity displayed remarkable foresight in guiding St. Vincent's over the last century in response to rapid advances in medicine.

April 2014

Local News

Treating mental illness

DANBURY—"There is a myth that mental illness is basically untreatable," said noted psychiatrist Dr. Syd Ackerman, keynote speaker at this year's White Mass Breakfast, held March 30 in Danbury. "But if we compare outcomes for major psychiatric illness to chronic and recurrent medical illnesses, they are very similar."

Dr. Ackerman's talk followed the Annual White Mass for healthcare professionals in the diocese, celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at St. Peter Church.

Speaking to over 200 doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers at the Crowne Plaza in Danbury, Dr. Ackerman said that there have been significant advances in psychiatric care over the last few decades. The treatment of anxiety, mood disorders, depression and schizophrenia has been bolstered by evidence-based clinical trials, developments in neuroscience and genetic testing that helps predict how a patient will respond to medications.

"Twenty years ago it was difficult to treat recurrent, disabling mental illness that wreaks havoc in people's lives," he said, but today there are advances in medications and therapies that help people to live normal lives.

He noted that bipolar illness can now be managed with a mix of new anti-psychotic medications and mood stabilizers. Likewise, new medications that block "the craving for opiates in the brain" are offering hope in the treatment of substance abuse.

"Opiates have a terrible relapse rate. Even if you've withdrawn somebody, the relapse rate is 80 percent," Dr. Ackerman said, "but now we can flip those odds with the new meds if patients stay in treatment."

He said one of the great challenges continues to be getting patients to remain on their medications and to improve the quality of social supports, "which are hugely important in long-term management" of mental illness.

Dr. Ackerman said that he expects to see significant improvements in diagnosis and more effective early intervention in the coming years.

During the White Mass Breakfast, Bishop Caggiano



SIGURD H. ACKERMAN, M.D.

presented the 2014 Father Rufin Compassionate Care Award to Greenwich Hospital physician Donna E. Coletti, M.D., and to Danbury healthcare volunteers Hubert and Regina Morgan, a husband and wife team who have served as volunteers at Pope John Paul II Center for Healthcare for over 30 years.

John M. Murphy, M.D., president/CEO of Danbury Hospital, who served as master of ceremonies, praised Dr. Coletti for her work in palliative care after a distinguished career in obstetrics and gynecology. He said that Dr. Coletti, a eucharistic minister at St. Roch Parish in Greenwich, developed an interest in palliative care after her late father's illness, and that her practice has brought comfort, dignity and compassion to the dying.

Hubert and Regina Morgan were recognized for their wide range of good work at the Pope John Paul II Center, where they have worked in inventory, the gift shop and many other assignments including service as eucharistic ministers. They are the parents of four daughters, eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Bishop Caggiano praised healthcare workers for providing "healing, consolation, and strength" and asked for prayers for all those who work with the sick.

During his homily at the White Mass, the bishop said that regardless of advances in medicine, we all experience human frailty and ask the same question: "Why must people suffer?"

"Serious illness creates a spiritual earthquake in the lives of

those who suffer and those who care for them. Illness can send



FATHER RUFIN AWARD—During the White Mass Breakfast, Bishop Caggiano presented the 2014 Father Rufin Compassionate Care Award to Greenwich Hospital physician Donna E. Coletti, M.D., and to Danbury healthcare volunteers Hubert and Regina Morgan, a husband and wife team who have served as volunteers at Pope John Paul II Center for Healthcare for over 30 years. Looking on was Danbury Hospital President/CEO John M. Murphy, M.D., who hosted the meeting.

our lives out of control in a way that leaves us isolated and fearful," he said, noting that suffering is a part of the human condition.

"The Lord is closest to us in the moments of our greatest suffering. That is the meaning of Good Friday. That is why we are here in this sacred space

today," he said.

Noting that the sick "surrender themselves to healthcare workers," the bishop prayed the following blessing over those gathered: "In an age when life is cheap and not respected, may you always be a reflection of healing light in the darkness." ■

New home for Sisters

By PAT HENNESSY

Bright sunshine warmed the March afternoon as shovels bit into the earth. Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, including Reverend Mother M. Jana Zawieja, CSFN, superior general of the order, and Sister Barbara Jean Wojnicki, provincial superior, dug in with enthusiasm at the groundbreaking for their new convent at Marian Heights in Monroe. The Reverend Mother had traveled from Italy to be present at this occasion.

They were joined at the groundbreaking by a collection of dignitaries, including Monroe's First Selectman Steve Vavrek; the project's developer and contractor John Kimball; project engineer Kevin Solli; owner representative Tom Augustino; Father James Cole, convent chaplain; Msgr. John Sabia, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Monroe; Msgr. Robert Weiss, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown; and Father Paul Merry, chaplain of Pope John Paul II Center for Health Care in Danbury.

The Sisters' new home, more compact and energy-efficient, will replace the aging existing convent. Assessments and plans for the building were



PLANS FOR A NEW CONVENT for the Sisters of the Holy Family in Monroe were displayed by Sister Angela Marie Mazzeo, general counselor of the religious order, and Sister Teresa Mika, provincial treasurer. (PHOTO BY SISTER JUDE CARROLL, CSFN)

two years in the making, and it will take some time before the results of the groundbreaking become evident.

"We have to put in all new underground utilities and take out the above-ground ones," explains Solli. It will take time to install the more up to date utility system. Once that is in place, it will take about a year to complete the new convent.

"It seems like it moves at a snail's pace but once we get moving in earnest, it'll go very quickly from that point on," says Kimball.

While the former convent will be demolished, the iconic "castle" at the front of the property will remain, thanks to Kimball. Damaged through age and fire and water damage, the castle faced

nearly certain demolition. The Sisters had been unable to find a buyer, and though Monroe officials would have loved to step in, the town simply could not afford to take it over.

Kimball's proposal to Monroe's Planning and Zoning Commission would turn the castle into a family home with a residential-based business. Much of the rest of the 141-acre parcel may become an equestrian-themed community with stables, trails, and paddocks for horses. The trails could connect with Webb Mountain Park and the Webb Mountain Discovery Center, which connect to the back of the property and contain more than 640 acres. ■

World News

Pope, President Obama meet at Vatican

VATICAN CITY—Pope Francis met with President Barack Obama at the Vatican on March 27. In their 52-minute conversation, the Pontiff and the President discussed international affairs, with the Pope stressing respect for international law and the desire for negotiated solutions to conflicts.

The Vatican statement released after the visit strongly emphasized the Pope's concern for "the exercise of the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection"—an unmistakable reference to the Church's concern about the Obama administration's effort to impose mandatory contraceptive coverage in health-care programs.

The Vatican statement also mentioned that Pope Francis and President Obama spoke about immigration reform and "their common commitment to the



A LIGHTHEARTED EXCHANGE of jokes preceded more serious talk when President Obama met with Pope Francis at the Vatican.

eradication of human trafficking throughout the world."

During their first exchange, in the presence of journalists, the Pope and the President—speaking through interpreters—joked lightheartedly. President Obama proclaimed himself a "great admirer"

of the Pontiff. As he left the library of the apostolic palace, President Obama asked the Holy Father to pray for him and his family.

Vatican unveils online resources for canonizations

VATICAN CITY—At a March 31 press conference, Vatican officials outlined preparations for the canonizations of Blessed John Paul II and Blessed John XXIII.

The Vatican has set up a web site providing background on the two pontiffs and information about the canonization ceremonies. This information is available in Italian, English, Spanish, French and Polish. An application for PDAs, "Santo Subito" will provide logistical information about attending the ceremonies, using the same languages.

The press conference listed the various resources that are available online—through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google+—for those seeking more information about the canonizations. Reporters were also briefed on a project called "#2popesaints," which will use social media to help young people become acquainted with the lives of the two pontiffs.

On April 22, the postulants for the causes of the two—Msgr. Slavomir Oder for Blessed John Paul II and Father Giovangiuseppe Califano for Blessed John XXIII—will speak at a meeting with young people in the Roman basilica of St. John Lateran, at which Cardinal Agostino Vallini, the vicar of Rome, will preside. On the eve of the canonizations, churches throughout the center of Rome will remain open for a "white night of prayer," offering oppor-

tunities for confession in various languages.

Ukrainian Church leaders plead for peace

KIEV, Ukraine—Leaders of the Christian churches in Ukraine have joined in a plea to Russian leaders to "abandon the military and other... interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine."

The statement by the Ukrainian Church leaders says that Russian military intervention especially is "a threat not only to our country but to the peace and security of the entire European continent." The statement was made by the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and signed by the group's leader, Metropolitan Onufry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow patriarchate.

In a related development, Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow has responded to a plea from Metropolitan Onufry by promising to "do everything possible to persuade those in power that they cannot allow destroying peaceful people in the Ukrainian land so dear to my

heart." The Russian primate said that although the Moscow patriarchate would not take sides in a political dispute, the Orthodox Church would do everything possible to prevent military conflict.

A Catholic spring in Iceland

REYKJAVIK, Iceland—The number of Catholics in Iceland has doubled in the past decade and stands at 11,000, according to a report by Bishop Peter Burcher of Reykjavik.

The faithful are served by eight priests and 40 religious. "Most of the religious are young, and they are also very active in the catechesis and youth ministry and help to give the Catholic Church in Iceland a new impetus," said Bishop Burcher, in his most recent pastoral letter.

In his message, the prelate of the northernmost Catholic diocese in the world, said that the diocese is purchasing and building churches and wants to have "a male monastery, if possible with the Benedictines or Augustinians who in the Middle Ages possessed several monasteries in Iceland."

ST. CATHERINE FROM PAGE 6

with the center by assisting Catholic school administrators and teachers with regard to accommodations and placement of students with disabilities within the Catholic school network of the diocese. Sister Marilyn Muldoon, who has served as principal of St. Catherine Academy, has been appointed director of the Inclusive Support Program for Catholic schools.

Under the plan, Helen Burland, current president of St. Catherine Academy, has been appointed executive director of the center. She will report to the board and to the diocese through Sister Mary Grace Walsh and Damien O'Connor, director of the Office of Pastoral Services, who will be members of the board.

O'Connor says that the new center recognizes the importance of spiritual and pastoral outreach to create a comprehensive and holistic approach to people with disabilities. "I am absolutely thrilled for Michelle O'Mara and St. Catherine's. I am a parent of children with special needs, and I have worked with Michelle very closely," he said. "Her service to the diocese has been invaluable. Evangelization and outreach to those with special needs will grow exponentially under this new model."

Sister Mary Grace said that the diocese will immediately initiate a search for a director of education at St. Catherine Academy to provide for a smooth transition for all students and staff.

"I am grateful to Charles Chiusano, board chair, and all the members of the board for their cooperation with this planning process. The board will also be taking on additional governance responsibilities in the new organization and all of us owe them our thanks for their generous sharing of time, talent and treasure."

She added that a letter has been sent to parents, guardians, faculty, staff and friends of St. Catherine Academy to explain the changes and the ongoing commitment to work with people with disabilities. "These are exciting times for the diocese as we transition to the new St. Catherine Academy Center for Special Needs, and we hope you share our enthusiasm as we highlight our commitment to meeting the pastoral and educational needs of individuals with special needs under this new organization."

(St. Catherine Academy is located at 760 Tahmore Drive, Fairfield, CT 06825. For more information, call 203.540.5381 or visit www.stcatherineacademy.org.)

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World News

Land and a church have been purchased, but “now we have to find a monastic community.” The bishop recalled that it was the religious orders in Iceland in the 20th century which built the first Catholic church, the Cathedral of Christ the King. He also noted that this year marks the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s pastoral visit to Iceland and the Nordic countries. A cross commemorating the visit stands on a hill above Lake Úlfjótstvatn, near Reykjavik. Iceland’s first national flag was a white cross on a deep blue background, symbolizing its Christian heritage. The flag was first shown in Vatican City.

“The system is broken and is causing untold suffering and a terrible waste of resources, human and material,” said Cardinal O’Malley in his homily, delivered in Spanish. He had traveled to Arizona, along with several other bishops, to dramatize the immigration problem. The U.S. bishops’ conference continues to press for comprehensive immigration reform.

The bishops concelebrated Mass near the border fence, in a section that is notorious for illegal immigration. During the Eucharistic celebration, bishops administered Communion through the fence to dozens of people who had crowded on the

Cardinal O’Malley concelebrated the Mass with bishops Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, New Mexico; Eusebio Elizondo, an auxiliary of the Seattle archdiocese and chairman of the US bishops’ committee on migration; Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona; Ricardo Ramirez, retired Bishop of Las Cruces; Mark Seitz of El Paso; John Wester of Salt Lake City, and Luis Zarama, an auxiliary of Atlanta.

Al Melvin, a Catholic who is campaigning for the Republican nomination in the race to become governor of Arizona, criticized the bishops’ presence, saying that they were “irresponsible” to encourage immigrants. “They are not bringing stability to the border,” he said. “They are adding to the chaos of the border.”

Swedish megachurch leader converts to Catholicism

UPPSALA, Sweden—One of Sweden’s most prominent Protestant leaders has shocked his followers by announcing his conversion to Catholicism.

Rev. Ulf Ekman, who founded the Word of Life community in 1983, saw it grow to “mega-church” status under his leadership. Rev. Ekman served as pastor there for close to 30 years.

His website credits his ministry for constructing Scandinavia’s biggest free church building (as opposed to the state-supported Lutheran churches), which led to his ministry expanding globally and reaching countries all over Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and regions in Asia. His teachings have been recorded in books found in 60 different languages.

He told his congregation that he and his wife, Birgitta, came to recognize the truth of the Catholic faith through their prayer, study of the Scriptures and theology, and acquaintance with charismatic Catholics. He said that it was “actually Jesus Christ who led us to unite with the Catholic Church.”

British court upholds ban on Christian radio ad

LONDON, England—The second-highest English court has upheld a regulatory agency’s decision to ban a proposed radio advertisement.

The banned advertisement states, in full: “Surveys have shown that over 60 percent of active Christians consider that

Christians are being increasingly marginalized in the workplace. We are concerned to get the most accurate data to inform the public debate. We will then use this data to help make a fairer society. Please visit CCPmagazines.co.uk and report your experiences.”

Political advertising has been banned in Britain since 2003,

and the Court of Appeal, in its 2-1 decision, ruled that the ad constituted political advertising. “A fundamental feature of broadcasting regulation in the United Kingdom is that impartiality in broadcast services is maintained,” the court stated in ruling that the advertisement “was directed towards a political end.”



BISHOP GERALD KICANAS gives Communion to people on the Mexican side of the border fence during a special Mass by U.S. bishops. (CINDY CARCAMO/LOS ANGELES TIMES)

U.S. bishops celebrate Mass at Mexican border

NOGALES, Ariz.—Cardinal Sean O’Malley led a group of U.S. bishops in celebrating Mass at the Mexican border on April 1, calling attention to the suffering of immigrants.

Mexican side of the border for the Mass. They placed a wreath to honor the hundreds of people who have died seeking to enter the US. Cardinal O’Malley remarked that “the border is lined with unmarked graves of thousands who die alone and nameless.”

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High School News

Kolbe Cathedral celebrates 50th anniversary

By PAT HENNESSY

Kolbe Cathedral High School has been an educational force in the City of Bridgeport for 50 years. Kolbe High School for boys was founded with the Franciscan Friars at the helm; Cathedral Girls High School opened its

school in 1976.

That move ensured the continuance of the school for future generations. Students are drawn to Kolbe Cathedral (KCHS) from Bridgeport and the surrounding towns, attracted by the small school atmosphere, faith-based education and the opportunity to



doors under the guidance of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit.

"Kolbe High School opened its doors in 1963, followed by Cathedral Girls in 1964; hence 50 years in the 2013-2014 academic year," says Principal Jo-Anne Jakab.

Both were part of the expansion of Catholic higher education under Bishop Walter W. Curtis. Responding to a national trend, Bishop Curtis combined the two to form a coeducational high

school in a multi-cultural, urban community.

There are presently 300 students enrolled, with room to grow to 350. The school will see 84 graduate on June 5. "Fully 98-100 percent of our students go on to higher education," Jakab says with pride.

She points out that Kolbe added engineering courses six years ago, and now offers a "Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship" program. The



KOLBE CATHEDRAL AT 50—The Kolbe Cathedral Campus today (above) on the grounds of St. Augustine Cathedral and the original Kolbe High School building (left), originally the home of the Frisbee Pie Company on the East Side. In 1976 Bishop Walter Curtis merged Kolbe with Cathedral High School for girls to form Kolbe Cathedral High School, a co-educational secondary school.

school utilizes a four-by-four-block schedule, the only high school in the diocese to do so. In this format students attend four classes per day, each 80 minutes in length. Courses are semester-long; four in the fall semester and four in the spring for a total of eight credits per year.

The school's mission is to empower students with knowledge, skills and Catholic values. Kolbe takes as its motto the simple charge: "Work hard and be nice!" The motto echoes the school's intention to foster not only academic excellence but to develop Christian men and women spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically.

Under the guidance of school chaplain Father John Ringley, students participate in an annual day of retreat, Reconciliation and prayer services. The school endeavors to instill in each of its students a commitment to living out Catholic values by becoming involved in projects such as visiting and caring for the elderly, tutoring in the after school program and volunteering at local hospitals. Service in these and other areas becomes a way of life and is an integral part of students' education. In addition to their religion classes, each student at KCHS must fulfill a yearly service commitment to the community outside of school.

With this background, Kolbe produces graduates who exhibit caring for others in the spirit of Christianity; sharing of knowledge, skills and talents for the good of others; and a strength of character

that dares to make a difference by living the Gospel message.

Kolbe Cathedral High School will honor its 50th anniversary on May 4. Msgr. Frank Wissel, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Greenwich and a former principal, will celebrate an Anniversary Liturgy at 3 pm at St. Mary's. Following the Mass, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be the guest of honor at a dinner held at Gabriele's Italian Steakhouse in Greenwich.

During the anniversary celebration, Kolbe Cathedral High School will honor the Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education and Shepherds, Inc., as partners in support of its students.

The occasion will also feature "growing scholarships" during this 50th anniversary year. The school has added the Carmela DeLuca Memorial Scholarship in honor of Fred DeLuca's mother;

Fred is the owner/founder of Subway, Inc.

The John C. Kirchner Memorial Scholarship was established by his wife, Marilyn, and their children to honor his love for teaching and learning. Another strong supporter, Deacon Paul Tupper, is remembered in the Deacon Paul E. Tupper Scholarship.

The Jonathan O'Herron, Sr., Memorial Scholarship recognizes one of the first KCHS Board of Advisors members. He, J. Paul Rodriguez and Leo Van Munching, Jr., were active parishioners at St. Thomas More Parish, Darien, when they were introduced to KCHS by Msgr. Wissel, who was principal at that time.

"All three gentlemen stepped up to do much more than make a monetary contribution; they stepped up in service, providing advice, good counsel, networking opportunities and positive public relations to the greater community regarding KCHS, its mission and its successes" says Jakab.

O'Herron passed away on April 4, 2013, while still providing active service to the board. Paul Rodriguez died on November 30, 2013, having resigned from the board the previous year due to health concerns.

Under the guidance and generosity of Van Munching, the board spearheaded the purchase of the additional building that houses several classrooms, a conference room and a chapel which is known as Wissel Hall. It has provided room for growth so that the enrollment and programs at KCHS can expand. ■

XAVIER
High School

Director of Admissions *Xavier High School*

Xavier High School, a college preparatory Catholic secondary school for young men in grades 9-12, sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers and the Diocese of Norwich and located in Middletown, CT, is seeking applicants and nominations for the position of Director of Admissions. The anticipated start date is July 1, 2014.

Applications or nominations should be directed to Calvin H. Stoney, Partner, Gonser Gerber LLP, via email in PDF or MS Word format to cstoney@gonsergerber.com.

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Historic Meeting

Bishop meets with VOTF

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

There was a hush in the room as Bishop Frank J. Caggiano stepped to the podium to begin his meeting with the Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) in the community hall at the back of the Congregational Church on the Norwalk Green.

More than 150 men and women shared a sense of an extraordinary moment as the bishop and VOTF came together to discuss issues that have divided the local Church for a decade beginning with the sexual abuse crisis.

VOTF president Jamie Dance graciously welcomed Bishop Caggiano to the meeting, noting that it was “an historic occasion,” as a spirit of reconciliation and hope filled the room. In his introduction of Bishop Caggiano, Joseph O’Callaghan of Norwalk,

one of the founders of VOTF, said it felt like the 12-year exile from the diocese was over, and he thanked the bishop for meeting with the group.

“The bishop has found his lost sheep in our place of refuge,” O’Callaghan said. “Let us pray that we never again are separated from our bishop, nor he from us. We look forward to a positive future.”

The Brooklyn-born bishop, who called for “bridge building” in his installation homily in September, lived up to his words, saying that he considered VOTF members to be “brothers and sisters in faith.”

“When my own family fought across the kitchen table, my father used to remind us that “blood was thicker than water, and we know that grace is thicker than blood. We’re all bound in

grace,” he said.

With people leaning over the balcony to ask questions and a microphone planted in the middle of the floor, men and women came forward to ask the bishop a wide range of questions on issues ranging from role of women in the Church to birth control, serving the poor and the handling of the sexual abuse crisis.

Bishop Caggiano said he hoped “to begin a conversation that shares the faith, helps us get to know each other and deepens our union as baptized children of the Church.”

The bishop began his remarks noting that the meeting fell on the first anniversary of the papacy of Francis, who has been “a catalyst for renewal and has given the world a second look at what it means to be Catholic.”

The bishop told the gather-



MEETING WITH THE FAITHFUL—More than 150 men and women shared a sense of an extraordinary moment as Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) members came together to discuss sexual abuse issues in the recent meeting at the Congregational Church on Norwalk Green.

ing that while disagreements are inevitable, he did not want to see Catholics fighting each other and that the Eucharist brings healing and unity. “When we come together as Catholics, we come together as family,” he said. Describing the present as “a singular moment of grace” in the history of the local church, the bishop invited VOTF representa-

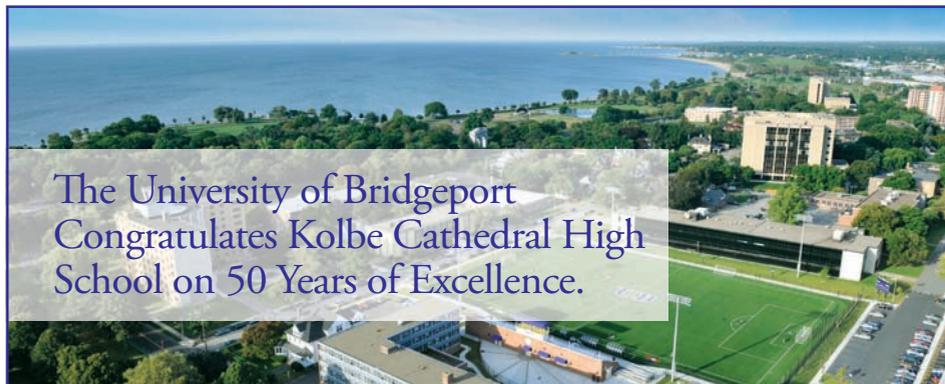
tives to be among the 440 delegates to the 4th Diocesan Synod that will gather in the coming months to plan for the future of the diocese.

“The synod won’t be top down or bottom up, but ‘us’ coming to discern about the most urgent issues facing the diocese,” he said. The bishop said he was

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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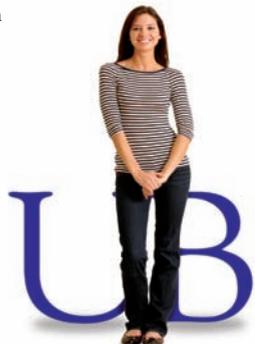


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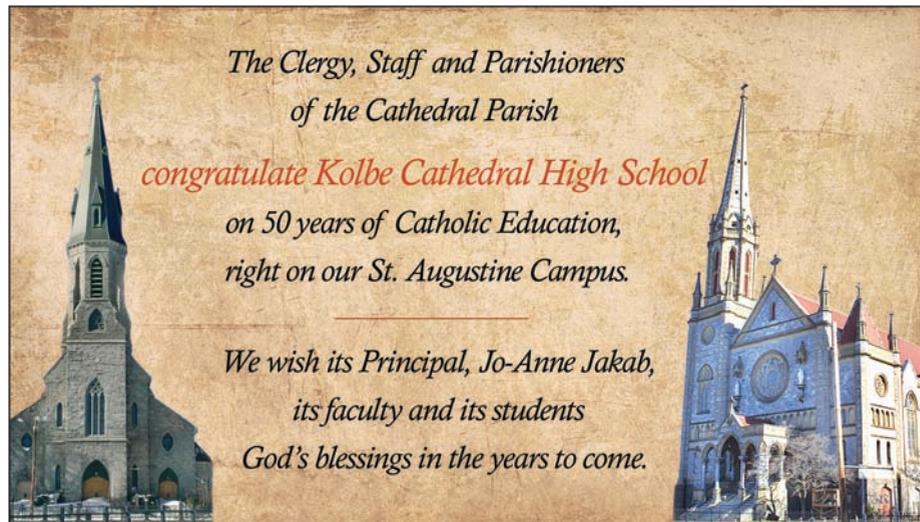
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Fairfield

Assumption students
medal at Math Olympics

FAIRFIELD—"The Math Olympics are a wonderful opportunity for our school to work with university students, enhancing the partnership that already exists with Sacred Heart University," says Gerrie Desio, principal of Assumption Catholic School.

On March 15, Assumption students were hosted by Sacred Heart's Math Club for a Math Olympics as part of a partnership between the university and Assumption that began last September.

Students from Assumption were placed into teams and competed for the gold, silver

and bronze. Math students from SHU and their professor and club advisor, Dr. Andrew Lazowski, had set up three different events: Math Bingo, a Relay Race and Tic-Tac-Toe. Each event challenged their knowledge of fractions, percentages, decimals, pemdas (orders of operation) and algebra. The students moved from classroom to classroom for each event.

The relay race had students doing a three-legged race, the dizzy bat, and an egg relay whereby at the end of each race they had to complete a math problem before their next team-

mate could advance.

"The Assumption students had so much fun and learned a lot. It is a great way for our students to not only see a college campus, but learn math in a fun way. The SHU students are great role models, and the program has benefited our students in so many ways," says Assumption math teacher, Maureen Travers. Travers coordinates the program with the SHU students and Professor Lazowski.

As part of the growing relationship between the two schools, students from Sacred Heart University visit



CHALLENGE IS FUN for students from Assumption school competing in the Math Olympics at Sacred Heart University.

Assumption School during the week to run an after-school math program for extra help and to assist gifted students who want to advance in math.

"I like the interaction with the students," says Erin Puschak, a SHU senior math major. She helps students with their homework. Erin is particularly pleased

that she works with the same students each week, and has been able to develop a nice rapport with them. She works with approximately ten students.

Ashley Bua, an SHU senior math major who is considering a future in education, enjoys the program because it is helping her learn firsthand how to teach



St. Vincent's extends its wishes for
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Local News

students. "The kids are great and we have fun too," she says.

Travers also has SHU students assist in the classroom during the day so that they receive practical teaching experience.

This particular program is one of many that complements Assumption's overall

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) program, which is coordinated by science teacher Kathy Almeida.

The STEM program begins in kindergarten and advances through eighth grade. Beginning in fifth grade, students participate in the annual Science/STEM Fair.

Each year the top four winners of the Assumption Fair advance to compete at the CT State Science and Engineering Fair (CSSE) and the CT State Invention Convention (CIC). Eighth-grade students Robert Karosy, Thomas Agonito, Shaye DeLaurentis and Diana Pires

were this year's representatives at the fair. Robert and Thomas were recipients of the prestigious Pfizer Life Science Award and the Dominion Physical Science Award respectively. Shaye and Diana received second honors.

The four seventh-grade students who will compete at

the CIC in May are: Matthew Carrara, Bryana Johnson, Claudine Salamoni and Katelyn Pond.

Assumption Catholic School was recently named a model school for the Invention Convention in the State of Connecticut.



EASTER

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EDITORIAL

Jesus triumphant

"All, who believe in me will not die. For I have conquered death. For all."

That's a reflection from high school senior George Herde, who played Jesus in the Living Stations of the Cross at St. Aloysius Parish. He caught the exact meaning of the Resurrection: that Jesus carried the burden of our sins through his suffering and death and triumphed over them. If we believe in Jesus, we will have eternal life with him in heaven.

If we don't believe? What then? What about the people who never believed in Jesus, or the ones who were raised Catholic but simply don't care enough to follow him? If God loves everyone, do we all go to heaven no matter what we believe or how we live our lives?

The short answer is that we don't know. It's in God's hands. A better answer, maybe, lies in the pain and suffering Jesus endured for our sake and the part the sins we commit today added to the weight of the cross. He carried our indifference, our petty cruelties, our self-centered attitudes, our easy forgiveness of our own failings. Each of these, the rejection of God's goodness we commit day by day, adds to the burden of the cross as Jesus staggers toward Golgotha.

And yet he triumphed. Hold close to that as we honor the glory of the Son of God on Easter Sunday.

Leading with faith

In this year's Annual Appeal video, Bishop Caggiano states that "We are living in a singular moment of grace in the life of the Church," blessed by the leadership of Pope Francis—and he has vowed to make the most of that moment here in our diocese.

In that spirit of compassion and inclusiveness, our new bishop has already moved the diocese forward and brought about change on many fronts:

With the release of a Stewardship Report including the audited statements for the years beginning in 2009 and the "Faith in the Future" funds, he has increased financial transparency and accountability.

In response to abuse issues, the bishop has revitalized the Diocesan Review Board, which advises him on allegations of child abuse, and formed a new Ministerial Misconduct Advisory Board to review cases of misconduct with adults. And, in a dramatic meeting with Voice of the Faithful members, the bishop brought new openness to issues that have divided the local Church for a decade, beginning with the sexual abuse crisis.

Recently, he announced the implementation of six-year renewable terms for all new pastors beginning in June—a policy that will create new opportunities for priests while allowing for change in parish leadership. He has also launched a reorganization study of diocesan programs to better serve our parishes.

Most importantly he has called the Fourth Diocesan Synod, a gathering of the entire diocesan family, including our young people, to plan for the future.

In his first six months, Bishop Caggiano has moved forward energetically—and some say, fearlessly—buoyed by his deep faith and his certainty in the teachings of the Church. And now he is asking us to join him in making the diocese anew. This is an invitation we can't refuse.

Catholic Healthcare

At the Annual White Mass hosted by Danbury Hospital and held recently at St. Peter Church in Danbury, Bishop Caggiano praised healthcare professionals and volunteers for bringing "healing, consolation and strength" to those who are ill. In his homily the bishop noted that while contemporary medicine works miracles, we must inevitably face suffering and death—where faith and contemporary medicine intersect at the Cross of human vulnerability.

Perhaps no one has provided a greater example of the role of Catholic healthcare than the Daughters of Charity, who will be honored in a special way next month by St. Vincent's Medical Center. For more than 110 years in Bridgeport, the Daughters have been the face of Jesus to the sick, poor and suffering. Their historic mission speaks to medicine's deepest roots in faith—three centuries before the Red Cross was founded, they cared for the sick and wounded of Europe—and their witness reminds us that reverence for life and respect for the dignity of all people must always guide health care. It is a sacred trust. ■

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Challenge of Bible Quest

NORWALK—What do building gumdrop and spaghetti towers have in common with learning Scripture and catechism? The Middle School Bible Challenge!

Hosted by St. Philip Parish and organized by Father Sudhir D'Souza, over 30 sixth, seventh and eighth-graders competed at "Bible Challenge 2014" at St. Philip's. For the second year, parish teams representing St. Mary's, St. Thomas', St. Matthew's, St. Jerome's and St. Philip's faced nine rounds of fast-paced action and some very difficult questions.

This is the second year that Father D'Souza has coordinated this event to encourage a greater sense of community, more knowledge of Scripture, and some fun for middle schoolers.

Father D'Souza has plans to bring the Bible Quest to the whole diocese and to the Catholic high schools. "If we can spend so much of our time and energy on sports and extra-curricular activities, why not do something to encourage knowledge of Scripture and make it fun," he said.

Starting off the evening, Faith Formation director Kali DiMarco introduced a game where each team had to build the tallest tower of spaghetti and gumdrops. There were some creative designs (not to mention a few eaten gumdrops).

Michael Falbo and Sabrina Hiller, leaders in the St. Philip Youth Group, were the evening's MCs. As they started off the Bible Challenge, participants were given questions on the Catholic catechism, Bible phrases, and general Church knowledge to compete for prizes donated by the Catholic



Daughters, St. Matthew Parish Chapter; Knights of Columbus, St. Matthew Council; the Society for the Propagation of Faith of the Diocese of Bridgeport; and several publishers of religious education materials including Sadlier, Pflaum and Our Sunday Visitor.

The competition was tough. The team from St. Mary's finished in first place, with St. Philip's in second, and St. Matthew's team in third. All the participants were given gifts for their hard work in preparing for the Bible Challenge.

When several kids were asked why they had studied and competed, they replied, "It's fun, there are prizes and we learned something!" ■



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

DIOCESE

REVEREND COLIN J. MCKENNA, from Sabbatical to Staff Writer, Communication Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Effective date was April 1.

PASTOR

REVEREND WILLIAM M. QUINLAN, from Administrator, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield, to Pastor, St. Gabriel Parish, Stamford. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND PETER A. CIPRIANI, from Spiritual Director, Notre Dame High School, Fairfield, to Pastor, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield. Effective date is June 30.

RESIDENT PRIEST

REVEREND IAN JEREMIAH, from Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Religious (May 1), also to Resident Priest, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield. Effective date is May 12.

Reverend Monsignor Kevin T. Royal, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy Personnel April, 2014

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Editorial



Let us magnify the Lord together

CATHOLIC BY GRACE

BY DENISE BOSSERT

Denise Bossert is a national Catholic writer and columnist.

I remember the day I discovered the joy of playing with a prism and the power generated by a magnifying glass. I was sitting on the windowsill of our fifth-grade classroom and chatting with friends. We were looking at Mrs. Grace's plants and goofing around with the magnifying glasses and prisms. I was fascinated by the rainbows appearing on our notebook paper when we held a prism just so between our fingers and thumb.

What an amazing thing, this ray of sunlight! I studied the spectrum, trying to figure out just where one color ended and another began.

A friend was playing with the magnifying glass. She was fascinated by the pinpoint of bright light that she could generate by steadily holding the magnifying glass in one position and letting the sunlight pass through the glass. As we watched and laughed at the wonders of sci-

ence, her paper began to smoke, and the little spot of bright light turned brown. The paper was on fire. There was one collective intake of breath, and then everyone was silent. We had heard about that sort of thing happening, and now we had witnessed it for ourselves.

If you've ever played with rays of sunlight, you understand how our lives can be a prism in the hand of God. Our works become a rainbow of colors for all to see. Beautiful. Drawing the eyes of others toward God, causing their souls to marvel and wonder.

Our souls can be a magnifying glass in the hand of God. We lift our hearts up, and Jesus Christ is magnified. Everyone in proximity holds his breath in wonder, in awe. Miracles happen. Lives are set ablaze.

The divine light reveals our unique gifts, like the colors in the

rainbow. The divine light reveals God himself. Power. Majesty. The consuming fire of God.

That day, on a windowsill in a fifth-grade classroom, a group of children were stunned into silence for just a moment. We had been fascinated by the rainbows. But when we realized the power of the sun, and what we could do with a little magnifying glass, we made no sound at all. This was a power too great—something too important—to misuse.

We looked at each other with big eyes and open mouths. And we quietly put the magnifying glass away in a box. We had uncovered a secret about the sun that demanded maturity, awe, respect. When we opened our science books, we now understood as children who had experienced it personally. Hands-on education. The kind of learning that sticks around long after the test and the last day of class. The kind

of learning that even the most apathetic student will abide. Yes, we will keep coming back to discover more.

And so it is in matters of faith. Let the little ones—the curious and the apathetic ones—gather around. Let them see the Son as he passes through your life, yielding the colors of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control. Watch, as he displays his power in the middle of human suffering. Or sorrow. Or death. Miracles happen right here. And everyone is stunned. They cannot help but ponder it all. And they will not forget.

It's Mrs. Grace's classroom all over again.

St. Catherine of Siena once said we will set the world ablaze if we become what we were meant to become. And what is that? A magnifying glass in the hand of God. Come, let us magnify the Lord, together. ■



Screen wars

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

On my computer screen at work, I have taped the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. Credited to Pope Leo XIII, a nineteenth-century intellectual who helped define the relationship between the Church and the modern world, the prayer was at one time recited after Mass. It fell out of favour in the sixties though, maybe because it projects a slightly militant vibe. St. Michael is a tough customer.

When I get overwhelmed, I find it useful to consult the prayer to St. Michael: "Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil . . . By the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls."

I am surrounded by screens. Everywhere I go these days, I find myself staring at a screen. On the couch, in the office, during a walk in the park, at the kitchen table, in the car, on the train—screens everywhere.

In the morning, the computer screen gets turned on even before the coffee pot. While that screen warms up, I grab the smartphone to check for overnight email. Then, a little time pouring milk and blending berries before it's back to the computer to check the day's news.

My little screen comes in handy during the short walk to the train. I can listen to a podcast or tap out a text message. I can check the weather. It's important to remember to look up while crossing the street.

The train is a great place to spend some time with a screen. In such close quarters, silence is the respect one commuter pays another. Conversation may have been the thing in days past. But now everybody just stares at their screens.

My train disembarks in Grand Central Terminal. Everywhere you turn in that place there's a screen looking at you. I have the kind of job that requires me to use a screen. You could say that staring at screens is my business.

When I'm done with the work screen, it's back on the train for another round of small screen time in silence. After dinner is done and the dishes are seen to, we sit in front of the big screen and watch an educational program. When all the kids are in bed, it's back to the computer screen for a late check of the day's emails, news, Facebook posts, and tweets.

Weekends are no better. We recently bought a device that lets me play music through loudspeakers directly from my phone screen. This thing is straight out of Star Trek. I spent a lot of time last weekend playing with the screen, searching for radio stations in Honolulu.

All these screens wouldn't concern me if they weren't such terrible time-wasters. If turning on a screen meant getting something productive done, well, that would be one thing. But behind every screen is the ever-present, always-changing, constant temptation known as the Internet. I'm not even thinking about the lurid stuff—I just mean Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Gosh, it's exhausting. And the clock is ticking. Every day spent staring at a screen is a day that could have been spent outside. Every evening spent staring at the TV is a book not read. Every weekend spent tuning in "Hawaii's Best Oldies" is a weekend I could have spent throwing a ball with my son.

I know the kids are watching. They see me with my screens. They can tell when I'm distracted because I'm reading something on the computer, or on the phone, or on the iPad. I don't want to be the guy who spends all his time responding to emails but

tells his kids to go out and play in the sun.

Will no one rid me of these meddlesome screens?

It's not all bad. I've connected with lots of people over the Internet that I could never have

"In the morning, the computer screen gets turned on even before the coffee pot"

dreamed of meeting in an earlier time. There's a lot of spiritual stuff out there, too. This year's free daily Lent reflections from Father Robert Barron have been particularly welcome.

But it's too much. The screens are taking over. Something has to be done.

Living in this modern world often feels like a battle. Temptation is present every time we turn on the computer. Which is to say: all day, every day. Things are changing so quickly, and so completely, we risk being caught in these electronic snares and being ruined by the evil spirits wandering the World Wide Web.

It's the kind of fight where you could really use a tough customer on your side. St. Michael, pray for us. ■

Local Pilgrimage of Faith

East meets West in Stamford

By JANIS PATAKY

"It is a joy for us when we are able to share the treasures of the Ukrainian Catholic Church with our friends," said Father Bodhan Danylo, rector of St. Basil College Seminary in Stamford, welcoming members from the Family Program at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Riverside.

St. Catherine's Family Program meets once a month for an hour and a half. Families attend the 9 am Mass, then meet in the parish center for a light breakfast. After breakfast, children in grades 1-5 go to respective classrooms for catechetical instruction while parents remain for adult catechesis.

This pilgrimage was arranged as part of their instructional program. Just before Lent began, Msgr. Alan Detscher, St. Catherine's pastor, led members of the Family Program on a pilgrimage to St. Basil's Seminary to celebrate an Eastern Rite Catholic Divine Liturgy. Msgr. Detscher is a former director of the diocesan office for ecumenical and inter-religious affairs. Long active in liturgical activities, he possesses priestly faculties in the Maronite Rite, another of the Church's Eastern rites.

Father Danylo welcomed them into the chapel and gave a brief history of the seminary, founded in 1939 for priests of the Byzantine-Ukrainian Catholic Church. He



SHARING DIFFERENCES: (back row, l-r) Father Bodhan Danylo, rector of St. Basil College Seminary; Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford; Father Maxim Kobasuk, OSBM, spiritual director of St. Basil's; and Msgr. Alan F. Detscher, St. Catherine's pastor. Foreground: children in St. Catherine's Family Program.

gave each visitor gifts: a card with the Icons of the new Ukrainian Martyrs and small, colorful, 7" tapestries of gold, blue and red, some depicting Mary, Mother of God and others of Christ.

Giving them a tour of the chapel, Father Danylo took time to carefully explain the meaning of the icons and mosaics. On the left side, icons show the progression and vestments from seminarian to bishop. On the right side were mosaics of prominent saints such as St. Vladimir and St. Olga.

Important in iconography is the use of color. Christ's undergarments are usually red to show his divinity. His outer mantle is blue to symbolize humanity.

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

HOLY WEEK & EASTER GUIDE

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

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

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

April 13: Palm Sunday: *Missa Aspice Domine* (Palestrina); *Passio Domini Nostri Jesu Christi secundum Matthaeum* (polyphonic turba settings by Guerrero); *O Jesu Christe* (Jacquet de Berchem); *O Domine Jesu Christe, adoro te in Cruce* (Gombert); *Vexilla Regis* (plainsong)

April 16: Tenebrae: The complete plainsong office of Matins & Lauds for Holy Thursday; *Lamentations I & II* (Tallis); *Tenebrae responsories* (Lassus); *Miserere* (Allegri)

April 17: Maundy Thursday: *Missa Nos autem gloriamur* (La Rue); *Domine, tu mihi lavas pedes?* (Cardoso); *Ubi caritas* (Durufle); *Dominus Jesus in qua nocte* (Palestrina); *Ave verum corpus* (Byrd); *Pange lingua* (Byrd)

April 18: Good Friday: *Passio Domini Nostri Jesu Christi secundum Joannem* (polyphonic turba settings by Hughes); *Ecce lignum / Crux fidelis* (Willaert); *Maria plena virtute* (Fayrfax); *Officium de Cruce* (Compere); *Salvator mundi I* (Tallis)

April 19: The Solemn Easter Vigil: *Messe solennelle* (Vierne); *Regina caeli à 8* (Victoria); *Christus resurgens* (Philips); *Dum transisset Sabbatum* (Taverner); organ music of Bach

April 20: Easter Sunday: *Missa Pascale* (La Rue); *Tulerunt Dominum meum* (de Monte); *Congratulamini mihi omnes* (Willaert); organ music of Bach and Widor



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

Confessions for Holy Week:

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

April 13: Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. (Solemn High Extraordinary Form) - Beginning with an outdoor procession

11:30 a.m.

1:15 p.m. (Spanish)

6:00 p.m. Adoration and Rosary

6:30 p.m. movie

April 16: Spy Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Ordinary Form Mass
6:45 p.m. Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form - St. Luke's Passion (in the Chapel)

8:00 p.m. The Solemn Office of Tenebrae

April 17: Holy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Solemn High Extraordinary Form Mass of the Last Supper - followed by adoration until midnight

9:00 p.m. Stripping of the Altars/
"Visit to the Seven Churches"

April 18: Good Friday

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

April 19: Holy Saturday

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

April 20: Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m. (Solemn High Extraordinary Form)
11:30 a.m.
1:15 p.m. (Spanish)

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Divine Mercy Chaplet

An offer of grace

By **JOSEPH PRONECHEN**

Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter, carries with it exceptionally powerful promises from Jesus. They are a deal no one should want to miss.

Been away from the sacraments? Have lots of sins? Don't fear. Just listen to Jesus.

Here's what St. Faustina heard Jesus say to her: "My daughter, tell the whole world about my inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of my tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins be as scarlet" (Diary 699).

Our Lord told this to St. Faustina during his appearances to her from 1931-38. The Church validates and approves these messages.

As Pope, John Paul II canonized Faustina on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 30, 2000, as the first saint of the new millennium. At the same time he proclaimed the Feast of Divine Mercy to be celebrated by the universal Church on the Second Sunday of Easter.

John Paul II himself died on April 2, 2005, right after the Vigil Mass of the Feast of Divine Mercy, and he will be canonized St. John Paul II on this Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27. That's more heavenly confirmation of the messages and promises of Jesus.

"There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy," Pope John Paul II emphasized. And Jesus wants us to approach and receive that Divine Mercy.

"I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the feast of my mercy," Jesus further said during one of 14 revelations about this feast he wanted. Everything is recorded by St. Faustina in the book called the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in my Soul*.

What a promise! So how do we obtain these promises?

To fittingly observe the Feast of Mercy, we must complete these steps:

- Celebrate the Feast on the Sunday after Easter;
- Sincerely repent of all our sins;
- Place our complete trust in Jesus;
- Go to the Sacrament of

Reconciliation, preferably before that Sunday;

- Receive Holy Communion on the day of the feast;
- Venerate the image of the Divine Mercy;
- Be merciful to others through our actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

To "venerate" a sacred image or statue simply means to perform

➤ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 22*



HOLY WEEK & EASTER GUIDE

St. James Parish

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

Rev. Thomas Lynch, Pastor

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 13

Mass Schedule - Saturday Vigil 4:30 pm
Sunday - 7:00 am, 9:15 am,
11:00 am, 12:45 pm & 6:00 pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday thru Wednesday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm - Parish Center Chapel



HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 17

8:00 am - Morning Prayer
**7:30 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper
and the washing of the feet**

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18

8:00 am - Morning Prayer
12:00-2:00 pm - Personal Way of the Cross - Chapel
3:00 pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion
5:30 pm Novena of Divine Mercy - Chapel
7:30 pm - Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 19

8:00 am - Morning Prayer
10:00 am - Blessing of Easter Food
3:00 pm Novena of Divine Mercy - Chapel
7:30 pm - The Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 20

Mass Schedule - 7:00 am, 9:15 am, 11:00 am
There will be no 12:45 or 6:00 pm Mass
3:00 pm Novena of Divine Mercy - Chapel
Novena will be recited daily at 3:00 pm in the Chapel
concluding on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27 at 3:00 pm

Join us in celebrating the Sacred Triduum

Saint Theresa

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Rev. Michael Flynn, *Parochial Vicar* Dr. Carolina Flores, *Director of Music*
Rev. Shawn W. Cutler, *Parochial Vicar*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE - 2014

PALM SUNDAY - April 13

Blessing and Palm distribution at all Masses

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30pm

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

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY - April 14, 15 & 16

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

WEDNESDAY, April 16

Tenebrae Service - 7:30pm

HOLY THURSDAY - April 17

Morning Prayer - 8:00am

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

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

GOOD FRIDAY - April 18

Morning Prayer - 8:00am

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

Mary's Way of the Cross - 7:30pm

Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence from meat

HOLY SATURDAY - April 19

Morning Prayer - 8:00am

Blessing of Easter Food - 12:00noon

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

EASTER SUNDAY - April 20

(Please note change from regular Sunday schedule)

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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Tuesday - 7:00pm-9:00pm

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

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

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



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Education News

Key educational appointments in Danbury area

BRIDGEPORT—Two veteran diocesan educators will be making a transition to new posts in July, according to Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D., superintendent of schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Immaculate High School President Kathleen Casey has been named to the newly-created position of assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport. Mary Maloney, current principal of St. Rose of Lima School, will become president of Immaculate High School. Both appointments will be effective July 1.

“We’re fortunate to have two very talented people within our school system to accept these new challenges. They are in our prayers

as they make the transition. We look forward to their leadership,” said Sister Mary Grace.

“Kathleen has provided six years of outstanding leadership at Immaculate. Her passion for mission effectiveness and her skill at strategic planning and marketing initiatives has truly transformed the school and positioned it for a positive future.”

Sister Mary Grace said Mary Maloney is well known in the Danbury area and has served on the Immaculate Advisory Board for the past four years. “Mary has served as principal of St. Rose since 2003 and has been a frequent presenter and committee member in our diocesan school community. Her leadership in the



KATHLEEN CASEY

wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy was truly exemplary.”

Kathleen Casey was appointed by Immaculate in October 2008 to fill the position created in 2004 to have a non-academic



MARY MALONEY

leader of the 400-student regional high school. She has a master’s degree in business administration in marketing and planning, and her past experiences include serving as the senior strategic

planner for General Motors from 1988 to 1996. She has also served as director for planning and special projects at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Fairfield, and as adjunct professor at the University of Indiana.

Mary Maloney taught in private schools in Tokyo and Paris before coming to St. Rose of Lima as a teacher and a principal. She obtained her bachelor’s degree from Wheeling Jesuit University in behavioral analysis in marketing management. She later earned her teacher certification from Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C. and her master’s degree and administrative credentials from Sacred Heart

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

HOLY WEEK & EASTER GUIDE

The Cathedral Parish

170 Thompson Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

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

The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, S.T.D., D.D., *Bishop of Bridgeport*

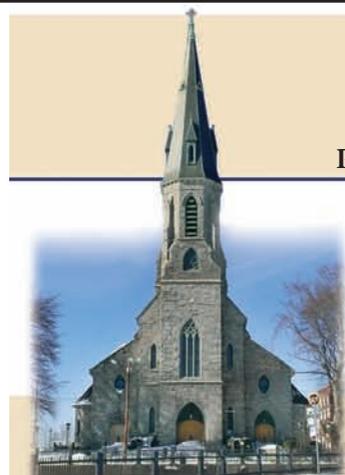
Rev. Peter F. Lenox, *Administrator*

Rev. Sean R. Kulacz, *Parochial Vicar*

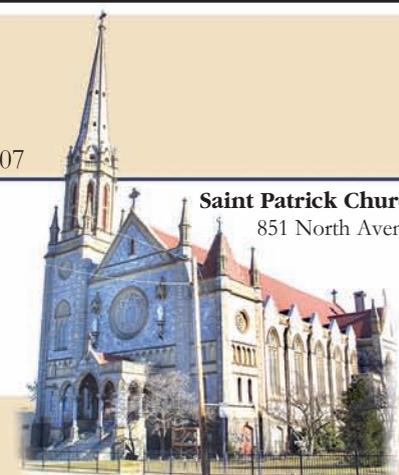
Rev. Gustavo A. Falla, and Rev. F. John Ringley, *In Residence*

Rev. Mr. William J. Bissenden, Rev. Mr. Santos Garcia, and Rev. Mr. William A. Koniers, *Deacons*

Holy Week, Easter Mass & Service Schedule



Saint Augustine Cathedral Church
399 Washington Avenue



Saint Patrick Church
851 North Avenue

Palm/Passion Sunday: April 13th

At the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine:

Confessions: Saturday, April 12th - 3:00pm to 3:45pm English
7:00pm Vietnamese

Masses: Vigil Mass: Saturday, April 12th at 4:00pm
Sunday Masses: 7:00am, 8:30am & 10:00am (*English*),
12:15pm (*Spanish*), 2:30pm (*Vietnamese*)
and 5:30pm (*English*)

Concert: 7:30pm - Dubois: “The Seven Last Words of Christ” - David F. McCaffrey, Guest Organist and the St. Cecilia Society, Choir

At the Church of St. Patrick:

Confessions: Saturday, April 12th - 2:30pm to 3:30pm

Masses: Vigil Mass: Saturday, April 12th at 4:00pm
Sunday Masses: 9:00am and 12:10pm

Tuesday, April 15th - Lenten Confession Campaign

7:00pm at the Church of St. Patrick
(*Confessions heard in English & Spanish*)

Wednesday, April 16th - Chrism Mass

10:00am at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine
The Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport,
Principal Celebrant

Holy Thursday: April 17th - Mass of the Lord’s Supper

8:00pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine
The Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport,
Principal Celebrant

Adoration of the reposed Blessed Sacrament will take place in the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine until 12:00 midnight

Good Friday: April 18th - The Passion of the Lord
Multi-lingual Stations of the Cross Procession

11:00am to 12:30pm (approximately)
Leaving the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine and arriving at the Church of St. Patrick

Liturgies of the Passion of the Lord:

3:00pm at the Church of St. Patrick (*English*)
Rev. Peter F. Lenox, Principal Celebrant

3:00pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine (*Spanish*)
Rev. Gustavo A. Falla, Celebrant

5:30pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine
(*Vietnamese*) Rev. Augustine Nguyen, Celebrant
Tenebrae - 8:00pm at the Cathedral Church
of St. Augustine, Rev. Sean R. Kulacz, Presider

Holy Saturday: April 19th - Vigil of Easter

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

Easter Vigil Mass:

8:00pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine (*English*)
The Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport,
Principal Celebrant

Elected Catechumens and Candidates from our parish will receive their sacraments from Bishop Caggiano at this Mass

Easter Sunday: April 20th -

The Resurrection of the Lord

Masses at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine:
8:00am and 10:00am (*English*), 12:15pm (*Spanish*),
2:30pm (*Vietnamese*)

Masses at the Church of St. Patrick:
9:00am and 12:10pm (*English*)

Teens Enact Living Stations

‘I have conquered death’

It was a Friday night in Lent and the high school teens from St. Aloysius Parish had something a little out of the norm from their usual Friday evening plans. The call had gone out for volunteer teens to present the Living Stations of the Cross through costumed actors, interactive meditations and music.

About 20 teens portrayed biblical figures, powerfully presented meditations and sang songs to offer further reflection for over 150 people who had come to join Christ on his journey to Calvary. New Canaan High School senior George Herde stepped up to play

Jesus and Annelise Butler, a junior at Luralton Hall, took on the role of Mary.

“It was so inspiring to watch our teens reenact the Living Stations,” says Rose Walker, a parishioner and leader of the parish’s recent Emmaus Teen Retreat. “They did such a beautiful job bringing the story to us in a simple but very profound way. George and Annie’s portrayal of Jesus and Mary was so moving and heartfelt.”

“Being asked to play Mary meant a great deal to me because Mary inspires me as a strong young woman,” says Annelise. “She said, ‘yes’ to having Jesus and raised him knowing he was born to suffer. I aspire to say ‘yes’ to God without questioning, and as I stood in her place, it gave me even more courage to do so in my own life.”

Having the chance to play Mary gave Annelise a realization of Mary’s significance, “because she was closest to Jesus, so she felt his pain most deeply as

everyone watched him suffer. She was unable to rescue him and knew she could only watch helplessly as he suffered. The sorrow she felt must have been unbearable. Can you even begin to imagine the pain she was going through?”

Participating in the Living Stations also deepened her understanding of how Jesus’ friends and followers must have felt during his Passion. “Being a part of it reminds me of what Lent is about and how our sacrifices are small in comparison to what they had to go through. I can empathize with how happy and shocked they must have been when he rose on Easter. Mary thought she had lost her child and then had him back again! The joy at seeing a loved one again after seeing him suffer and die must have been amazing! It should remind us of the joy we feel knowing he died so we may live in heaven.”

George Herde stepped away



THROUGH A COMBINATION of costumed actors, interactive meditations and music, teens from St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan offered a reflective presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross. (PHOTO BY CHRIS OTIS)

from his usual role as a member of the StAY Teen Choir and Praise Band to portray Jesus. George often writes poetry and after walking in the sandals of Jesus was inspired to compose a poem following the Stations of the Cross entitled, “My Cross to Bear.” Its closing stanzas tell the meaning of Jesus’ sacrifice and foretell the promise of the Resurrection:

*My friends,
you have laid me in a tomb.
It is dark
and my body is still,
but it has been told
that I will see you again.*

*All who believe in me
will not die.
For I have conquered death
for
all.*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER GUIDE

Church of the Holy Spirit, Stamford Holy Week 2014

APRIL 13 - PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Saturday 5:15 PM
Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

APRIL 17 - HOLY THURSDAY

7:30 PM - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration in the Chapel at the Altar of Reposition
Until 10:00 PM

APRIL 18 - GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

11:30 AM to 12:00 Noon -
Sacrament of Reconciliation
3:00 PM - Celebration of the Lord's Passion
4:30 to 5:30 PM - Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

APRIL 19 - HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT: THE EASTER VIGIL

11:30 AM to 12:00 Noon -
Sacrament of Reconciliation

8:00 PM - The Easter Vigil Mass

APRIL 20 - EASTER SUNDAY

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
Masses: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM



Saint Thomas Aquinas R.C. Church

1719 Post Road • Fairfield, Connecticut 06824
203.255.1097 • Fax: 203.256.8177

Rev. Victor T. Martin, *Pastor*

Holy Week Services

Confessions

Saturday, April 12 - 4:00-4:45pm

Passion (Palm) Sunday Masses

Saturday, April 12 - 5:00pm
Sunday, April 13 - 7:00am, 9:00am
(Family Mass), 10:30am & 12:00 noon
(Palms distributed at ALL Masses)
Evening Prayer & Exposition
of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:30pm



Confessions

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

Lenten Penance Service

Tuesday, April 15 - 7:30pm

Holy Thursday - April 17

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

Good Friday - April 18

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

Holy Saturday - April 19

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

Easter Vigil Mass

8:00pm (Fulfills Sunday obligation)

Easter Sunday Masses - April 20

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

St. Augustine Cathedral

Renovated organ set for Holy Week liturgies

By PAT HENNESSY

When Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrates the liturgies of Holy Week, the newly-restored organ at St. Augustine Cathedral will provide suitable accompaniment to these solemn and joyous occasions.

"The effort is not to make the organ louder; it's to make a magnificent blend, to make it more expressive, highly versatile, artistic, and make the cathedral organ all that it can be," says Father Peter Lenox, rector of St. Augustine Cathedral and administrator of the Cathedral Parish.

When St. Augustine Cathedral was renovated under Bishop William E. Lori in 2003, Richard Hiendlmayr funded an upgrade of the organ in honor of his deceased wife. The Alma Schenk Hiendlmayr Memorial Organ, with new pipe work, windchests and console, contributed greatly to liturgies in the renovated cathedral.

But a trained ear could recog-

nize areas that needed attention.

"When I first arrived at the cathedral in May 2012, I heard notes that were dead—not 'speaking,'—and I encountered sluggish action on some of the stops," says Father Lenox, who is himself a talented organist and a member of the American Guild of Organists.

With the encouragement and financial support of Hiendlmayr, Father Lenox began to investigate renovation possibilities. "I want to express my tremendous thanks to Mr. Hiendlmayr for his support. We couldn't have done this without his help," he says.

Father Lenox found the perfect contact in the A. Thompson-Allen Company in New Haven. In addition to maintaining and restoring Yale University's 16 pipe organs, the company provides regular service to over one hundred instruments in the tri-state area. Their restoration work has taken them to locations as far-flung as Hope, Michigan, Portland,

Maine—and Paris, France.

"Their reputation precedes them," says Father Lenox. "They've gained world renown for the quality of their craftsmanship."



MAKING A MAGNIFICENT BLEND, the new pipes in St. Augustine's organ round out the instrument's tone. Enthusiastic about the enriched sound, Father Peter Lenox, rector of St. Augustine Cathedral, inspects the organ with Nicholas Thompson-Allen, co-director and tonal director of the A. Thompson-Allen Co., which took charge of the organ's restoration. (PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

To deal with the multiple issues they encountered, the company suggested a three-phase restoration process.

Organs produce sound by driving wind through pipes. In most immediate need of attention at the cathedral was the wind pressure system, called the leathering, which controls the delivery of that air pressure to the appropriate notes.

Leathering gets its name from the earliest church organs, which used hand-operated leather bellows to provide wind to the keys. Until recently, the tanned leather in organs typically needed to be replaced every 35 years. The leathering in the cathedral organ was last replaced in 1979 and had grown stiff with age.

Phase I, completed last year, saw the old leathering replaced with leathering treated with newly-developed, chrome-based tanning agents. "It will hold for another hundred years," says Father Lenox. With the wind system restored, the cathedral's organ can now speak with valid, stable notes.

Each organ pipe produces a single pitch. Phase II, nearing completion this spring as Easter approaches, involved the replacement of certain ranks of pipes. The addition of a 32-foot pipe called a Bombarde, a powerful

reed-stop pipe with cutting brassy timbre, anchors the organ's lower tones. "It's rather substantial, and it will certainly undergird the full organ," Father Lenox observes with justifiable pride.

The final phase of reconstruction will see additional pipes to round out the organ's tones and make it more expressive.

The purpose of the extended tonal scope is to make the organ all it can be, Father Lenox explains. "The cathedral organ is a highly versatile, artistic instrument appropriate to produce music for all occasions. It can be a solo instrument or it can accompany a symphony orchestra or the full diocesan choir. It's an instrument that all the people of the diocese can appreciate and enjoy."

With Phase II completed, St. Augustine Cathedral is planning a special recital on Pentecost Sunday. A dedicatory recital with Jeremy Filsell, professor of organ at the Catholic University of America and artist in residence at Washington National Cathedral, will be held June 13, at 8 pm.

Father Lenox anticipates that these will be merely the first of many recitals, special liturgies, and ordinary Sunday Masses in the coming years. "This organ will remain a top-rated instrument for generations to come," he says. ■

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

LENT 2014



MASS SCHEDULE

VIGILS AT 4:00, 5:15 & 7:30PM (SPANISH)
SUNDAYS AT 7:00, 9:00, 10:30AM, 12:15 & 5:15PM
WEEKDAYS AT 7:00, 8:00AM, 12:05 & 5:30PM
SATURDAYS AT 8:00AM

CONFESSIONS

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

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY

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

GOOD FRIDAY

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

HOLY SATURDAY

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER AT 7:30PM

EASTER MASSES

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

REV. MSGR. FRANK C. WISSEL, PASTOR
REV. RICHARD J. GEMZA, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. JHON GOMEZ, PAROCHIAL VICAR

SAINT MARY CHURCH
A Roman Catholic Community in Greenwich, Connecticut

Synod 2014

Synod signals new direction

With his announcement of plans for a synod this fall, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has called for the convening of what will be the fourth conclave in the 61-year history of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

While not a rarity, a synod usually heralds a major new direction in a diocese and a concerted response to significant challenges within the Church and society.

"The New Year is also a hopeful time because the Lord gives us new opportunities to address the challenges we face both personally and as a diocese with confidence," Bishop Caggiano wrote in his New Year's letter, noting that the diocese faces many challenges.

"By means of the synod we will have the opportunity through prayer and study to develop a pastoral plan for the diocese. The time has come to gather as a diocesan family and meet the challenges we face in our own time. I have every confidence that the Lord will grant us the grace, knowledge, strength and courage to meet these challenges and find new, innovative and exciting ways to foster his mission and Church in the world," the bishop said.

In his letter, the bishop noted that it has been 32 years since the last diocesan synod, convened by Bishop Walter W. Curtis, second Bishop of Bridgeport, in 1981. Much has changed in the Church and the world since then.

The word "synod" is Greek, meaning "assembly" or "meeting," and it is synonymous with the Latin "concilium" meaning "council."

It is widely agreed by local Church historians that the first three synods led to significant changes in the diocese, from the establishment of priest and pastoral councils to major initiatives in education, social action and vocations.

Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan, first Bishop of Bridgeport, convened the first diocesan synod in

June 1961 to enact and promulgate legislation for the fledgling diocese's spiritual and temporal welfare. The last such gathering had been held in Hartford 75 years earlier, in 1886.

At the time of the first synod, the new diocese was only eight years old and it was experiencing the growing pains of forming new parishes and ministries, expanding vocations, and providing the sacraments consistent with canon law.

By 1958, there were over 250,000 Catholics in Fairfield County (450,000 today), served by 146 priests and 61 parishes. The new diocese had been carved out of the Archdiocese of Hartford, which had 279 parishes at the time.

What Catholics today might find most surprising about the first diocesan synod is that laity were not invited. Even as the international Church was moving toward the convening of the historic Second Vatican Council in October 1962, the Church had not yet embraced the expanded role of the laity, which would come out of the Council.

"The entire nature of the synod was clerical, having for its primary purpose the simple codification of the practices within the diocese. It was viewed merely as an internal process having little effect upon the greater community and on members of the Church other than clergy," wrote Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni in *The Catholic Church in Fairfield County, 1666-1961*.

Msgr. DiGiovanni, currently the pastor of the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford, noted that after months of preparatory work, the solemn session of the synod was held at St. Augustine Cathedral on June 14, 1961, a weekday, when most lay persons would have been busy with their families and jobs.

"So internal was the nature of the synod that the local paper did not even report on the proceedings, a remarkable fact since the press usually responded with in-depth coverage of every Catholic event or pronouncement within the county as a result of Bishop Shehan's good relations with the media," Msgr. DiGiovanni wrote.

The second and third synods

of the diocese were convened by Bishop Curtis in direct response to the Second Vatican Council, which had thrown open the doors of the Church to a new era that promulgated the role of the laity.

To implement the council teachings, Bishop Curtis convened the synods ten years apart, with the second synod held in 1970. Its theme was "The Pilgrim Church." The third synod, convened in 1980, had as its theme "The Local Church: Servant in the 80s."

"I believe that the defining moment of Bishop Curtis' ministry came through his active participation in all the sessions of the Second Vatican Council. He returned from Rome on fire with a new spirit—in retrospect, the Holy Spirit," says Msgr. Nicholas Grieco, former director of communications for the Diocese of Bridgeport and founding editor of *Fairfield County Catholic*.

"It was an uplifting experience to see our diocese so enthusiastic and united. We were now all concerned about the implementation of the conciliar decrees and the overall spirit of the council. The fruits of these synods were many and had great influence on all our ministries," says Msgr. Grieco, who participated in both synods.

In 2006, under Bishop William E. Lori, the diocese launched "Following in the Footsteps of Christ," a pastoral plan for evangelization that brought together clergy, religious and laity in prayer, collaboration, and renewed zeal for communicating the Gospel in parishes in Fairfield County.

While it was not a synod in the formal sense, the pastoral plan served as a roadmap by identifying five key areas of need: greater and more devout participation in the liturgy; increased support for family life in the diocese; more effective Christian formation for young people; enhanced adult formation; and expanded service to those in need, especially the poor, the sick, those neglected by society.

The pastoral plan led to innovations such as the Fan the Fire youth rally, the St. Augustine Medals of Service, and the highly successful Catechetical Congress. ■

VICARIATE 1

Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford
Holy Name of Jesus, Stamford
Holy Spirit, Stamford
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford
Sacred Heart, Greenwich
Sacred Heart, Stamford
Saint Agnes, Greenwich
Saint Benedict-Montserrat, Stamford
Saint Bridget, Stamford
Saint Catherine of Siena, Riverside
Saint Cecilia, Stamford
Saint Clement, Stamford
Saint Gabriel, Stamford
Saint John, Darien
Saint Leo, Stamford
Saint Mary, Greenwich
Saint Mary, Stamford
Saint Maurice, Stamford
Saint Michael, Greenwich
Saint Paul, Greenwich
Saint Roch, Greenwich
Saint Thomas More, Darien

VICARIATE 2

Assumption, Westport
Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton
Saint Aloysius, New Canaan
Saint Francis of Assisi, Weston
Saint Jerome, Norwalk
Saint Joseph, South Norwalk
Saint Ladislaus, South Norwalk
Saint Luke, Westport
Saint Mary, Norwalk
Saint Matthew, Norwalk
Saint Philip, Norwalk
Saint Thomas the Apostle, East Norwalk

VICARIATE 3

Holy Cross, Fairfield
Holy Family, Fairfield
Notre Dame, Easton
Our Lady of Assumption, Fairfield
Saint Andrew, Bridgeport
Saint Ann, Bridgeport
Saint Anthony of Padua, Fairfield
Saint Emery, Fairfield
Saint George, Bridgeport
Saint Peter, Bridgeport
Saint Pius X, Fairfield
Saint Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield
Shrine of Saint Margaret, Bridgeport
The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport

VICARIATE 4

Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport
Christ the King, Trumbull
Holy Name of Jesus, Stratford
Our Lady of Fatima, Bridgeport
Our Lady of Grace, Stratford
Our Lady of Peace, Stratford
Saint Catherine of Siena, Trumbull
Saint Charles Borromeo, Bridgeport
Saint James, Stratford
Saint Joseph, Shelton
Saint Jude, Monroe
Saint Lawrence, Shelton
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Shelton
Saint Mark, Stratford
Saint Mary, Bridgeport
Saint Michael the Archangel, Bridgeport
Saint Stephen, Trumbull
Saint Theresa, Trumbull
Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Bridgeport

VICARIATE 5

Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Danbury
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Danbury
Sacred Heart, Danbury
Sacred Heart, Georgetown
Saint Edward, New Fairfield
Saint Elizabeth Seton, Ridgefield
Saint Gregory the Great, Danbury
Saint Joseph, Brookfield
Saint Joseph, Danbury
Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, Brookfield
Saint Mary Parish, Bethel
Saint Mary, Ridgefield
Saint Patrick, Redding Ridge
Saint Peter, Danbury
St. Rose of Lima, Newtown

Education

St. James teacher to be honored at convention

STRATFORD—Colleen Simon, the seventh and eighth-grade English Language Arts teacher at St. James School in Stratford, will be one of only 11 elementary school teachers nationwide to receive the 2014 Distinguished Teacher Award from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) for educational leadership and commitment to excellence. She was selected from all diocesan/archdiocesan schools in the New England states, which comprise Region I of the NCEA.

The teachers, chosen from the more than 100,000 teachers who teach in the nation's Catholic elementary schools, will be recognized during a ceremony at the NCEA annual convention on

April 22 in Pittsburgh, Penn. The annual award honors teachers who have demonstrated a strong Catholic educational philosophy as well as exceptional ability, dedication and results.

Known at St. James as a lifelong learner, Simon was the school's writing workshop expert and a teacher-mentor for new teachers. When the school introduced the Nexus 7 Android tablet from Google last year, teachers as well as students had a steep learning curve, learning how to best use the technology to communicate subjects to their students. Simon accepted the challenge with enthusiasm.

"She even uses a hashtag to teach students," marvels James Gieryng, St. James principal. A hashtag, for the less media-savvy,

is a word or phrase prefixed with the symbol #, used to group messages for social networking services such as Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram. "Colleen brings in something they're familiar with, like the hashtag, and shows them how to use it to communicate efficiently. Kids learn to think in that class."

On a recent day, Gieryng stopped by to watch a class in action. "They were studying helping verbs—words like be, have, and do—that have no meaning on their own. The kids were so enthusiastic. Colleen has a gift for taking something that had been drab and boring and making it interesting. She really is an amazing teacher."

In keeping with the entire school system's emphasis on liv-



"SHE REPRESENTS what is best in our teachers," says Sister Mary Grace Walsh, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport, describing St. James teacher Colleen Simon. The NCEA chose Simon to receive the 2014 Distinguished Teacher Award for educational leadership and commitment to excellence.

ing out the Gospel values, Simon looks beyond the classroom, getting students involved in community service. Last summer she led a group of St. James' students on a service project to Appalachia.

"I'm happy that Colleen has been selected for this honor," says Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport. "She represents what is best in our teachers."

The NCEA convention, held this year in collaboration with the Diocese of Pittsburgh, is the largest private education association gathering in the country. It draws participants from all facets of Catholic education. This year's keynote speakers include Donald

Cardinal Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, D.C., who will discuss the New Evangelization; and Robert Marzano, PhD, cofounder and CEO of Marzano Research Laboratory in Colorado, who will explore the art and science of teaching.

"Teachers are the backbone of our Catholic educational system, providing day-to-day instruction in faith and academics for students at over 5,000 Catholic elementary schools across the nation," said Kathy Mears, executive director of the NCEA Elementary Schools Department. "The excellence that these teachers display is an inspiration to all of us who work in Catholic education." ■

"This film opens the door to the reality of heaven and the love of God."
Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D.

UNLOCK
THE MYSTERY
APRIL 16, 2014

BASED ON
THE INCREDIBLE
TRUE STORY

Heaven
is for Real

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TRISTAR PICTURES PRESENTS A ROTH FILMS / T.D. JAMES PRODUCTION
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AND THOMAS HADEN CHURCH MUSIC BY NICK GLENNE-SMITH COSTUME DESIGNER MICHAEL T. BOYD
EDITED BY JOHN WRIGHT, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER ARY GREYVAL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DEAN SEMLER, A.C.S. A.S.C.
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PG PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
THEMATIC MATERIAL INCLUDING SOME DRUG USE AND LANGUAGE
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HeavenIsForRealMovie.com

DIVINE MERCY FROM PAGE 17

some act or make some gesture of deep religious respect toward it because of the person whom it represents—in this case, our Most Merciful Savior who identifies himself as the Divine Mercy.

Jesus gave St. Faustina the image of himself as the Divine Mercy which shows red and white rays, the blood and water, coming from his Sacred Heart and which underneath him carries the words "Jesus, I Trust in You."

He gave her the new prayer, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. There are incredible graces that can be received praying it.

As for Confession, Jesus said he was waiting there. "When you go to Confession, to this fountain of my mercy, the blood and water which came forth from my heart always flows down upon your soul...Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself entirely in my mercy with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of my grace

upon your soul" (Diary, 1602).

Jesus also made clear "there must also be acts of mercy" and in fact affirmed, "I demand from you deeds of mercy which are to arise out of love for me" (Diary, 742).

Our Lord even told us how. "I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first, by deed; the second, by word; the third, by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for me" (Diary 742). Of course, they go on every day, not just that Sunday.

Don't pass up those promises of Jesus of complete forgiveness and punishment obtained on the Feast of Divine Mercy.

Trust Jesus, take him at his word, and accept his offer of Divine Mercy in the "ocean of mercy waiting for you."

(Learn more about Divine Mercy from the Marian Fathers website: TheDivineMercy.org & Marian.org.) ■

April 2014

Sports

Tournament honors Ugolyn's legacy

WILTON—The seventh annual Tyler Ugolyn Basketball Tournament, held mid-season at Our Lady Fatima School, honored Tyler Ugolyn, who graduated from Our Lady of Fatima school in 1997 and tragically died during the 9/11 terrorist attack.

"We had 48 teams from 12 schools within the diocese participate, over 500 basketball players in all" says Peter Rubsam, Our Lady of Fatima's JV coach, who ran the tournament. "We also had an All-Star game for both the boys and girls varsity teams," seventh and eighth-graders. This year, Our Lady of Fatima's new pastor, Father Reggie Norman, coached one of the boys teams.

Ugolyn went to Ridgefield High School where he became a member of the National Honor Society. He was a McDonald's High School All-American Basketball nominee, ranked as one of the top 250 seniors in the country, before deciding to attend Columbia where he was recruited to play Division I basketball.

"Not only was Tyler a great basketball player, he was a great



ALL-STAR BOYS: Andrew Hickey and Jacob Krasznai, St. Catherine of Siena, Trumbull; Jack Soucy and Jack Feeney, Our Lady of Fatima; Nick Lombardi and Brian Noone, Trinity Catholic Middle School, Stamford; Bobby Sullivan and Jack Kelly, St. Theresa, Trumbull; Zachary Hurd and Matt Pinho, All Saints, Norwalk; Adam Stone and Grant Purpura, St. Aloysius, New Canaan; Luke Finnegan, Matty Clarkin, and Max Mulquin, St. Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield; (l) Coach Terry O'Sullivan; (r) coach and pastor Father Reggie Norman. Missing from photo: Jack Scholl and Louis Guzzi of St. Thomas.

ALL-STAR GIRLS: Bridget Paulman and Julia Sendzik, St. Thomas; Lizzie Lynch, Jessica Highland, and Caroline Sweeny, Our Lady of Fatima; Sarah Jablonski and Juliana Burkem, Trinity Catholic; Gabby Joseph and Tatiana Arias, All Saints; Kalissa DeStefano, Delila DeStefano and Olivia Giovannini, St. Stephen Parish team from Trumbull and Monroe. Missing from photo, Olivia Ramos, St. Stephen; and Krista Shultz and Samantha Lubas from St. Theresa.



person and a devout Catholic," said Rubsam.

While at Columbia, his faith grew stronger and he became a co-founder of the Columbia Catholic Athletes and a Eucharistic Minister. When his knees gave out playing basketball, he formed

a basketball program for Harlem youth at the Columbia gym every Sunday morning.

Ugolyn's favorite saying came from his grandmother: "Yesterday was history; Tomorrow is a mystery; Today is a gift from God!" ■

St. Mark's JV team captures New England title



STRATFORD—The Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Team from St. Mark Parish, representing the Diocese of Bridgeport, recently took first place in the New England CYO Basketball Tournament in Providence, R.I.

In preliminary rounds, the team defeated the Diocese of Boston and the Diocese of Manchester, N.H.

The team then faced Our Lady of Mercy from the Diocese of Providence in the final round and defeated them 38-20 to win the championship.

Team members include (bottom row) Charlie Goodrich, Cape Holden, Jonathan Bushka and Michael Daloia. (Top row) coach Alan Grindrod, Donato Quattrucci, Sebastian Holt, Jared Grindrod, Mike Morrissey and coach Pat Morrissey. Missing from photo: player J.T. Baroni and coach John Baroni. ■

St. James boys repeat as New England champs!!!

STRATFORD—The St. James JV boys basketball team, representing the Diocese of Bridgeport, took home its second straight New England CYO championship, making them the school's first team to win consecutive titles. In the preliminary rounds, the team defeated St. Mary of Fall River Diocese 60-19, in the semifinal it defeated Blessed Sacrament of Hartford Diocese 51-34 and in the championship they defeated Blessed Sacrament of Boston Diocese 37-25. Team members (front row, l-r) are: Lucas Smith, Carter Courbron, Tyler Horelick and Johnathan Despeignes; (second row) Principal James Gierying, Paul Fabbri, Tom Cox, Justin Horvath, Rasheed Setal, Brian



Carrafiello, Anthony Torreso, Ej Fredericks and Shaun Spurling; (third row) assistant coach Steve

Pavlich, head coach Jay Carrafiello and assistant coach Paul Fabbri. ■

Catholic Charities

Merton Center Celebrity Breakfast is coming

BRIDGEPORT—Cindi Bigelow, president and CEO of Bigelow Tea, will be the featured speaker at the 20th Merton Center Celebrity Breakfast set for May 22 from 7:30-9 am at the Holiday Inn on Main St. in Bridgeport.

Proceeds will benefit the inner-city soup kitchen that serves over 300 breakfast and lunch meals daily to the working poor, homeless and hungry in downtown Bridgeport. It is located at 43 Madison Ave., in the former St. Joseph German Church.

"The Bigelow family is one of

the great American business success stories, not simply because they have built a terrific business but because they have also invested in their own community and in many great causes," said Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities. "We're fortunate that Bigelow Tea is a part of the Fairfield County family and that Cindi Bigelow continues to write a new chapter in her family's success through her tireless and inspiring work."

Cindi Bigelow is the third-generation president and CEO of family-owned Bigelow Tea, the

U.S. market leader of specialty teas. She holds a BS degree from Boston College, an MBA from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management and an honorary doctorate from the University of New Haven.

Socially- and community-minded, she frequently makes appearances speaking to students and industry leaders, sharing insights on business ethics and career development, and has received numerous awards for her years of community service.

In addition to feeding 300 each day, the Thomas Merton

Center for Hospitality serves as a day shelter, sponsors a food pantry providing take-home groceries for individuals and families, offers support group and case management services to help people building daily living skills and makes referrals for medical and social services that will enable guests to live more independently.

The Merton Center is open six days a week and services are available to all those who seek help.

(To make a reservation for the Celebrity Breakfast, call the Merton Center: 203.367.9036, ext. 15.) ■



CINDI BIGELOW

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VOTF FROM PAGE 11

deeply troubled by the disaffection of young people who are un-churched and the numbers of Catholics who have left the Church in the last decade.

While the mood in the meeting hall was one of respect and affection, the bishop was not spared tough questions by those who came to the microphone to



JAMIE DANCE of VOTF.

share their thoughts. A number of women came forward and asked for a larger ministerial role in the life of the Church, while noting that women preach and serve as ministers in other Christian denominations.

Bishop Caggiano said that the Church would not reverse the decision of Pope John Paul II, which ruled out ordination of women to priesthood. "Have women found their rightful place in leadership of the Church? No, we have much more work to do."

The bishop said he would like to see the laity play a more prominent role in the financial management of parishes. "What I have found is that Fairfield County is blessed with

lay leaders who are professional, well-educated experts, and they want to serve the Church," he said, foreseeing an opportunity for lay men and women to come forward. "Priests aren't roofers or financial managers," he said, noting that if the laity took over many financial and maintenance responsibilities, priests would be free to deepen their ministries.

When the bishop was asked "How do we reform Catholic culture?" he said that adults need many more opportunities to learn and grow in the faith and young people need to have a sense of being loved and valued by their parish communities.

"If we don't have the existential experience of being loved, then the Catholic family becomes external as rules and regulations. When you realize you are loved, you may better understand that God loves you, too," said the bishop, adding that evangelization takes place not in programs "but one by one."

The meeting began with a prayer which had been said every day during Vatican II. Participants concluded by praying the "Our Father" together.

The Fairfield County chapter of VOTF formally incorporated on February 28, 2003. Catholics from St. Jerome Parish in Norwalk and St. Paul Parish in Greenwich were the first to organize in the area. Its goals are to support survivors of sexual abuse by priests, to support priests of integrity, and to work for structural change in the Church in accordance with the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. ■

April 2014

Guest Column

Juvenile sentencing is not working

By JOHN SANTA

A little-known aspect of life in America today is the phenomenon of hyper incarceration that has been visited upon our society. One in 104 adult Americans is behind bars. When we add together those in jail, prison, on probation and parole, one in 33 is under correctional control. On an international comparative scale, we have 5 percent of the world population and 25 percent of the world's prisoners. Our incarceration rate per 100,000 of population is nine times that of Germany; our only close rivals out of 38 other western nations are Russia and Rwanda.

It was not always so. In the 1970s, Connecticut had about 3,000 citizens in prison. Today that number is nearly 18,000. We voters and our elected officials, with best intentions in mind, began around 1980 to march to the tune of being "tough on crime." We planned to incarcerate our way to a safe society.

Even today that still sounds like a good idea—if only on the surface. We created this reality with longer sentences, Rockefeller Drug Laws and stiffer sentences for parole violation. We built more and bigger prisons to house all these new prisoners. Even now we have not yet fully dealt with the overcrowding issues caused by our zeal to incarcerate. In what seemed like an unrelated issue (but really was not), we even closed many large mental health facilities like the Fairfield Hills Complex in Newtown.

Prisons provide an important element for a safe and orderly society. They always have and always will. Hard core, incorrigible individuals are sometimes neither worthy nor capable of living in free society. We do now and always have needed a place for them to be for the sake of law and order. However, when we get to the reality of hyper incarceration, it becomes a much more nuanced topic in need of real behavioral correction, addiction treatment and mental health care—not just confinement. So, it's not working.

Instead, we are building a large underclass of current and formerly incarcerated persons. Meanwhile, our overburdened Correction Department operates

with less than optimal results and an unacceptable level of recidivism at our great expense.

In 2011 our legislature passed the bill enabling Connecticut to join 18 other states in forming our own Sentencing Commission, of which I am a member. Our mission is to consider and review the criminal sentencing policy of Connecticut and make it as efficient and effective as it can be while always promoting and preserving public safety. Its 26 members represent a broad and diverse cross-section of knowledgeable people including, among others: judges; a victim advocate; DCF; Correction, Probation and Parole departments; Chief State's Prosecutor; Chief State's Public Defender and so on.

Meanwhile, our U.S. Supreme Court has recently rendered decisions in the cases of *Graham v. Florida* and *Miller v. Alabama* in which they held that juveniles sentenced to very long sentences (up to life without parole) must be provided with a meaningful opportunity for review of their sentence to show that they have rehabilitated themselves and are no longer a threat to society.

Logic and science meet here on this decision. Certainly juveniles are capable of heinous crimes deserving severe punishment. On the other hand, as the Supreme Court reasoned, overwhelming science and study tells us that their brains and cognitive systems are not really yet fully formed when committing these acts. It is possible and, in some cases probable, that with age and maturity they could overcome whatever forces there were that made them commit these acts.

The Sentencing Commission has proposed Raised House Bill #5221 in this year's Connecticut legislative session to bring our state into conformance with the Federal Supreme Court decisions on review of long sentences for crimes committed by juveniles. It is not only fair to them to review these sentences; it is fair to you as well. Nearly 200 Connecticut inmates fit the profile for these conditions. The costly alternative of a myriad of Habeas Corpus petitions does none of us any good. And, remember, it is only for a review. Sentence amendment is yet another issue depen-

dent solely on the petitioner's ability to prove overwhelmingly that he has been reformed to our societal standards.

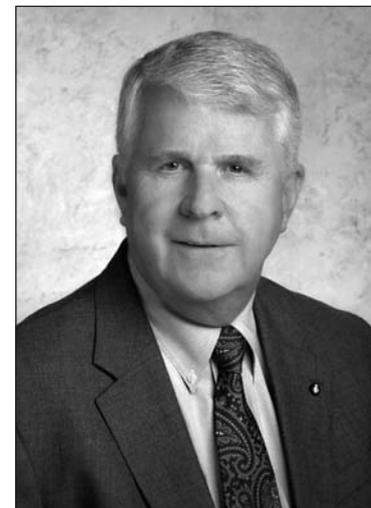
This is an important bill. Not just for the effect it might have on that finite number of former juveniles with long sentences but in a much broader sense in what it can mean for all of us and our approach to Connecticut criminal justice policy in general. U.S. Attorney General Holder and Senator Rand Paul—arguably voices representing polar opposite

aspects of our political community—have recently called for sentencing reform like this.

It is time for us to do our part. H.B. #5221 is a good place to start. Please urge your elected state Representative and Senator to do so.

Elected officials in the State of Connecticut can be found at www.state.ct.us.

(John Santa, a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Fairfield and a Knight of Malta, is chair of the Malta Criminal Justice Initiative.) ■



JOHN SANTA of Southport.

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Obituaries

Fr. Martin Hitchcock, former St. Mary's pastor

GREENWICH—Father Martin Hitchcock, former pastor of St. Mary Parish in Greenwich, died on March 12 in Hilton Head, S.C., where he resided after retiring. Father Hitchcock, who was 88, had taken early retirement in 1991 for medical reasons. He suffered from multiple sclerosis.

"He would never tell anyone he was sick, never complained," says Msgr. Frank Wissel, St. Mary's current pastor.

"He was a quiet man," Msgr. Wissel adds. "Anything he did for people—and he did a lot—nobody else knew about it."

Born in Great Barrington, Mass., in 1926, Father Hitchcock entered St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield and completed



FATHER MARTIN HITCHCOCK

his theological studies at St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Md. He was ordained by Bishop Henry J. O'Brien in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Hartford, on May 3, 1951.

When the Diocese of Bridgeport was first formed, Father Hitchcock was assigned to St. James Parish in Stratford and then St. Peter Parish in Danbury. While at St. Peter's, he served as chaplain of the Newman Club at Western CT State University (WestConn).

He was appointed assistant superintendent of schools in 1964 and became superintendent in 1967.

During that time he resided at St. Mary Parish, Bethel; St. Joseph Parish, Danbury; St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton; and Notre Dame Parish, Easton. He was also a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

In 1971 he was named pastor of St. Mary's, a position he held for over 20 years. During his time there he converted the former convent and school into a state of the art parish center, much used for parish activities. He also served on the Presbyterial Council from 1976-78.

Father Hitchcock was pleased to recall that among his altar boys were the future Msgr. Frank McGrath, pastor of St. John Parish in Darien; Msgr. Thomas Driscoll, pastor of Notre Dame Parish in Easton; Father Thomas Thorne, pastor of Assumption Parish in Westport; and the late

Father Richard Futie, former pastor of St. Mary and Sacred Heart parishes, both in Stamford.

"He went out of his way to take care of priests," says his good friend Father Joseph Saba, former pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bridgeport. "Saturday night meals with him were memorable. He taught me how to fold crepes. You couldn't eat crepes unless they were properly folded."

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Father Hitchcock on April 1 at St. Mary's. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the principal celebrant. Msgr. Wissel delivered the homily.

Burial followed in his mother's plot in St. Joseph Cemetery, Canaan, Conn. At his request, Father Hitchcock was buried in a simple Trappist coffin. ■

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OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT
APRIL 13—MAY 17

APRIL

13	Msgr. Henry M. Callahan.....	1956
14	Rev. Walter J. McCarthy.....	1968
	Rev. William J. Fletchery.....	1988
	Msgr. Edward D. Halloran.....	2001
16	Rev. Edwin F. Agonis, O.F.M.Conv.....	1998
18	Rev. John E. Hanning.....	1959
19	Rev. Philip J. O'Farrell.....	1992
20	Rev. Martin J. O'Connor.....	1988
23	Rev. Vincent P. Bodnar.....	1988
25	Msgr. William A. Nagle.....	2013
29	Rev. Joseph F. Cleary.....	1971
	Rev. Andrew Dube.....	2006
	Rev. Austin R. Saunders.....	1986

MAY

1	Rev. Gregory J. Huminski.....	2010
2	Msgr. James F. Murphy.....	1958
3	Msgr. Michael J. Carnicke, P.A.....	1980
9	Rev. John B. Fonseca.....	2002
16	Rev. Alfred J. Bietighofer.....	2002
17	Rev. Miroslav L. Sultus.....	1992

Obituaries

Sr. Joan Connelly, SSND

Sister Joan Connelly, a Catholic school educator and pastoral associate for more than 50

years, died of cancer on March 21 at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton. She was 79 years old and had been a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 58 years.

Joan Margaret Connelly was born on Aug. 7, 1934, in Providence, R.I., the first in a family of four girls. She studied at Rhode Island College of Education for one year before entering the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Baltimore in 1953, taking the religious name Sister Mary Thomas Villanova.

She professed her first vows in 1955 and her final vows in 1961.



SISTER JOAN CONNELLY

Sister Joan earned a bachelor's degree in education from Nazareth College of Rochester, a master's in American studies from St. John's University in New York and a second master's in religious studies from Providence

College in Rhode Island.

She taught at schools in New York, New Jersey and New Hampshire before coming to this diocese to teach history and religion at St. Mary School in Bethel from 1970-71.

Starting in 1978, Sister Joan began a long ministry as a pasto-

ral associate and director of adult religious education. In 2001, while still a pastoral minister, she also became co-director of the SSND Associate Program for her province. She became director of the program in 2004.

In 2013 Sister Joan moved to Villa Notre Dame in Wilton, where she continued to be active in community service to SSNDs and her neighbors. She was regularly ministering to the sick, elderly and shut-ins of St. Luke Parish in Westport in the weeks before her death.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated for Sister Joan on March 24 in the chapel at Villa Notre Dame in Wilton. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery in Bethel.

EAST MEETS WEST FROM PAGE 16

With the Mother of God, the colors are reversed. Her undergarment is blue to show that she is human, but her outer garment is red to show that she is the God-bearer. Icons are inlaid with gold to show that they depict heaven.

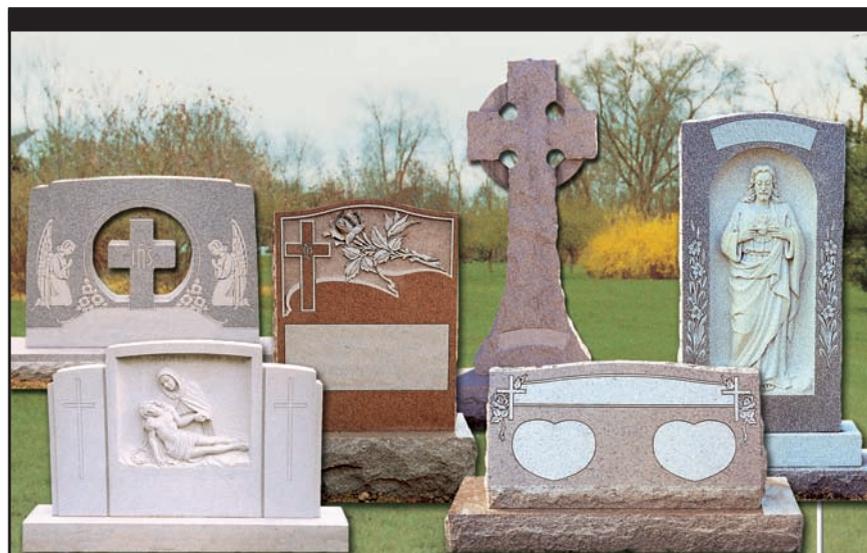
After the mini-lesson, and with many questions answered, the Icon Screen Royal Doors were opened and the Divine Liturgy began with Bishop Paul Chomnycky concelebrating with Father Danylo and Father Maxim Kobasuk, the seminary's spiritual director.

Bishop Chomnycky delivered a homily introducing the Lenten season. "Lent is like getting ready to go to a party," he told the group. "We spend 40 days getting clean, forgiving, and getting dressed for the party celebrated on Easter."

The Divine Liturgy, rich with bells, smells, and rituals, continued; and although the adults could recognize parts that correspond to the Mass, they noticed striking differences. There were more responses during the Divine Liturgy, much more incense was used, the Sign of the Cross is made using the first three fingers of the right hand (symbolizing the Trinity) and it is reverse of the Latin Sign of the Cross. The other major difference was at the time of receiving Eucharist. Using a small spoon, the priest distributed a small cube of bread soaked in wine to those receiving Communion.

After the Divine Liturgy, families were treated to a lunch of traditional Ukrainian food, which included a borscht hot soup of cabbage and beets; piroghi (like ravioli) stuffed with potato and served plain or with onions and butter; baked chicken; a medley of vegetables and a salad. For dessert there were cakes, a lemon tart, and chocolate tart.

(Janis Pataky is director of Faith Formation, St. Catherine of Siena Parish.)



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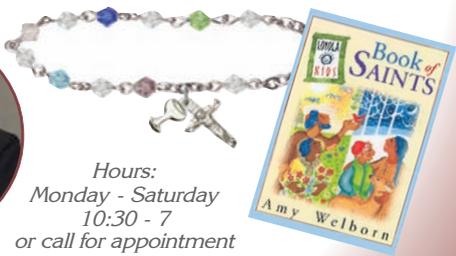
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Guest Column



Betrayal and fight for forgiveness

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

Ellen's husband was a prominent member of the community, a man so successful his name regularly appeared in newspapers and business journals, a man who was recognized for his many accomplishments. A true model of probity.

They were high school sweethearts who got married shortly after graduating from college, and throughout those early years as he struggled to make his name, she thought of themselves as partners in his career. When the kids came along, he added "fatherhood" to his resume. It was a busy life, full of accomplishment and acquisition—all the worldly goals we often pursue to the detriment of what is truly important.

But in middle age, things started to fall apart. He found a younger woman and had an

affair. He left Ellen after a painful divorce. A lifetime of joys and sorrows dissolved overnight, and Ellen had to face the world alone.

Her story is a familiar one in modern America, where marriages are considered expendable, and fidelity isn't as socially acceptable as adultery.

After the divorce, the stress was so overwhelming that she suffered a heart attack, along with chronic depression. The spiritual and emotional cost was high. She even questioned her faith and was overcome by a debilitating resentment—"hatred" would be a more appropriate word—because of what her ex-husband and "the other woman" did to her.

Ellen's story of adultery and abandonment, which in another era would have been uncommon, is too common in our era.

There's an epidemic of divorce among Baby Boomers. While the divorce rate has decreased to 40 percent for first marriages—down from the long-term 50 percent—the divorce rate for Boomers is the fastest growing and has doubled in the past two decades. For couples over age 50, one in four marriages ends in divorce.

Even though Ellen's story of emotional hardship is shared by many women and men, her story of recovery is quite different. It's one that is difficult for many of us to grasp because it involves forgiveness for a terrible betrayal. You might say she had a miracle.

After months of pain, she realized she couldn't spend the rest of her life hating, regardless of who was wrong and who was right. Sometimes being right is a small consolation.

She had to change and become a different woman, a new woman. The first thing she had to do was forgive, but she couldn't do that until she let go of her resentment and turned it over to God. Every day, she said a simple prayer. She asked Jesus—she pleaded with Jesus—to take away the anger and let her see the other woman as he did. And that's when the miracle began.

Our spiritual line of sight

changes when Jesus gives us the grace to see people as he does. It melts away resentment, it leads to compassion and it helps us forgive wrongs that are, quite simply, humanly impossible to forgive. We become more like Christ and less like ourselves when we ask to see the world and other people through his eyes.

On our own, forgiveness doesn't seem possible, especially when you've suffered the kind of betrayal Ellen did. However, Christ's love is infinite, and he can give us what we need to change our view of others, especially the people who wound us or abuse us.

I once worked with a man who certainly ranked among the most despicable people I've ever met. He talked the talk but never walked the walk when it came to values, and he was always sitting in judgment of others and looking for opportunities to advance himself at someone else's expense.

Needless to say, I began suffering from the kind of all-consuming resentment that turns you into the thing you despise the most. Even worse, my anger over this man's behavior was contagious, and many of us would meet after work to share horror stories and fuel our rancor.

My father, who was in

Alcoholic Anonymous for the last 25 years of his life, always said resentment was a leading cause of drinking, a luxury that he couldn't afford. When I'd grumble about the boss, my girlfriend or a rival, his response was always the same: "Pray for them."

"What???" I'd snarl. "How can I pray for someone I despise? I'd rather pray that he croak."

Out of desperation, I decided to try his suggestion, and when I started praying to see this person as Christ did, I had a series of revelations that changed my thinking. I learned he had many family problems. I learned he had been physically and emotionally abused as a child. I learned several other things, which shouldn't be excuses for his behavior, but which took away a lot of my hostility until eventually I felt pity for him. I wish I could say I learned to "love" him, but I'm not that good yet.

Forgiving someone you despise, someone who has wronged you, is a monumental task, and it can only be achieved with Christ's grace and guidance. Christ sees the whole picture, and when he gives you an opportunity to see things through his eyes, the results are always startling and often life-changing. ■

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Column



Freud's view: 'Lieben und Arbeiten'

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

The Church has generally been inimical towards Sigmund Freud. The reason for this is that Freud was a strident atheist, referring to religion as an "illusion." He also expressed ideas about the sexual etiology of neuroses.

But Freud, as a person, led a good life. He was an exemplary husband and father; kindly and tolerant. He lived a simple life. We have to have the greatest respect for his long, drawn-out battle with cancer. He had a long wrestling match with death as

≡ EDUCATION APPOINTMENTS FROM PAGE 18 ≡

University in Fairfield.

Maloney will work with Immaculate High School Principal Joe Carmen, and the process of selecting a new principal at St. Rose of Lima will begin immediately. Sister Mary Grace said that she will be gathering input from various constituents (pastor, parents, teachers, staff, Home School Association and School Advisory Board) on their expectations for the next leader of St. Rose School. "The announcement gives us ample time to find a principal during the spring months and will allow for a smooth transition of leadership."

The Diocese of Bridgeport sponsors 35 Catholic Schools, which educate more than 10,000 children from birth and pre-K through grade 12. About 98 percent of graduates pursue higher education, while 40 percent of elementary schools have received the National Blue Ribbon of Excellence. Standardized test results show elementary students consistently exceeding national averages in math and reading.

(For more information, go to www.catholicschoolsfairfield-county.com.)

he underwent 33 operations over the course of 16 years. He bore it with heroic equanimity: "My dear old cancer, with which I have been sharing my existence for 16 years."

Responding to a letter of condolence after Freud's death, his wife, Martha, stated: "In the end he suffered terribly, so that even those who would most like to keep him forever had to wish for his release. And yet how terribly difficult it is to have to do without him. To continue to live without so much kindness and wisdom beside us... In the 53 years of our married life not one angry word fell between us... Now my life has lost all content

and meaning."

Freud once said: "We cannot remove all suffering, but we can remove some, and we can mitigate some. We can make other people's lives a little easier and a little more enjoyable."

When someone asked Freud if he could sum up his ideas and simply state what a normal healthy person can do well, Freud simply said, "Lieben und arbeiten" (to love and to work). That is very profound.

Freud saw that the greatest expression of a human being's psychological health is his/her capacity to form and sustain loving relationships. To be able to love well is the crowning achievement of maturity. Freud thought this kind of maturity was in short supply. Truly mature people were difficult to find.

Possibly a reason for this is that love feeds on sacrifice, involves self-forgetting, finding oneself by losing oneself, and probably none of us can claim a perfect record in love. We all fail and betray. All love knows repentance for inadequacy.

Love, if it is any good, tends

to get better with age. Our capacity for loving mellows and ripens with age. But there is the pessimistic saying of the Japanese spiritual writer, Augustine Okumura: "Life slips away from many people without their ever attaining a deep union of heart" (Awakening to Prayer, p.82).

When you love, you do not tabulate. You love without counting the cost, without keeping a record. The Muslim Sufi, Rumi, said: "Don't worry if you don't have wealth and possessions. Worry if you don't have the troubles of love." Love is a purging process, a self-emptying process. Love transforms us. I have a sense that Freud recognized all this. He definitely would agree with the statement by A.E. Brooke that: "Life is a chance of learning how to love."

Ecclesiastes 3:13: "It is God's gift to a man if he takes pleasure in all his toil."

What a rich blessing it is to feel that one is doing what one is supposed to be doing, what one was made to do, work that is ours and no one else's, and work that serves the needs of others. The

Protestant reformer John Calvin wrote about the rich blessing of being persuaded that one's work was "the burden laid upon him by God" (Institutes).

Freud pointed out that it takes maturity and discipline to work well. To do sustained work that has an element of drudgery is a major mark of a mature person. Freud thought that faithful hard work, slow unalterable persistence, eventually yields the harvest. Excellence takes time. When it was pointed out to Ignatz Jan Paderewski, the great Polish pianist, that he was a genius, his response was "Yes, and before that I was a drudge."

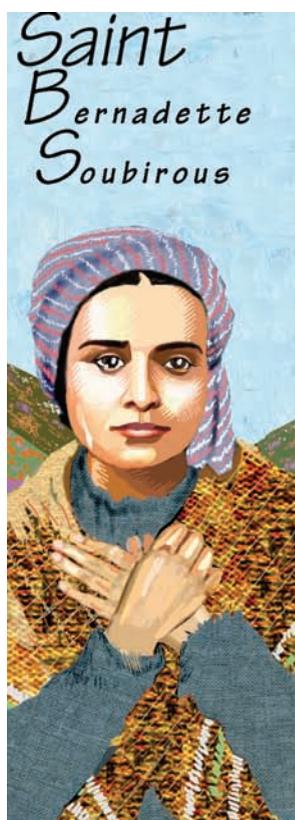
A recent survey concluded that half of all working Americans don't like their jobs.

There are so many people who seem to have listened to the wrong voice, or as Freud would say, weren't disciplined or mature enough, and are now engaged in work in which they find no pleasure or purpose.

"I don't believe in happiness, but I do believe that you're lucky if you find your work in life" (author Frank McCourt).

SAINTLY LIVES

BY ED WALDRON



b. 1844 ~ d. 1879

BERNADETTE WAS THE FIRST OF NINE CHILDREN BORN INTO A POVERTY-STRICKEN FAMILY IN THE TOWN OF LOURDES IN SOUTHERN FRANCE. AT THE AGE OF 14, WHILE COLLECTING WOOD WITH HER SISTER AND A FRIEND, AN APPARITION OF THE BLESSED MOTHER APPEARED TO HER AT THE ROCK OF MASSABIELLE. BERNADETTE NERVOUSLY BEGAN RECITING THE ROSARY, THE APPARITION REMAINED SILENT WHILE BERNADETTE PRAYED, BUT RECITED THE GLORIA WITH HER AT THE END OF EACH DECADE. THIS WAS THE FIRST OF EIGHTEEN VISIONS THAT SHE ENCOUNTERED WHICH SPANNED FROM FEBRUARY 11 TO JULY 16 IN 1958.



DURING THE SECOND APPEARANCE, BERNADETTE THREW HOLY WATER IN THE DIRECTION OF THE APPARITION TO BE SURE THAT THE WOMAN WAS NOT AN EVIL SPIRIT. THE APPARITION SMILED AND BOWED. IT WAS DURING THE THIRD APPEARANCE THAT MARY FIRST SPOKE TO HER. SHE TOLD BERNADETTE, "I DO NOT PROMISE TO MAKE YOU HAPPY IN THIS LIFE, BUT IN THE NEXT."



DURING THE NINTH APPEARANCE, BERNADETTE KISSED THE MUD AND SMEARED IT ON HER FACE AS AN ACT OF PENANCE AT THE WOMAN'S REQUEST. THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE MUD PUDDLE FLOWED WITH CLEAR WATER. BERNADETTE DIDN'T ASK THE APPARITION WHO SHE WAS UNTIL THE 16TH APPEARANCE. THE WOMAN RESPONDED, "I AM THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION." AT THE TIME, BERNADETTE WAS OBLIVIOUS TO THIS TITLE AND WHAT IT MEANT.



THE BLESSED MOTHER HAD TAUGHT BERNADETTE TO SAY A PARTICULAR PRAYER. BERNADETTE RECITED THE PRAYER FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE, BUT NEVER RECORDED OR SHARED IT WITH ANYONE.



Bits & Pieces

ADULT FORMATION: the study of the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* is held Fri. mornings at 10:30 am, at the Catholic Center, Bridgeport. For more info, contact Gina Donnarummo: gdonnarummo@diobpt.org or 203.416.1446.

"THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST, A Sacred Cantata" by Theodore Dubois will be performed by the St. Cecilia Society Choir at St.

Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport on Sun., **April 13**, at 7:30 pm. For more info, call 203.368.6777.

PARISH MISSION: "Dare to be Holy!" will be held at Our Lady of Grace Parish Stratford, starting Sun., **April 13**, ending Wed., **April 16**, at 7 pm. Mon., **Apr. 14**-Wed., **Apr. 16**, at 9:30 am. For more info, call the parish: 203.377.0928.

"REQUIEM" by John Rutter featuring choir, harp, oboe, organ

and cello will be performed at St. Joseph Parish, Danbury on Sun., **April 13**, at 2 pm. For more info call 203.748.8177.

LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES featuring Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will take place at St. Pius X Parish, Fairfield on Tues., **April 15**, at 7:30 pm. For more info, call 203.255.6134

TENEBRAE SERVICE with the complete Office of Matins & Lauds for Holy Thursday with music by St. Mary's Schola Cantorum, will be held Wed., **April 16**, at 8 pm at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk. For more info, call 203.866.5546.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be presented in a creative way by the Mystery Players of Immaculate Heart Central High School in Watertown, NY, at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, on Wed., **April 16**, at 8 pm. Free of charge. For more info, go to www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players or call the parish: 203.426.1014.

MASSES OF HEALING AND HOPE sponsored by the Charismatic Renewal Office will be offered Wed., **April 16**, at 7 pm at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, with Fr. George Sankoorikal; Mon., **May 12**, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Fr. Larry Carew; and Mon., **May 19**, at 7:30 pm at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, with Fr. Mirek Stachurski. For more info, call 203.268.8253.

TENEBRAE SERVICE will be held at St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, on Wed., **April 16**, at 7:30 pm. For more info, call 203.261.3676.

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be performed by the St. Luke Parish, Westport,

Youth Group on Good Friday, **April 18**, at 7:30 pm. For more info, call 203.227.7245.

TELEVISED EASTER MASS will be offered by Passionist Communications on the following stations: Sat., **April 19**, Vigil Mass, THE NET (formerly The Prayer Channel) Time Warner, Channel 97; Cablevision, Channel 30, at 6 pm. Easter Sunday, **April 20**: WNYW, Channel 5, 5:30 am; ABC Family, 5:30 am; WLNY, Channel 10/55, 9 am; and Salt and Light TV, 12:30 pm and 3 pm. For more info, call 914.738.3344.

STROKE SYMPOSIUM and health screening will take place Wed., **April 23**, at St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport. The public program will take place from 10 am-12 noon, followed by a free health screening. Lunch and refreshments provided. The professional program will take place from 5:30-7:30 pm and will include a dinner buffet. Seating is limited. For the professional program, call the Department of Medicine: 203.576.5440. For the public program, register at 877.255.SVHS (7847).

PRESENTATION OF LES MISERABLES by performers at Immaculate High School, Danbury, will take place Thurs.-Sat., **April 24-26**, at the school. Evening shows: 7 pm.; Sat. matinee, **April 26**, at 1:30 pm. Tickets are available at www.immaculatehs.org: \$20 for reserved seats; \$15 for general admission; and \$12 for seniors and students. Matinee tickets are \$10 adults; \$5 seniors and students. For more info, call Immaculate: 203.744.1510, ext. 132.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS are held around the diocese: Thurs.,

April 24, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel at 7:30 pm; Mon., **May 5**, at St. James Parish, Stratford at 7 pm; Mon., **May 5**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, at 7:30 pm; and Thurs., **May 15**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel at 7:30 pm. For more info, contact Jeanette at jkovacs@snet.net.

MUSIC RECITAL will be held on Fri., **April 25**, at 7:30 pm at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk. For more info, call 203.866.5546.

DIVINE MERCY feast and celebration will be observed Sun., **April 27**, at St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, beginning at 3 pm with the great hour of Divine Mercy. There is no Mass celebrated during this afternoon devotion. For more info, call the parish: 203.261.3676.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION before the Blessed Sacrament will be held the first Fri. of every month (**May 2**), at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish from 8 pm-12 midnight, beginning with Benediction. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. For more info, call the parish: 203.324.2910.

FIRST FRIDAY LECTURE at St. Luke Parish, Westport, on Fri., **May 2**, at 8 pm will feature Dr. Frederick Simmons of Yale Divinity School who will discuss "Christian Ethics of War and Peace." Wine and cheese reception at 7:30 pm. No charge; all are welcome. For more info, call 203.227.7245.

WINE TASTING to benefit Immaculate High School's Fine Arts Department will be held at the Tarrywile Mansion, 70 Southern Boulevard, Danbury, on Sat., **May 3**, at 7 pm. Wines provided by Central Package of Bethel. Reservations may be made online at www.immaculatehs.org.



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Cost: \$35/person; \$60/couple by Mon., **April 28**. After April 28, tickets are \$40/ person; \$70/couple. For more info, contact Julie Sorcek: 203.744.1510, ext. 317, or jsorcek@immaculatehs.org.

PARISH NURSE HEALTH FAIR will take place Sat., **May 3**, from 11 am-4 pm at St. Ann Parish, Bridgeport. Nutrition, car seat safety, fire safety, exercise, advanced directives, medication safety, and more. Refreshments provided by Collins Medical Equipment. For more info, visit www.StAnnBlackRock.com or call 203.368.1607.

GOLF OUTING, part of the 50th anniversary of St. Michael's Parish, Greenwich, will take place Wed., **May 14**, at the Griffith E. Harris Golf Course, Greenwich. 12 noon-12:45 pm registration & lunch; 1 pm Shotgun Start. Cocktails and appetizers, 6 pm. Prizes include a 2014 Jaguar! Fees: \$165/person; \$625/foursome. Registration deadline, Sun., **May 4**. For more info and to register, contact Michael Ambrosino: brooklynoil@yahoo.com or

203.629.1897.

SHARE adult education will offer "Mary, the Perfect Disciple" with Fr. Don Guglielmi on four Wednesdays starting Wed., **May 7**, from 7-9 pm at Notre Dame HS, Fairfield. Cost: \$140. For more info, contact Gina M. Donnarummo gdonnarummo@diobpt.org or 203.416.1446, or visit www.officeforpastoralservices.com.

HAIRSPRAY, Notre Dame's spring musical, will take place on Fri., **May 9**, at 8 pm and Sat., **May 10**, at 2 pm and 8 pm at the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts at Sacred Heart University. Ticket: \$15 adults; \$10 seniors, students and children. For more info and for tickets, call 203.372.6521.

GOSPEL OF LIFE SOCIETY meets the second Sat. of the month (**May 10**), at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, at 10 am after the 9 am Pro-Life Mass. For more info, contact Eileen Bianchini: 203.847.5727 or stmarygols@aol.com.

"ENCOUNTERING THE WORD MADE FLESH," a one-day retreat for anyone involved in

lay ministry (lectors, eucharistic ministers, ushers, youth leaders, catechists, choir members), will be held at St. Ann Parish, Bridgeport, on Sat., **May 10**, from 10 am-4 pm. Cost: \$45; includes lunch, Confession and Mass. For more info or to register, call the parish: 203.368.1607 or go to www.StAnnBlackRock.com

MOMs + DADs Prayer/Support Group: The Mother of Mercy Spiritual Divine Advocate for Down Syndrome Group, which started on April 12, will continue every second Sat. of the month (**May 10**), after the 9 am Pro-Life Mass at St. Mary's parish center in Norwalk. All are welcome. For more info, call Andee: 302.388.7996.

WOMEN'S GROUP at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, will meet Mon., **May 12**, at 10 am in the parish hall. Featured speaker will be historian Art Gottlieb, speaking on the Statue of Liberty. All are invited. For more info, call Pat: 203.261.8020.

MAY CROWNING by the Ladies Guild of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Stratford, will take place Wed., **May 14**, at 7 pm in the church. An open house will follow. All are welcome. For more info, call 203.375.5815.

TAG SALE will be held at St. Mary Parish, Stamford, on Sat., **May 17**, from 9 am-4 pm. Vendors welcome. For more info, contact Sharon MacKnight: smacknight@optonline.com or 203.327.1806.

SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE to the Holy Land and Italy will take place **July 14-25, 2014**, with Fr. Marcel Saint-Jean. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles in Israel, then travel to Rome and attend the Wednesday Audience with the Holy Father, Pope Francis. Price: \$3,980 includes round trip airfare from New York, taxes, hotels, breakfast and dinner daily. For more info or to make a reservation, contact Fr. Marcel: 203.434.7208 (cell) or ucsmarcel@aol.com.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Tlaxcala and Puebla with Fr. Greg Markey will take place **May 26-31**. Package includes air from New York/JFK, five nights hotel in Mexico City and Puebla, meals and professional local tour guide. Cost: \$1,999. For more info and for reservations call St. Mary Parish, Norwalk: 203.866.5546. ■



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