



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 2014 | VOLUME 31, NUMBER 1 | CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ISSUE

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

(PHOTO BY LIZ TAMARKIN)

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Preparing for a Synod

Calling the diocese to “new beginnings”

Each New Year, we find our hearts are filled with gratitude and hope. When we reflect upon the events that marked the year that just ended, we cannot help but give thanks to the Lord for all the blessings, graces and joys that He has given us and our families. For myself, I am deeply grateful to the Lord Jesus for His merciful love and His deep and abiding presence in our lives.

I am also grateful to all of you for your kindness and gracious welcome as I began my ministry as your shepherd. It has been an exciting and challenging three months for me, learning as much as I can about our diverse and complex diocese while at the same time striving to open my heart to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. For if each of us learns to discern and follow the will of God, our lives will know peace and our work will bear great fruit.

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. Some of those challenges are not new: Too many young people no longer find a spiritual home in our Church. Far too many baptized Catholics have become indifferent to their faith and see no need to worship with us on Sundays. Many families are hurting and seek healing.

Many Catholics long to learn more about their faith and do not know where to turn. Too many of our sisters and brothers know much about the Lord Jesus but do not know him personally as Lord and Savior. What they seek is a personal encounter with



Christ, but often they do not know that they can best find Him in the community of the Church.

Likewise, modern communication has created great opportunities and risks in our lives. While social media has given us unprecedented access to friends and family around the world, its unbridled use can also create great isolation, loneliness, and detachment, especially among young people whose lives are being radically transformed by the very technology that was meant to help them.

Finally, the diocese and many of its institutions face growing financial challenges. As a result, we must tailor our programs to meet the needs of our mission and ministry—a task that is not easy and always causes fear and anxieties.

It is, indeed, a long list of challenges. However, we must not fear! 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.

However, in order to move forward, leaders on every level of the Church's life must work together in a true spirit of dialogue and collaboration. Clergy, religious and laity must discern together the pressing issues that we face. We must prayerfully seek to understand what each of these challenges mean, identify creative ways by which we can address them and seek the courage to do what the Lord will ask of us. It is a task for which I now ask your help and support.

More specifically, it is my plan to convoke the Fourth Synod of the Diocese of Bridgeport to begin in the fall of 2014, so that all God's people in Fairfield County can seek the Lord's grace to foster the long-term spiritual and pastoral renewal of our diocese. Historically the Synod process convenes “the Christian faithful of a particular church who offer assistance to the diocesan bishop for the good of the whole diocesan community” (canon 460).

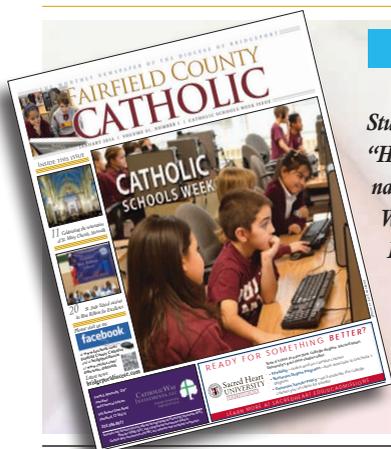
By means of the Synod, we will have the opportunity through prayer and study to develop a pastoral plan for the diocese. The last such Synod was held in 1981, and much has changed in the 32 years since. For this reason, I believe that the time has come to gather as a diocesan family and

work together to meet the challenges we face in our own time.

In the weeks ahead, you will receive much more information regarding the nature, work and structure of the Synod. For now, because of its importance as the start of a new chapter in the life of our diocese, I ask that you pray each day that our Lord will guide all who will organize and prepare for its start. May the Synod bear great fruit to the honor and glory of our Lord and deepen our love and service of one another.

Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and your family. May this New Year bring blessings, renewal and hope to all.

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport



ON THE COVER

CRACKING THE CODE!—
Students at St. Theresa participate in the “Hour of Code” program as part of the recent nationwide Computer Science Education Week. The program is designed to inspire K-12 students to take an interest in computer science. More than 2,000 students in the diocese participated and enjoyed the opportunity to learn computer coding.
(Photos by Liz Tamarkin)

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Local News

Meet new ABA chair couple

By PAT HENNESSY

"If you take a tour of the diocese—help make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at St. Catherine Academy, volunteer at the Merton Center, drop in at the Shehan Center—you'll see how the money from the Bishop's Appeal is being spent, and spent wisely," says Cece Donoghue, lay co-chair with her husband, Mike, of the 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal.

"We are thrilled that Cece and Mike Donoghue have agreed to serve as our chair couple this year," says Chief Development Officer William McLean, Jr.

"We deeply appreciate their willingness to take an important leadership role, which will help assure that the Annual Bishop's Appeal is a success."

The Donoghues, members of St. John Parish in Darien and the parents of five children, can point to a family history of faith. Cece's brother is a Jesuit priest, and she grew up having two uncles who are priests. Mike enjoyed a strong Catholic school background

before attending Dartmouth College and getting his MBA from Harvard.

Their three older children all chose to attend Jesuit universities. Two younger ones still live at home.

Both come from large families. Cece grew up in Pittsburgh, the sixth of seven kids. Mike comes from Worcester, MA, where he was the second in a family of five children. They met in Manhattan, where both had come for work.

Working as an executive search consultant, Cece called Morgan Stanley with a business question. "Mike picked up," she recalls. "We discovered we had the same last name, with the same traditional Irish spelling, and agreed we should meet for lunch on a blind date."

Mike picks up the tale: "Our first real date was on St. Patrick's Day. Three years later, on St. Patrick's Day, we got married."

"I'm a Donoghue who's married to a Donoghue," Cece says with a laugh.

Mike is currently president and partner of Phoenix Investment

Adviser, LLC in Manhattan.

From the start, the couple was active in their local parish wherever they lived. They have served as catechists, and Cece was a member of the parish council. The activities of five growing children, though, limited their involvement.

"At some point, we felt that our faith needed something more," Cece recalls. The couple responded to a suggestion from friends that they consider joining the Order of Malta.

Their own guided tour of the diocese, taken as part of the Malta year of preparation, was a revelation. "It opened our eyes about what the diocese actually does, particularly for the less fortunate."

"A tour like this brings you out of the focus on your own parish," says Cece. "So many people think the diocese ends at the last step of their parish church."

Of all the ministries they experienced, the students at St. Catherine Academy in Fairfield,

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



2014 CHAIR COUPLE Cece and Mike Donoghue of Darien have agreed to serve as chair couple of the 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal, set to begin in February. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

Area Catholics respond to the Holy Father's Questionnaire on family

BRIDGEPORT—A total of 316 Catholics throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport filled out the recent questionnaire in response to the request by Pope Francis for widespread lay input on the pastoral care of families within the context of evangelization.

The full questionnaire was posted on the diocesan website from November 15 through December 11. Versions were offered in English and Spanish. The Diocese of Bridgeport was one of the first dioceses in the country to place the survey online.

Damien O'Connor, senior director of Pastoral Services for the Diocese of Bridgeport, said that an executive summary, along with a compilation of individual responses, was sent to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), which will

then submit a national profile to the Vatican.

"It was a very challenging survey that made reference to many Church documents, and we really appreciate those who took the time to respond to the questionnaire," said O'Connor. "The Holy Father has sought support from the laity, as their input is an extremely important part of this process in addition to those whose ministry involves evangelization of the family."

O'Connor said that most of the responses were enlightening, heartfelt and constructive, while some participants took it as an opportunity to vent about a particular issue of concern to them.

"One thing that came across in all of the responses is that people are very passionate about their beliefs and about the teachings of the Church,"

O'Connor said.

"What also jumps off the pages is that many people are really hurting, and they're desperately looking to be welcomed by the Church. They don't always feel welcome, particularly if they've been through a divorce or are dealing with other issues."

He said that Bishop Caggiano read individual responses before preparing his summary and was very moved by people's concerns.

The questionnaire was developed as part of the preparations for the 2014 Extraordinary Synod of Bishops that will explore pastoral challenges to the family in light of contemporary life and



significant changes in our culture (such as the increase in cohabitation, use of birth control, and same sex attraction.)

O'Connor said that when people learned about the survey in media reports, they were excited about the opportunity, but found the questions somewhat daunting

when they began to fill it out.

"The questionnaire was not a public opinion survey or poll on contemporary issues, but a serious consultation document based on Church tradition and teaching," he noted.

Each diocese was asked to answer 39 specific questions and gave individual Catholics, clergy and religious the opportunity to answer the same questions.

Distribution of the questionnaire was approved at the recent United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' meeting. It also included a Preparatory Document, a sacramental description of Marriage and Family, provided by the Holy See.

(To view the questionnaire responses go to www.bridgeportdiocese.com/files/bishop/Holy-Father-Responses-Jan2014.pdf.)

\$10,600,000 raised 2013 ABA, thank you!

CHAIR COUPLE FROM PAGE 3

the only Catholic school in Connecticut for children with special needs, claimed first place in their hearts. Both of them have since served on St. Catherine's board.

"Every third Friday is 'PB&J Friday,'" Mike explains. "Some of the students work together and make an assembly line. Maybe one kid will spoon out the peanut butter and spread it, another spreads the jelly, and another puts the slices of bread together. They make 300 sandwiches for the clients of the Thomas Merton Center. The St. Catherine students are so appreciative—they know that most of the time they're on the receiving end, and it means a lot when they can be the givers."

Retired priests claim another part of their generous hearts. "My mother's brother would come to our house every weekend," says Cece. "He'd sit down and the kids would swarm all over him. He came from a big family, so there were always lots of family members around to give him support."

Many priests are not so lucky. "They sacrifice so much for us," Cece adds. "Being a priest can be very lonely. So much is expected of them—people are always coming with their troubles and hardships. After retirement comes, they don't always have families close by. We have to provide for them."

The diocese currently has 56 retired priests, with 18 living at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence. Many of them continue to assist with weekend Masses at

local parishes.

As parents of teenagers, the couple are deeply appreciative of Bishop Caggiano's emphasis on outreach to the youth. "If we lose them, we lose the Church," Mike says.

They have high praise for the youth group at St. John's. "You have to make youth activities a mix of fun and service," says Mike. Sometimes kids in a town like this can grow up in a bubble. The youth group experience opens their eyes and at the same time, service builds community."

The older Donoghue children had a chance to meet Bishop Caggiano at a social event sponsored by the Order of Malta for young adults in college and who have recently graduated. After spending some time with him, their college freshman, Mara, when asked how the evening went responded, "Mom, the Bish' is chill!"

No higher praise exists for a teen.

Youth, priests newly-ordained or gently older, religious education, Catholic schools, assistance to the sick and needy—the Annual Bishop's Appeal supports all of these and more.

"When we ask for support for the Appeal, we should also invite people to get involved with the ministries of the Church," say Cece and Mike. "The more they experience the great things the diocese is doing, the more they'll understand the goals of the Appeal. They'll get turned on. We consider it a privilege to help in the Appeal, and they will, too." ■



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Individual Parish Results

Pledged

VICARIATE	Parish	Pledged
VICARIATE 1	Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford	\$86,026
	Holy Name of Jesus, Stamford	\$43,902
	Holy Spirit, Stamford	\$105,783
	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford	\$91,740
	Sacred Heart, Greenwich	\$46,965
	Sacred Heart, Stamford	\$38,042
	Saint Agnes, Greenwich	\$50,440
	Saint Benedict-Montserrat, Stamford	\$26,874
	Saint Bridget, Stamford	\$86,733
	Saint Catherine of Siena, Riverside	\$188,567
	Saint Cecilia, Stamford	\$104,077
	Saint Clement, Stamford	\$51,080
	Saint Gabriel, Stamford	\$55,130
	Saint John, Darien	\$331,273
	Saint Leo, Stamford	\$466,235
	Saint Mary, Greenwich	\$401,659
	Saint Mary, Stamford	\$31,866
VICARIATE 2	Saint Maurice, Stamford	\$52,904
	Saint Michael, Greenwich	\$296,416
	Saint Paul, Greenwich	\$107,304
	Saint Roch, Greenwich	\$58,855
	Saint Thomas More, Darien	\$524,861
	Assumption, Westport	\$205,806
	Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton	\$192,449
	Saint Aloysius, New Canaan	\$736,344
	Saint Francis of Assisi, Weston	\$120,585
	Saint Jerome, Norwalk	\$83,320
	Saint Joseph, South Norwalk	\$59,447
	Saint Ladislaus, South Norwalk	\$13,102
	Saint Luke, Westport	\$232,168
Saint Mary, Norwalk	\$108,508	
Saint Matthew, Norwalk	\$194,798	
Saint Philip, Norwalk	\$75,392	
Saint Thomas the Apostle, East Norwalk	\$110,492	
VICARIATE 3	Holy Cross, Fairfield	\$25,000
	Holy Family, Fairfield	\$63,519
	Notre Dame, Easton	\$103,326
	Our Lady of Assumption, Fairfield	\$174,496
	Saint Andrew, Bridgeport	\$72,769
	Saint Ann, Bridgeport	\$45,257
	Saint Anthony of Padua, Fairfield	\$142,524
	Saint Emery, Fairfield	\$22,050
	Saint George, Bridgeport	\$20,050
	Saint Peter, Bridgeport	\$38,244
	Saint Pius X, Fairfield	\$232,631
	Saint Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield	\$189,104
	Shrine of Saint Margaret, Bridgeport	\$29,526
The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport	\$87,079	
VICARIATE 4	Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport	\$11,405
	Christ the King, Trumbull	\$78,768
	Holy Name of Jesus, Stratford	\$54,009
	Our Lady of Fatima, Bridgeport	\$26,660
	Our Lady of Grace, Stratford	\$88,114
	Our Lady of Peace, Stratford	\$63,191
	Saint Catherine of Siena, Trumbull	\$185,519
	Saint Charles Borromeo, Bridgeport	\$45,782
	Saint James, Stratford	\$140,000
	Saint Joseph, Shelton	\$79,592
	Saint Jude, Monroe	\$180,299
	Saint Lawrence, Shelton	\$190,993
	Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Shelton	\$53,222
	Saint Mark, Stratford	\$135,688
	Saint Mary, Bridgeport	\$25,895
	Saint Michael the Archangel, Bridgeport	\$45,000
	Saint Stephen, Trumbull	\$116,865
Saint Theresa, Trumbull	\$182,255	
Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Bridgeport	\$18,795	
VICARIATE 5	Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman	\$71,680
	Immaculate Heart of Mary, Danbury	\$20,768
	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Danbury	\$25,129
	Sacred Heart, Danbury	\$39,706
	Sacred Heart, Georgetown	\$81,233
	Saint Edward, New Fairfield	\$196,737
	Saint Elizabeth Seton, Ridgefield	\$99,124
	Saint Gregory the Great, Danbury	\$94,526
	Saint Joseph, Brookfield	\$127,137
	Saint Joseph, Danbury	\$130,629
	Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, Brookfield	\$74,777
	Saint Mary Parish, Bethel	\$158,012
	Saint Mary, Ridgefield	\$300,632
Saint Patrick, Redding Ridge	\$65,800	
Saint Peter, Danbury	\$129,487	
St. Rose of Lima, Newtown	\$231,360	
		Total \$10,631,669

March for Life

Bishop Caggiano to join diocesan pilgrims

By PAT HENNESSY

BRIDGEPORT—Pilgrims from around the diocese will be making the trip to the annual March for Life in Washington on January 22. It is held each year during the anniversary week of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

“This year marks the 41st anniversary of Roe v. Wade and we hope to have as many pilgrims as possible join us,” said Maureen Ciardiello, director of Respect Life Ministry for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

“Last year, the 40th anniversary of the decision, saw the highest number yet of participants,” she



added, including a delegation of more than 400 from the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Florencia Silva, director of the Diocesan Youth Ministry, points out that every year a strong con-

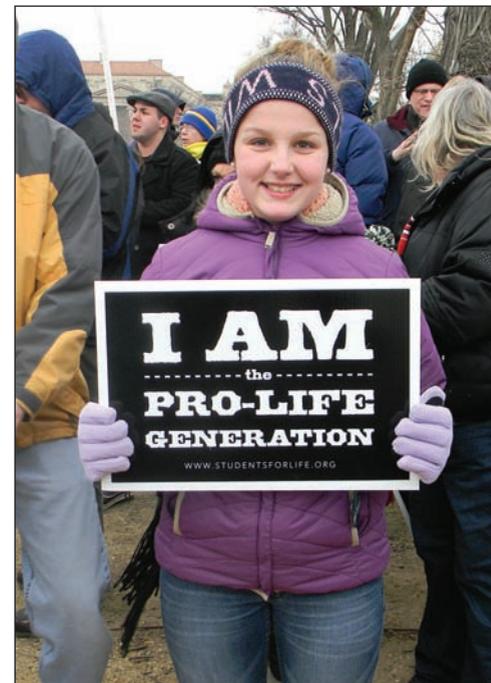
tingent of youth from throughout the diocese participates in the march. “This year, they’re excited to know that Bishop Caggiano is going to the Youth Rally with them and will be with us for the march.”

Because most Catholics are unable to attend the March for Life personally, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has announced that

a novena for life will take place around the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

“On January 22, our nation will remember the 41st anniversary of Roe v. Wade,” the conference notes on its website. “Since that tragic decision, more than 55 million children’s lives have been lost to abortion, and the lives of millions of their parents have been shattered. In prayerful recognition, ‘Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage’ will take place January 18-26, 2014.”

(Buses will depart at 5:30 am from the Catholic Center in Bridgeport and 6 am from the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford. The cost of the trip is \$75. For more information or to register, contact Maureen Ciardiello: 203.416.1445 or mciardiello@diobpt.org. For information on youth traveling to the march, contact Florencia Silva: 203.416.1449 or srsilva@diobpt.org.)



Catholic Conference reports on abortions in State

HARTFORD—The State Department of Public Health does not license abortion clinics performing surgical abortions in the same way it does outpatient surgical clinics, and only inspects them every four years. That is among the findings compiled by the Connecticut Catholic Conference (CCC), the public policy and advocacy office of the Catholic Bishops in the state, in its sixth annual report on the state of abortion in Connecticut.

The vast majority of abortions in Connecticut are performed in abortion clinics, not in hospitals or doctor’s offices. Currently, there are 19 abortion clinics in Connecticut; only six of these clinics provide surgical abortions. The remaining 13 clinics provide abortion-inducing drugs (medical abortions) or refer women to one of the surgical clinics.

Despite the significant difference in the services provided, both types of clinics are only inspected once every four years as “family planning outpatient clinics,” the report said.

The surgical abortion clinics are not inspected every two

years, as are all other outpatient surgical clinics in Connecticut. Additionally, they are not required to meet the same strict staffing and facility requirements. This is critical, because the risk to the patient during and immediately following a surgical abortion should be reason enough to require that the surgical abortion clinics meet the same requirements as all other outpatient surgical clinics in Connecticut.

Another significant finding is that even though the number of abortions performed in Connecticut has declined for the fifth consecutive year—and four clinics have closed—Planned Parenthood is preparing for major renovations and expansions of its facilities. This course of action is apparently taking place to accommodate the anticipated influx of clients resulting from the change in coverage for family planning services allowed by the Affordable Care Act and adopted by the State of Connecticut.

In previous annual reports, the CCC has expressed concern over the incomplete documentation submitted by abortion providers regarding the age of women receiving an abortion and the gestation period of the

child being aborted.

Despite several reminders issued by the Connecticut Department of Public Health to abortion providers, this irresponsible practice continues to be a problem. Every provider should know a patient’s medical history prior to performing an abortion to ensure that proper medical care is given and that mandatory reporting requirements concerning the sexual assault of minors can be met.

Another recurring finding by the CCC is that Connecticut remains one of only seven states that have never enacted a parental/adult notification or consent law relating to teenage abortions. The lack of such a law fails to protect young women from exploitation within the state by not requiring a parent or guardian to be involved in such a life-altering decision.

(The information contained in this report has been compiled and made available to the members of the General Assembly and to the general public.

To review *The State of Abortion in Connecticut Sixth Annual Report* in its entirety, visit: www.ctcatholic.org)

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Local News

Diocese issues 2009 financial statement

BRIDGEPORT—The Diocese of Bridgeport has released the Disaggregated Condensed Combined Financial Statements for the 18 months that ended December 31, 2009, as part of the overall Stewardship Report issued in December.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano described the release of the Stewardship Report “as a necessary first step in building the future of our diocese in service of the Lord.” It included a summary of diocesan ministries as well as a picture of the current financial position of the diocese.

The earlier report, printed in the December issue of *Fairfield County Catholic* and made available online, included financial statements and commentary for fiscal years 2010, 2011 and 2012 for the Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation.

The 2009 audit was not included in the initial report because it reflects an 18-month audit, as the result of a change

in the diocesan fiscal year at that time from June 30 to December 31. The change was made to provide greater control over diocesan financial activities and to line up the Annual Appeal—the major source of revenue for diocesan ministries—with the first half of the fiscal year.

As a result, the 2009 report does not lend itself to a comparative presentation to either the 12-month period before or after it. Thus, the new report is presented as a stand-alone discussion on the 18-month period.

The financial statements reflect a net deficit at December 31, 2009. It resulted principally from investment losses experienced in pension plan and other investment portfolios in the fall of 2008 and continuing into March 2009 as a result of the precipitous decline in the stock market and the global recession.

In addition, the reporting period included revenue from a single Annual Bishop’s Appeal, but

18 months of Annual Bishop’s Appeal-funded expenses, which contributed significantly to the decrease.

The 2009 report also documents a shortfall in reimbursable revenue from diocesan schools for employer benefits provided through the diocese for the school’s employees.

To address these challenges, the diocese began corrective actions during this time period and has continued to take additional steps each year as the circumstances demand. Those steps include:

- The freezing of the Bridgeport Diocesan Pension Plan for lay employees and replacing it with a defined contribution

plan for employees;

- Implementation of a lay pension shortfall funding assessment;
- Close monitoring of the pension fund’s asset allocation and investment strategy by the Diocesan Finance Council Investment Committee;
- Ongoing review and reorganization of diocesan operations to generate efficiencies and reduced expenses.

“As we know, the past five years have seen great change and presented significant challenges in our country’s broader financial markets. The diocese has also experienced similar change and challenges, as outlined in our financial statement,” Bishop

Caggiano said, adding that he’s optimistic about the future of the diocese.

“My vision for the future of the Diocese of Bridgeport is one of a growing and vibrant Church that welcomes everyone who seeks to deepen their relationship with the Lord Jesus within our Catholic community of faith.”

(The condensed 2009 summary and financials along with the complete audited reports for fiscal years 2010, 2011 and 2012 can be found online at www.bridgeportdiocese.com/Stewardship.html. The final piece of the Stewardship Report is a full accounting of the diocesan endowment fund, Faith in the Future. It will be issued at the end of January.)

Catholic singer-composer to appear at St. Philip Church

NORWALK—Noted Catholic musician, composer and singer Steve Angrisano will perform at St. Philip Church in Norwalk on January 25, at 7:30 p.m. Youth and family members throughout the diocese are invited to attend the concert.

“Steve is undoubtedly one of the most effective and versatile ministry leaders in the Church today. Those who are young and young at heart embrace the passionate message of faith, hope and love woven throughout his music and storytelling,” says Mike Pappa, director of the Faith Formation office at St. Philip.

“For many years we have dreamed of bringing Steve Angrisano to our diocese. We have seen Steve speak and perform at National Catholic Youth Conferences (NCYC) and many other youth rallies and conferences.”

Angrisano has been featured at six World Youth Days, several NCYC, and many diocesan youth conventions and confer-

ences.

Pappa says that after seeing him speak and perform at the New England Convocation for Catechetical Leadership in Springfield this past August and speaking with some of the other DREs, youth ministers, and catechists who were in attendance, he decided it was time to take a “leap of faith” and invite Angrisano to St. Philip’s to inspire youth and families.

“Steve’s easy, honest style of ministry is born from who he is: a committed witness to the life and love of Jesus Christ. No matter if the song is deep and

moving like ‘Welcome Home’ or a driving anthem calling us to discipleship like ‘Go Make A Difference,’ there is a consistent awareness that Steve is not just a performer. His genuine and sincere desire to bring everyone to a closer relationship with the Lord is what gives each event its own distinctive spiritual energy,” says Pappa.

(Admission is free but a good will offering will be accepted at the door. For more information, contact Kali DiMarco or Mike Pappa at the Faith Formation Office at St. Philip: 203.847.4286 or faithformation@stphilip-norwalk.org.)

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Local News

Bishop appoints Msgr. Doyle to new post

BRIDGEPORT—Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, J.C.D., has been named Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Affairs of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The appointment was made by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano as part of his reorganization of the diocese. Further appointments will be made in the coming months.

Last month, the bishop also appointed Msgr. Doyle, a canon lawyer, to a three-year term ending in 2017 as judicial vicar of the Diocesan Tribunal, the diocesan court with jurisdiction over sacramental and spiritual issues.

"Msgr. Doyle will continue to serve as a valued advisor. Indeed, we are not only grateful for his long-term service in the chancery, but also for his steady and prayerful governance of the diocese over much of the past two years," Bishop Caggiano says. "He served with humility, steadfastness and a commitment to the mission of the diocese."

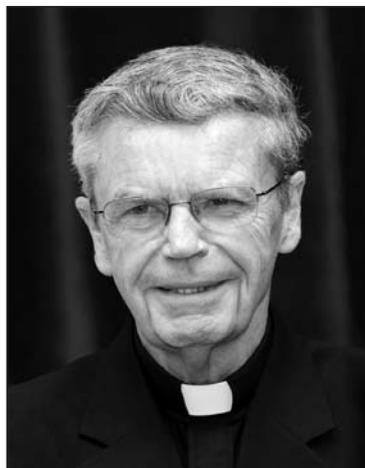
A priest for 44 years, Msgr. Doyle first served in the Diocesan

Tribunal in 1974 and was named judicial vicar in 1992. In addition to presiding over marriage annulments, the tribunal also provides canonical advice to the bishop, members of the diocesan curia, clerics and the faithful of the diocese.

Msgr. Doyle says he is looking forward to serving the bishop in his new post while returning full-time to the tribunal. Many have praised him for his quiet and humble leadership in the long span between bishops.

"In many ways, a lot of what I was doing as administrator in the interim was the same kind of general administration that I had handled while working with Bishop Lori," says Msgr. Doyle. "I'll always be grateful for the full support of our priests and the senior leadership team of the diocese who worked with me to manage our schools, charities and other mission initiatives."

In May 2012, Msgr. Doyle was named administrator of the diocese following the installation of Bishop William E. Lori



as Archbishop of Baltimore. He then led the diocese through the 16-month period until Bishop Caggiano was appointed Fifth Bishop of Bridgeport in July 2013. He often raised a laugh at diocesan functions when he

indicated how fervently he was praying for the appointment of a new bishop.

Msgr. Doyle, 70, was appointed as episcopal vicar for administration by Bishop Lori in 2007. As such, he worked alongside the bishop to oversee all diocesan operations, institutions and programs. In April 2008, he was named Prelate of Honor, with the title of Monsignor, by Pope Benedict XVI in recognition of his work as judicial vicar of the Diocesan Tribunal and his service to the Church.

Born and raised in Bridgeport, Msgr. Doyle graduated from St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield and completed his theological studies at Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained in St. Peter's Basilica in 1969. He holds

a doctorate in canon law from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Canada.

Msgr. Doyle's first appointment was as parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Bridgeport. He has also served at St. Stephen Parish in Trumbull, St. Jerome Parish in Norwalk and Our Lady of Grace Parish in Stratford. He has served as a member of the Diocesan College of Consultors, which is comprised of priest leaders who represent a cross section of parishes and ministries in the diocese.

The position of Episcopal Vicar for Administration has been eliminated as part of the overall restructuring of diocesan administration and ministries.

(For a full list of new appointments, see page 14.)

Cradle of Hope

BRIDGEPORT—Cradle of Hope Adoption Center, a U.S.-based international adoption agency, is recruiting families to host Catholic orphans from Colombia who will visit the U.S. for about three weeks in summer of 2014 through the "Bridge of Hope" hosting program.

"We are seeking hosts who have strong interest in adopting an older child," says Kathy Renzulli of Shelton, who is coordinating the local effort. She says that information sessions have already been held at St. Michael Parish in Greenwich and St. Mary Parish in Norwalk.

The next information session is set for January 28 at 7 pm in St. Augustine Rectory.

BOH will conduct information sessions for prospective host families in January and February. Families must apply to be hosts, go through an orientation interview and training, and complete pre-hosting mini-home studies.

Host families will receive

photos and extensive information on their host children in advance and will have priority to apply to adopt these children at the end of the program.

Both single children and sibling groups of two will be available. Children will be 9-12 years old.

Colombia accepts single men and women, married couples, and common law couples who have been together more than three years. Age requirements are 30-50 years old, though exceptions may be made for older couples. Adopting parents must travel to Colombia to complete the adoption.

"Bridge of Hope will sponsor social activities and will work closely with families during the program," Renzulli says.

Cradle of Hope, which is based in Maryland, has facilitated adoptions of over 3,500 children. The deadline for the host program is set for March.

(For more information contact Kathy Renzulli: kar41west@sbc-global.net -subject- Bridge of Hope or call 203.888.8615.)



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Vocations: Hearing the Call

A December ordination



BRIDGEPORT—With snow falling steadily outside the church, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano ordained Fr. Rolando Arias Galvis as a priest for the Diocese of Bridgeport on December 14 at the 12:30 pm Mass in St. Mary Church in Bethel.

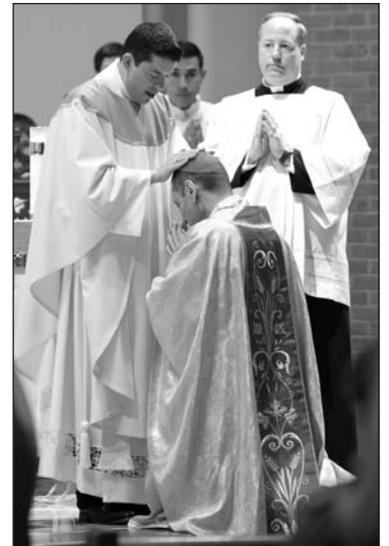
Fr. Arias was the first priest in the diocese to be ordained by Bishop Caggiano. Five more men are looking forward to priestly ordination this coming spring.

Because Fr. Arias was the only priest being ordained at this time, the Sacrament of Ordination was celebrated in St. Mary's, his home parish.

The Colombian native attended the Universidad Javeriana, St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford and Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, where he completed his seminary studies this past May.

Fr. Arias says it was a special blessing that his ordination took place on the feast of St. John of the Cross, one of the great Carmelite saints. "God has been

so good. Carmelite spirituality has been special to me, and this is a wonderful gift from God." ■



(PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

Making perpetual promises

TRUMBULL—Christmas proved to be a joyous time for Monica Zuniga as she professed her Perpetual Promises as a full member of the Marian Community of Reconciliation on December 27 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull.

She is a member of the Pastoral Service Youth Ministry team of the Diocese of Bridgeport, where she serves as coordinator of the High School Apostles program.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrated Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church, where she was honored by friends, family, and members of the international community who traveled to Connecticut for her profession.

Alejandra Keene, superior general of the community based in Peru, also presided over the ceremony. The order, also known as the "Fraternas" was founded in 1991 in Lima, Peru,



by Luis Fernando Figari. The mission of the Fraternas is to use their faith and talents to transform the culture around them. In 2011, the community celebrated its 20th anniversary

and received approval as a Society of Apostolic Life from the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in the Vatican. ■



(PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

World News



Pope Francis sets records for popularity in new U.S. poll

Pope Francis enjoys enormous personal popularity among Americans, and is bringing new popularity to the Catholic Church, according to a new *Washington Post*-ABC poll.

An overwhelming 92% of the Catholics questioned in the poll said that they had a favorable opinion of Pope Francis. That result outstrips the top popularity ratings attained by Pope Benedict XVI (75% favorable) and Pope John Paul II (87%) in similar polls.

An even higher number of the Catholics surveyed—95%—said that they had a favorable impression of the Catholic Church. In the general population, 62% of the respondents reported a favorable opinion of Catholicism: the highest figure the Post-ABC poll has recorded in a series of surveys dating back to 1999.

In the general American population, 64% have a favorable impression of the direction in which Pope Francis is leading the Church. Among Catholic respondents, that confidence is much stronger, with 85% reporting a favorable view.

Interestingly, self-identified conservatives are least enthusiastic about the Pope's leadership, with only 57% expressing a favorable view of the Church's direction under the new Pontiff's leadership. Yet among those who identify themselves as conservative Catholics, 91% view the Pope favorably, outstripping the 84% who had a favorable view of Pope Benedict XVI in the last Post-ABC poll, conducted in February of this year.

February 8 Day of Prayer for human trafficking victims

WASHINGTON, DC—The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration has designated February 8 as a Day of Prayer for victims of human trafficking.

February 8 is the memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947), a Sudanese slave who in time was baptized and became a nun in Italy.

"If just one person realizes from this day that they or someone they know is being trafficked, we will have made a difference," said Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio Elizondo of Seattle, who chairs the committee.

Every year, law enforcement and social services agencies who work with trafficking survivors see instances of sex trafficking increase greatly in the wake of mega sports events such as the Super Bowl, which takes place on February 2.

"During the time before the Super Bowl and during the following week, deeper prayer, education, insight and commitment will take place," said Sr. Mary Alice Synkewecz, RSM, director of the Collaborative Center for Justice in Hartford.

(Spousal abuse, along with sex trafficking, increases when tensions run high following sports events like the Super Bowl. For assistance

or referral, call Catholic Charities. Bridgeport area: 203.416.1322; Danbury area: 203.743.4412; Norwalk Area: 203.750.9711.)

Ordinariate establishes first religious community

BIRMINGHAM, England—On January 1, the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham established its first religious institute, the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The ten Sisters, who wear the traditional Benedictine habit, were formerly members of an Anglican (Church of England) monastery.

Pope Benedict established the ordinariate in 2011 to allow Anglican individuals and com-

munities in England and Wales to enter the Catholic Church while retaining elements of their Anglican heritage.

"As we continue to welcome Anglicans into the full communion of the Catholic Church, and establish a distinctive life of witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, the prayerful support of these Sisters will be invaluable," said an ordinariate spokesman. "We look forward, also, to receiving a great deal from their rich liturgical and musical heritage, which is rightly respected far and wide as a positive contribution to the wider renewal of the Sacred Liturgy which we are currently seeing in the Catholic Church." ■

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Knights of Columbus Museum

Icons open as “Windows into Heaven”

By JOSEPH PRONECHEN

“Windows into Heaven,” the major exhibit of Russian icons at the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, could not have a more appropriate or more descriptive name.

With over 230 icons that range over a period of 400 years from basically 1600 to 1900, this collection forms one of the finest such icon exhibits to be found anywhere. But, at the same time, it becomes more than a first-class art exhibit in a significant museum.

Why? Because the setting and the icons themselves create a reverent atmosphere where visitors can't help but quietly admire or be drawn into each icon, or in low tones discuss particular icons with others. It's as if we instinctively realize the icons are the windows peeking into heavenly realms.

In iconography, the two most common icons are of Jesus and the Blessed Mother. The museum signals this fact beautifully. The first of the four galleries that house the whole exhibit is dedicated to Our Lord, and the adjoining second gallery is devoted to our Blessed Mother.

Right at the start, visitors entering the first gallery are greeted by a glorious icon from 1860 of Christ the Pantocrator.

The title translates as Christ, the Almighty Ruler. This majestic

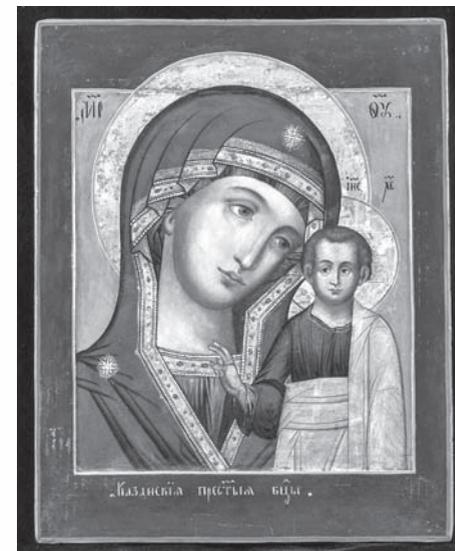
portrayal of Jesus dates back to at least the 6th century and is so important that both Orthodox churches and Eastern Rite Catholic churches have a major icon of Christ the Pantocrator normally located in the great dome of their churches.

But we soon learn that this is not the only way Jesus is depicted in icons because we come face to face with an outstanding 19th century “Face Not Made with Human Hands,” the customary name of another often-seen icon which focuses on the face of Jesus on Veronica's veil.

And when we wonder why some letters appear on certain icons, the museum graciously tells us through little explanations. For example, “IC and XC,” the first and last letters in Greek of the name of Jesus, appear on icons of Christ.

That also becomes a little hint that Russian icons, began from the Byzantine tradition of icons which goes back to the very early days of the Church. In fact, tradition has it that the first icon painter was St. Luke the Evangelist.

In the Mother of God gallery we find a beautiful icon of Our



Lady of Vladimir which dates to 1790. Of course it is a copy of the original, which is venerated as a miracle-working icon and which is believed done by St. Luke. It is very similar to the icon recognized worldwide as Our Lady of Czestochowa.

In the Orthodox and Eastern Rite Catholic churches, our Blessed Mother is called the Theotokos, meaning God-Bearer. The title was given to her by the Council of Ephesus in 431 when the Church was fully unified as one.

Several exceptionally beautiful and reverential icons of the Theotokos, the Mother of God, the God-Bearer, bring us Mary in a number of different titles and three central styles, which are simply explained with brief descriptions by the museum.

Some titles might not be familiar to us in the Roman (or Latin) rite, such as Our Lady of Kazan. But this particular icon has a foremost connection to Blessed John

Paul II.

The original was discovered near the city of Kazan in 1579. It soon became revered as a miracle-working icon of the Mother of God and eventually was known as “The Protection of Russia.” But after the 1917 Russian revolution, the icon was saved by taking it out of the country. Eventually, it was placed in a chapel at the shrine of Fatima in Portugal.

When the Soviet Union dissolved, John Paul II obtained the icon from Fatima intending to return it to Russia himself.

For 11 years it hung in his study. Realizing he could not go himself, in 2004 he sent his representatives to return Our Lady of Kazan to the Orthodox Patriarch in Russia.

While this icon is in the more Byzantine style, we soon notice there are many others in this magnificent exhibit that have some western style too.

One of these is the Annunciation of Gabriel to the Blessed Mother that takes place in a room obviously done in Russian furnishings and style. The reason is because some schools of iconography were somewhat influenced by Renaissance or western art which often put New Testament scenes in contemporary settings.

Another New Testament scene includes the skyline of a Russian city. Surprisingly, a few of the icons, like one very bright and colorful scene of Jesus talking to a large group including children, have frames or tops shaped like the customary onion domes on Eastern churches.

In this icon and so many others, the colors of the traditional egg tempura paint and gold leaf much used for icons are remarkable and symbolic.

The third gallery of Saints and Feasts bring us icons of a magnificent and triumphant warrior in St. Michael the Archangel, of St. Gabriel, of St. George, and of St. Nicholas of Myra, called the Wonderworker. His is the most common icon after Jesus Christ and the Theotokos, the Mother of Mother.

Although icons might not be as familiar to Roman Catholics as they are to Eastern Catholics and the Orthodox, seeing this exhibit helps everyone easily realize this earliest form of Christian art is meant to lead and help us in praying because they truly are windows opening our view into heaven.

(The exhibit runs through April 27, Divine Mercy Sunday. For more information visit KofCMuseum.org.)

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Parish News: St. Mary's Norwalk

A stunning restoration project

NORWALK—St. Mary Church has a successfully completed its four-year, \$1.6 million renovation.

On January 5, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano blessed the new church during a Solemn High Extraordinary Form Mass celebrated with Fr. Greg Markey, pastor. The 9:30 am Mass was standing room only.

St. Mary Church, a neo-Gothic structure with its historic clock tower, has become a landmark on West Avenue in Norwalk. Founded in 1848, it is the second oldest Catholic church in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

St. Mary's is also the third major historic church in the diocese to be renovated recently, including St. Augustine Cathedral (built 1842) in downtown Bridgeport and the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist (built 1854) in downtown Stamford.

"It was with great joy that we welcomed Bishop Caggiano to St. Mary Church and celebrated



When blessing the rood beam (the sculpted crucifixion scene high above the altar), Bishop Caggiano prayed that this cross which "snatched the world from Satan's grasp," would be a "saving help to mankind and a shield against the cruel darts of the enemy."

He closed the prayer by asking, "May all who kneel and pray before this cross in honor of Our Lord find health in body and soul."

When blessing the baptistry, Bishop Caggiano prayed that all who are baptized in this font would, "attain pardon and remission for all their sins and merit to be inscribed in the Book of Life."

Finally, when blessing the reredos, Bishop Caggiano prayed that "Whenever we look at the saints in this image with our bodily eyes, we may recall their holy lives, and resolve to follow in their footsteps, and all who in its presence pay devout homage to the Blessed Virgin may by her prayers and intercession obtain Our Lord's grace."

The major renovation of St. Mary Church was begun in 2009. Internationally known architect Duncan G. Stroik of the University of Notre Dame was hired to guide the renovation of the church's interior. Phase one included extensive structural repairs on the roof and also focused on renewing the sanctuary with custom Italian marble slabs, along with a magnificent

marble altar rail, pulpit, confessional and baptismal font.

The final phases included painting the exterior of the church, installing a new bathroom on the main floor and repainting the interior walls and ceiling in a complementing blue and gold color scheme.

Fr. Markey says that the blessing of the restoration was also a historic moment for the Diocese of Bridgeport. "It is the first time in over 40 years that the bishop of the Bridgeport Diocese publicly participated in the Traditional Latin Mass," he noted.

St. Mary's celebrates the Traditional Latin Mass every Sunday at 9:30 am.

(St. Mary Church is located at 669 West Avenue in Norwalk. For Mass times, call 203.866.5546 or email: www.stmarynorwalk.net) ■



the completion of the restoration. This past weekend's visit of His Excellency was an inspiring moment in the parish's history. The beautiful church is now complete and we can enjoy the fruit of our labors," says Fr. Markey.

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Parish News: St. Anthony, Fairfield

Justin Long co-stars in parish fund-raiser

By DON HARRISON

What does actor Justin Long have in common with Grammy Award-winning singer John Mayer, the now-retired tennis star James Blake and PGA golfer J.J. Henry?

All of these young men grew up in Fairfield at about the same time and made it big in their respective field.

Long, a boyish-in-appearance 35, returned to his hometown this fall to lend his talents to a fund-raiser at his home parish, St. Anthony of Padua. The beneficiary of the evening's performance, auction and raffle, "Hooray for Hollywood," was none other than a home for girls—unintentionally discovered by Justin—in distant Granada, Nicaragua.

"He went there with a friend on vacation and he stumbled upon this orphanage quite by accident," explains Justin's father, R. James Long, Ph.D., a professor of philosophy at Fairfield University and a St. Anthony parishioner.

Their pastor, Fr. John Baran, was appreciative of Justin's outreach and marveled at the amount of money raised on that October 26 evening—in excess of \$30,000, with donations still trickling in.

"The extraordinary generosity of people... Two came forward during the raffle and did a match," he says. "We raise funds for a lot of worthwhile causes here, but this time it was nice to connect on a global level."

Long, whose new movie, *A*

Case of You, opened recently, began the evening by presenting a short documentary about the home, Hogar de Ninas Madre Albertina, which provides a refuge for orphan girls living in abject poverty or victims of abuse. Thieves were stealing food and other supplies from the shelter, and a protective brick wall was needed.

The actor then relinquished the stage in the church basement to four Broadway performers from the New Paradigm Theatre, a non-profit group known to collaborate with other non-profits to raise funds. For the next hour or so, the capacity crowd enjoyed music from Hollywood movies performed by Kristin Huffman (*Company*), Kimilee Bryant (*The Phantom of the Opera*), Matt Castle



ACTING FOR A CAUSE, Justin Long performs in a fund-raiser held at St. Anthony Parish in Fairfield. The parish raised \$30,000 for an orphanage in Nicaragua.

(*Company*) and Bret Shuford (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Little Mermaid*).

"I can call up my Broadway friends and ask, 'Hey, do you want to do a show?'" says Huffman, the New Paradigm's executive director. "And they come."

Combining his gift for spontaneity with a disarming smile, Long conducted the auction and raffle with engaging aplomb. The \$30,000 or so raised exceeded expectations.

Justin's mother, Wendy Lesniak Long, was among the group of parishioners coordinating the event. She, too, has a theatrical background, having performed off-Broadway, in radio commercials and as a voice-over for TV ads. Pampers, Prego, Sears and Birds-Eye are among her best-known credits.

Did she encourage Justin and his siblings, Damian and Christian, to find a niche in the theatre?

"I may be guilty," she admits. "I would take the kids to plays, and suggest that they get involved with the Fairfield Teen Theatre. I thought Justin wasn't the one who would go into show business."

Damian, the eldest, is an actor and teaches theatre at Weston High School, while Christian, the youngest, has found screenwriting to be his forte. He teamed up with Justin to write the screenplay for *A Case of You*, a romantic comedy co-starring Vince Vaughn, Evan Rachel Wood, Sam Rockwell and Justin.

At Fairfield Prep, Long was, by his account, an indifferent student; he was identified in the school yearbook as the student "most likely not to be in class." He did, however, devote considerable time and effort to performing in school plays.

At Vassar, Long followed in his father's footsteps by studying philosophy but, instead, found the time spent performing with the school's comedy sketch group, Laughingstock, more rewarding. "That's where the acting bug really bit," says his dad.

Even before graduating in 2000, Justin already had a featured role in a movie, *Galaxy Quest*. His list of credits encompassing films, the stage and television is now approaching 70.

Excluding the fund-raiser at St. Anthony of Padua, of course. ■

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Words on Evangelization

Pope Francis: “The Joy of the Gospel”

By SR. MARTHA BOWES, CND

In a televised interview on September 29, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, then newly installed as fifth Bishop of Bridgeport, described evangelization as helping people to hear that One Voice, amid the din of other voices, that will truly lead them to happiness.

This is a new and beautiful perspective on the notion of evangelization, a task to which we Catholics are all called in virtue of our baptism, ever since Jesus commissioned his Apostles at the moment of his Ascension: “Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20).

To many of us English-speaking Catholics the word evangelization may seem a bit unfamiliar. If we were French-speaking, we would recognize it at once as a form of the usual word for Gospel—*evangile*. The word comes from Greek, the original written language of the Gospels: eu-good + angelos-messenger. This little “word-history” makes it clear that evangelization is spreading of the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ.

World history, too, bears witness to the reality of Jesus’ promise to be with the evangelizers. In many ways the history of evangelization is the history of the Church. The very Roman Empire that condemned Jesus to death in the person of Pontius Pilate would ultimately be converted and be renamed “The Holy Roman Empire.” When Roman civilization was all but wiped out by barbarian invasions, Christianity reached out—slowly creating a Christian Europe.

As geographical discovery opened up “new” continents to Christian Europe, nations vied with each other for conquest,

but also sent missionaries to announce the Good News to the inhabitants.

When World Youth Day was held in Australia, George Cardinal Pell, the Archbishop of Sidney, referred to his continent as “the ends of the earth,” pointing out that when Christianity reached Australia, the Good News of Jesus had finally been announced world-wide.

True. Geographically.

But centuries have passed, generations have come and gone, and now the same territories that were first evangelized much earlier must be re-evangelized; hence, the phrase: “New Evangelization.”

After Vatican II, Pope Paul VI convoked a series of Synods of Bishops from around the World in order to implement the decrees of Vatican II. The topic for the very first of these convocations was evangelization. As a result we have his masterful apostolic exhortation: *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (“On Evangelization in the Modern World” 1975).

Pope Paul VI stresses the importance of witness in evangelization; that is, giving good example of Christian living as the first “method” of spreading the Gospel. There is an echo of St. Francis’ admonition: “Preach the Gospel always. If necessary, use words.”

L’Osservatore Romano quoted Pope Paul VI as saying that after every Church Council the Holy Spirit becomes very active; so does the Evil Spirit. Consequently, it was no surprise that the Post-Conciliar Period of the 70’s was tumultuous. A complete Cultural Revolution aimed at North America came above ground in 1968.

On one hand, spurious theologies abounded; secularization, fueled by the media, spread like wildfire; Catholic publishing houses vanished; authority figures were ridiculed; Christian values and structures, all but vitiated. The Catholic school system virtually collapsed in a relatively short time. The family was all but destroyed.

On the other hand, a deeply spiritual Counter-Revolution was also afoot. The Holy Spirit inspired the Cursillo and Charismatic movements, Bible

programs, pre-Cana groups, and Scripture-based hymns. Ecumenism thrived. New forms of religious life appeared and flourished. Global television and short-wave radio networks became powerful vehicles for evangelization, catechesis and worship.

The wheat and the weeds grew side by side, as they always have and still do. It is in this milieu that we are called to re-evangelize.

At the beginning of a new Church Year and a new calendar year, we have been given the gift of a new document on evangelization by Pope Francis himself: *Evangelii Gaudium*, (“The Joy of the Gospel”). Departing from the tone of recent documentation from Rome, this Apostolic Exhortation has about it the suggestion of a personal sharing.

We hear the voice of a father counseling his sons and daughters in love. Humbly offering his observations to the Global Church of Jesus Christ, Pope Francis stresses the need for a resurgence of Christian joy, for beauty and for the updating of our structures. He exhorts the Church to go out to include the poor and to work realistically for peace. He gives “popular piety” a key role in evangelization, and teaches the art of “listening” as a Christian ministry, an art which he himself practices so well.

The whole document, like Pope Francis, has the ring of authenticity about it and is, therefore, most compelling.

Pope Francis points us toward the Holy Spirit lest we become discouraged. “The Holy Spirit works as he wills, when he wills

and where he wills. There is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail and instead, letting him enlighten, guide and direct us. The Holy Spirit knows well what is needed in every time and place.”

And so with great confidence, we pray daily:

Come, Holy Spirit,
Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,

And you shall renew the face of the earth.

(Sr. Martha Bowes, a member of the Congregation of Notre Dame in Ridgefield, has been a Commissioned Evangelist since 1988 for the Archdiocese of Hartford.)

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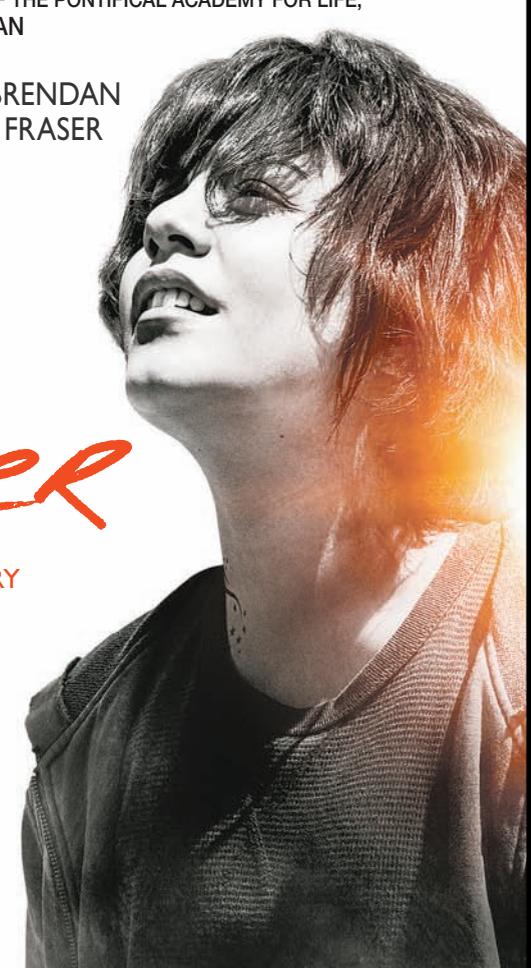
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IN THEATERS JANUARY 24



EDITORIAL

A New Chapter...

In his first column of the New Year, Bishop Caggiano has announced plans for a diocesan synod to begin in September 2014. It will be the fourth synod in diocesan history, a call to come together to address the challenges we face and move forward together as a diocese.

In his own words, Bishop Caggiano has laid out the challenge: "Too many young people no longer find a spiritual home in our Church. Far too many baptized Catholics have become indifferent to their faith and see no need to worship with us on Sundays. Many families are hurting and seek healing. Many Catholics long to learn more about their faith and do not know where to turn. Too many of our sisters and brothers know much about the Lord Jesus but do not know him personally as Lord and Savior. What they seek is a personal encounter with Christ, but often they do not know that they can best find him in the community of the Church."

It is a clarion call to be reunited in our faith, to live the joy of the Gospel and to be reconciled within the loving embrace of the Church. In the coming weeks, Catholics throughout the diocese will be invited to participate in the process to discern the needs of the diocese.

The first three synods in our diocese had a profound impact on every aspect of life in the Church, from the formation of parish councils, the participation of the laity and the development of vocations. Now in calling for the Fourth Diocesan Synod, Bishop Caggiano has asked us to renew our faith and form a strategic vision for the future.

In his very first days as our new leader, Bishop Caggiano offered us a guiding principle that will serve us well as we move ahead in the coming months. "If a parish community is marked by love, then it will become welcoming, hospitable, generous, visionary and creative. It will be selfless and it will be contagious. The question then becomes; how authentic are we as a loving community?"

Caught Doing Good

At St. Andrew Academy in Bridgeport, students want to be "Caught Doing Good." It's a program to encourage good behavior in young children and to recognize those who seek the good of others. What a great idea! "Caught Doing Good" could also be the theme of National Catholic Schools Week Catholic Schools week (January 26-February 1). In fact, "Caught Doing Good" could be theme for the entire history of Catholic schools in the U.S. For over 200 years they've done nothing but good for students, for families—and for our democracy. Catholic schools have prepared young people who have gone on to become community leaders and good citizens. They have served as extended families of faith that connect one generation to the next in their love for God and reverence for life. There is much to celebrate about our own schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport: more than 10,000 students, Blue Ribbon status for 50 percent of our elementary schools, advanced science and tech courses, and above all—they are learning communities of faith. So, like the children of St. Andrew Academy, we can be proud that our schools have been "Caught Doing Good."

Youthful Witness

Over the Christmas season, Bishop Caggiano was presented with two beautiful gifts; the ordination of Fr. Rolando Arias Galvis at St. Mary's Church in Bethel, and the profession by Monica Zuniga as she made her Perpetual Promises as a full member of the Marian Community of Reconciliation at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. Fr. Arias' ordination was particularly moving because it occurred on the same day as the first commemoration of the Newtown shootings and was yet another sign of healing and affirmation. Monica's joyful profession brought many friends and families together to celebrate the beauty of religious life. In a world where faith is often devalued and even ridiculed, we can be grateful that two young people have put their lives on the line—lives of faith, of prayer, of self-sacrifice and total commitment to the Church. Their witness and their joy inspire us!

YEAR END GIFTS



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

DIOCESE:

REVEREND MONSIGNOR JERALD A. DOYLE from Episcopal Vicar for Administration, to Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Affairs. Monsignor Doyle continues as Judicial Vicar of the Diocesan Tribunal. Effective January 31, 2014.

REVEREND FRANCISCO GOMEZ-FRANCO from Parochial Vicar, St. John, Darien, to Secretary to the Bishop. Effective January 13, 2014.

REVEREND PETER J. TOWSLEY from Spiritual Director, Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford, to Vicar for Evangelization and Episcopal Delegate to the Ecclesial Movements. Effective January 31, 2014. Father Towsley will remain in Residence at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford.

REVEREND ROBERT M. KINNALLY from Vocation Director, to Director of Seminarian Formation. Father Kinnally will remain the Rector of St. John Fisher Seminary. Effective January 31, 2014.

REVEREND SAMUEL KACHUBA from Parochial Vicar, St. Michael the Archangel, Greenwich, and Assistant Vocation Director, to Vocation Director and also to Spiritual Director, Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford. Father Kachuba will be in residence at St. John Fisher Seminary, Stamford. Effective January 31, 2014.

REVEREND CARLOS RODRIQUES appointed Diocesan Director of Pastoral Care Services for St. Joseph's Manor in Trumbull, St. Camillus Health Center in Stamford and the Pope John Paul II Center for Health Care in Danbury. Will continue as Director of Pastoral Care at St. Camillus with residence at Sacred Heart Parish in Stamford. Effective January 10, 2014.

THE FOLLOWING MEN HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO THE VOCATION ADVISORY AND ADMISSION BOARD:

**Reverend Thomas P. Thorne, Chair • Reverend Pawel M. Hrebenko • Reverend Paul G. Murphy
Reverend Reginald D. Norman • Reverend Corey V. Piccinino**

THE FOLLOWING MEN HAVE BEEN ELECTED TERRITORIAL VICARS AND BEEN APPOINTED TO THAT POSITION BY THE BISHOP. THEY WILL ALSO SERVE ON THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL:

Vicariate I: **REVEREND JAMES D. GROSSO**
Vicariate II: **REVEREND MONSIGNOR ANDREW G. VARGA**
Vicariate III: **REVEREND PETER J. LYNCH**
Vicariate IV: **REVEREND CHRISTOPHER J. SAMELE**
Vicariate V: **REVEREND GEORGE F. O'NEILL**

JUDGE:

REVEREND MONSIGNOR DARIUSZ J. ZIELONKA, re-appointed to Judge in the Tribunal, Diocese of Bridgeport. A three-year term ending on January 1, 2017.

PASTORS:

REVEREND PAWEL M. HREBENKO from Administrator, Holy Name of Jesus, Stamford, to Pastor. Effective January 31, 2014.

REVEREND PETER J. LYNCH from Administrator, St. Ann, Bridgeport, to Pastor. Effective February 16, 2014.

REVEREND EDWARD MCAULEY from Administrator, St. Bridget of Ireland, Stamford, to Pastor. Effective February 2, 2014.

REVEREND JOHN J. PEREZ from Administrator of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Danbury, to Pastor. Effective January 31, 2014.

REVEREND ALFONSO PICONE from Rector, St. Margaret Shrine, Bridgeport, to Pastor, Sacred Heart, Stamford. Effective January 31, 2014.

REVEREND MONSIGNOR KEVIN T. ROYAL from Administrator, Holy Spirit, Stamford, to Pastor. Effective December 22, 2013.

REVEREND MONSIGNOR MARTIN P. RYAN from Administrator, Our Lady of Grace, Stratford, to Pastor. Effective January 18, 2014.

REVEREND CHRISTOPHER J. SAMELE from Administrator, St. Stephen, Trumbull, to Pastor. Effective January 19, 2014.

REVEREND MIROSLAW STACHURSKI from Parochial Vicar, St. Lawrence, Shelton, to Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle, Norwalk. Effective May 24, 2014.

REVEREND JOHN J. STRONKOWSKI from Administrator, St. Margaret Mary, Shelton, to Pastor. Effective May 25, 2014.

PAROCHIAL VICARS:

REVEREND ROLANDO ARIAS GALVIS newly ordained. Assigned as Parochial Vicar, St. Mary, Bethel. Effective December 14, 2013.

REVEREND IGNACIO ORTIGAS from Parochial Vicar, St. Rose of Lima, Newtown, to Parochial Vicar, St. Lawrence, Shelton. Effective, January 31, 2014.

RECTOR:

REVEREND GIANDOMENICO FLORA from Assistant, St. Margaret Shrine, Bridgeport, to Pro-Rector. Effective January 31, 2014.

DEACONS:

DEACON ALIX AFRICOT from sabbatical to St. Andrew, Bridgeport. Effective January 31, 2014.

Editorial



Cause and effect?

CATHOLIC BY GRACE

BY DENISE BOSSERT

Denise Bossert is a national Catholic writer and columnist.

One morning last spring, I caught my older daughter flipping through a diocesan newspaper while eating breakfast. I had to smile. On that particularly morning, she wasn't officially Catholic. She entered the Church later that day at the 2:30 Mass at the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis, Missouri. It was Pentecost Sunday and soon my second child would be entering the faith I had chosen less than a decade earlier.

"Did you read the diocesan

newspapers when you lived here? Or is this a new thing for you?" I asked her.

She looked up from the paper and smiled. "When there was no catalog or magazine on the table, I would read it. It was something to do." She laughed and closed the paper.

Those were rough years. She had moved into our house with her little boys and was trying to juggle them and full-time employment. She was also trying hard to avoid God.

But on this particular Sunday,

the fight against God ended. On that day, she was received into Mother Church.

My husband also used to scan diocesan newspapers and magazines before he converted. He's the kind of guy who goes through withdrawal when he doesn't have a book to read. In the years after my conversion (before his own conversion), he would read the Catholic papers that were on the table—the random complimentary copies I received as a columnist. This is the same man who promised he would never become Catholic. He was born Southern Baptist, and he would die Southern Baptist.

He's been Catholic since 2008.

I don't know if there is a cause and effect relationship between conversions and subscriptions to diocesan periodicals, but at the very least, there is some correlation. I believe families that have subscriptions to diocesan papers are the very families most likely to experience conversion and

ongoing conversion—even among families in which some members actively resist God. There are times that the diocesan newspaper on the kitchen table is the only remaining voice for Mother Church in the lives of those who stubbornly resist grace.

entered the Church.

Diocesan papers are tools of evangelization. Sometimes, they are the only evangelization tool left in a household.

If you are reading this, you understand how important this magazine or newspaper is. You

"There are times that the diocesan newspaper on the kitchen table is the only remaining voice for Mother Church in the lives of those who stubbornly resist grace."

I am blessed to write for diocesan papers and magazines, but I am even more blessed to have those periodicals in my home and on my kitchen table. There was a time when my husband told me to stop talking about my new-found faith—but he would still read the diocesan newspaper. My daughter tuned me out for years. But last spring, she

know that it assists you in your journey—and you know that it assists those who live under your roof and sit at your kitchen table.

In a world that is filled with many voices and so many words, it is a blessing to have faithful media coming into our homes, sharing words that matter—words that bring life. ■



It's all too beautiful

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

In the mid-morning, the hill behind the house is covered with hard-packed, fast-running snow. The old-fashioned wooden sleds that the kids dug out of their grandmother's basement are perfect for these conditions. Whoops and hollers reverberate through the piney timbers as the Hennessey children hurtle themselves down the soft grade of this New England valley.

The joyful noise, the Flexible Flyers, the bracing air, the luminous sky—nothing in creation could make me happier. The moment is a gift of pure fatherly contentment. Freely given, freely received. I would live here always if I could. "Cold

and chill, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever" (Daniel 3:67).

Then, my wandering mind darkens. Rumbblings from deep in the moldering recesses of the mental root cellar. A high school essay—four pages, double-spaced, topic sentence, thesis statement, tragedy and remembrance in Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome*.

This daydream creeps, unwelcome, crowding out the children's joy, expanding like a stain, accelerating toward its disastrous destination. A cascade of terrifying images: sleds, trees, splinters, paralysis, decay, resentment, death.

An ice-frosted mitten skittering

across the snow draws my focus back. "Whaa-hoooo-ha-ha-ha! Daddy, look!" They are collapsed together in a pile of twisted limbs. The pile is smiling, heaving with laughter.

"Yes, I see you," I say, forcing a smile of my own. "Everyone okay?" No answer, just squeals. "Be careful guys."

But they are not careful. They are never careful. They are care-

free. That is their gift. Freely given, freely received.

As we eat our lunch at grandmother's kitchen table, we watch new snow as it falls on the hill. It is erasing our bootprints and healing the scars cut by the steel runners of the ancient sleds. Soon the gentle slope will be perfect again. Soon laughter will echo again through the pines. Fresh powder will slow the children down, will cushion their falls, will ease their

father's ever-wandering mind.

You should close your eyes and imagine winter in New Hampshire, where the Hennesseys spend their Christmases and where the weather is as unpredictable as a football's bounce on a frozen infield. When the mercury dips into single digits or the sun disappears behind low, grey, immovable clouds, there is deso-

"All across New England the replenishing snow transfigures everything, enrobing the landscape in majesty and splendor."

lation here to beat the band. These blues are called seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, an acronym chosen, I hope, to amuse those who suffer from it.

But all across New England, winter is also a time of indescribable beauty. The replenishing snow transfigures everything, enrobing the landscape in majesty and splendor. The thorny brier becomes a crystal bouquet. The

neighbor's overgrown yard disappears beneath a carpet of white. A woodsy silence is somehow made even more woodsy and more silent by a raft of falling snow.

Yes, it has been cold—dangerously so at times—but the "polar vortex" is as much a part of God's creation as sun showers in spring, leaf piles in autumn, and dog days in summer. As Jesus told the Pharisee Nicodemus, "The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).

So it is with our Magdalena, an innocent, surely born of the Spirit, blessed with insight as rare as her extra chromosome, who can look up from a bowl of steaming oatmeal on a frigid, bleak winter morning and announce—with perfect sincerity—"I love everything." I'm telling you it would pierce the armor around the hardest of hearts.

Against such beauty, winter's desolation doesn't stand a chance. ■

National Catholic Schools Week

A story of learning and faith

National Catholic Schools Week 2014 will be held January 26–February 1. The theme is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.”

The annual Catholic Schools Week celebration is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). This year marks the 40th anniversary of the week, established in 1974 to recognize Catholic education as a great gift to the Church and the nation.

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated in the Diocese of Bridgeport with the annual “Breakfast of Champions,” set

for January 30 at 8 am at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be attending his first Breakfast of Champions and, along with Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, superintendent of schools, he will present awards to student scholars and athletes from elementary and high schools across the diocese.

“I understand that the Breakfast of Champions is one of the more joyful and inspiring days at the Catholic Center,” says Bishop Caggiano. “I really look forward to meeting many of the students and their families as we celebrate their hard work and faith-filled achievements.”

According to NCEA, “The theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities—small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of

home, Church, city and nation. Faith, knowledge and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.”

The national Catholic school student enrollment for the current academic year is 2,001,740, with 1,415,244 in elementary/middle schools; and 586,496 in secondary schools

There are 6,685 Catholic schools: 5,472 elementary and 1,213 secondary. Last year, 28 new schools opened; 148 consolidated or closed. 2,166 schools have a waiting list for admission.

Catholic schools are also experiencing growing diversity, with minorities students accounting for 19.6% of enrollment across the nation. The schools also educated 317,470 non-Catholic students, representing 15.9% of the total enrollment.

Catholic schools employ



151,405 teachers and professional staff, comprised of 96.8% laity and the remaining staff provided clergy and religious. The student/teacher ratio is 13:1.

(For more information on the “Breakfast of Champions” and the celebration of National Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Bridgeport, email pbell@diobpt.org or call 203.416.1380.)

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Breakfast of Champions

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano and the Office of the Superintendent of Schools would like to invite you to join us to celebrate academic and athletic excellence of an exemplary Catholic Student who lives the faith and who attends a Catholic School in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Thursday, January 30, 2014

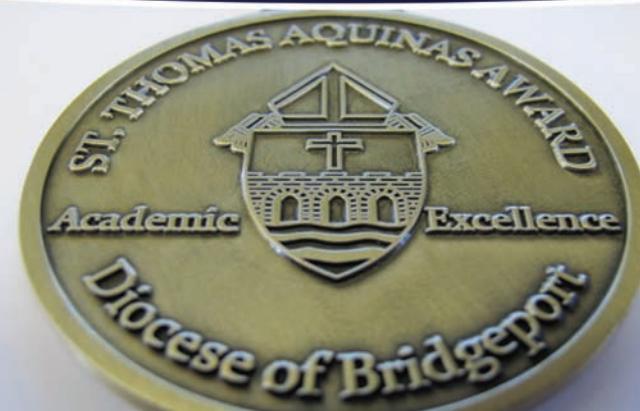
8:00 a.m.

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Snow date: Friday, January 31, 2014



National Catholic Schools Week

“Hour of Code” kindles tech enthusiasm

By PAT HENNESSY

“I think everyone should learn how to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think,” said the late Steve Jobs, co-founder and CEO of Apple, Inc. “I view computer science as a liberal art, something everyone should learn to do.”

Jobs’ quote has gone viral. The younger generation seems to be born with a smart phone and a Facebook page. Digital devices are second nature to them. They can use them without a thought.

That’s exactly the point. The devices are mindless. Computer code, on the other hand, takes a lot of a very specific kind of problem solving. To code, a person has to learn to break a challenge into small steps, set those steps in a logical order, and group them to achieve a goal. Coding teaches a person to think.

“Whether it’s a preschooler finding a home for Daisy the Dinosaur or teams of high school students in a website-design competition, writing code helps students to think logically, to reason,” said Diane Tung, director of instructional technology for the diocesan Office for Education.

Over 2,000 students in diocesan schools participated in the nationwide Computer Science Education Week December 8-15. The program is dedicated to inspiring K-12 students to take interest in computer science. The “Hour of Code” is its centerpiece, giving students the chance to try their hand at computer coding.

“I’m excited that so many of our teachers embraced the ‘Hour



of Code’ this year,” said Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, diocesan superintendent of schools. “The results were amazing!”

Each school designed its own program. Some schools had all their classes involved, from pre-K through eighth grade. Others focused on their computer classes.

“Our students in grades six, seven and eight completed the Khan Academy ‘Hour of Code’ tutorial. Then the eighth-graders enjoyed following up by creating a Christmas card,” reported Patricia Gallagher, the technology coordinator at St. Mary School in Bethel. The fourth and fifth grade classes worked through a set of Angry Bird coding puzzles.

At St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury students in all grades focused on Maze activities. At St. Joseph School in Bridgeport, “During their class period, the second grade completed 27 lines of code, third and fourth grades completed about 30 lines of code and fifth grade completed about 40 lines,” said Technology Coordinator Cathy Zimmerer. “Most of them thought coding was fun.”

Fun indeed. Eighth-graders at St. James School in Stratford

began learning how to use MIT’s “Scratch” program to design their own cartoons. “Learning about coding is a great experience for those who are interested in technology,” said eighth-grader Glenn Marsh. “It is a fun, unique thing and I’m glad we are learning it.”

Even classmates not so interested in technology had a great time with the experience. “It allows you to be creative and

learn at the same time,” said Francesca Montano. “It gives a really good inside look at how robots are programmed to work,” added Dan Cox. “Making a project using code is a lot of fun and helps us gain knowledge on creating sprites and scripts,” concluded Devin O’Brien.

Adults who missed out on the “Hour of Code” will be forgiven their ignorance of sprites and scripts.

Those at the high school level could point to their own proud achievements. At the close of the week, students from Kolbe-Cathedral High School in Bridgeport and Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield were among those taking part in a web design competition spon-

sored by Fairfield University.

For the diocesan “Hour of Code” participation, Tung received a “Thank You” message from Hadi Partovi, founder of Code.org. “Thanks to you, 15 million students participated in computer science last week,” she wrote. “Together, we made world history and broke records, and not only for computer science participation in schools. The ‘Hour of Code’ has become the fastest-spreading technology in history.”

“You can create almost anything you can imagine, just through knowledge of coding,” said St. James’ eighth-grader Emma Reed. “Coding is forming the next generation of electronics.”

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National Catholic Schools Week

ND Ignite Connection comes to Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT—Chosen for their academic achievement and leadership potential, 30 students from the Cathedral Academies and Kolbe-Cathedral High School in Bridgeport have become part of a pilot program called ND Ignite Connection, an outreach program sponsored by the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

Bridgeport was chosen as one of the sites for the pilot program, which began in 2013 with a summer session in Lawrence, MA, and will continue in 30 cities nationwide this school year. “They’ve taken the initiative to come into inner-city schools to work on building the leadership skills of students with high potential,” says Natasha Rivers, director of admission and marketing for the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport.

An academic profile determines students’ entry. The criteria for participation in the ND Ignite Club consist of a GPA in the top five percent, thoroughness in course work, leadership abilities, self motivated, with extracurricular activities in community service a plus. The online program is designed for students in grades 7-9.

The goal is to develop a model

that will cultivate a pipeline of a highly talented assortment of students (creative, intellectually curious, first generation, low income, etc.) to provide leadership and development, college prep and career planning, test strategies, financial literacy and creative writing.

“This is a pilot program, so we’ll be working with Notre Dame to find the best way to develop students’ potential,” says Rivers.

Alyssia Coates, director of the Admission Outreach Program at Notre Dame University, conducted an orientation for parents and students from St. Ann Academy, St. Andrew Academy, Cathedral Academy Middle School and Kolbe-Cathedral High School on October 28, 2013, at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport.

“We had looked at our top students academically, but we were also looking for leaders and students who were responsible enough for independent learning,” explains Ann Marie Donnelly, the eighth-grade language arts teacher at the Cathedral Academy, who is that school’s mentor-teacher coordinator for the program.

“Many students and their families were really nervous

about accepting this challenge, she says. “As our best students, they’re already spending hours on homework, and they’re all involved in service activities. This project requires that they do a lot of work after school. That’s why it’s imperative that they have their parents’ support.”

Nervous though they were, families accepted the challenge wholeheartedly. “It says a lot about them that they accepted, Donnelly says. “They’re interested in being the best they can be.”

Mentors for the program include Donnelly and Principal Larry DiPalma at the Cathedral Academy; Principal Theresa Tillinger at St. Ann Academy; Principal Maria O’Neill at St. Andrew Academy, and Principal Jo-Anne Jakab and Assistant Principal Lisa Matson at Kolbe-Cathedral High School.

For their first independent assignment, the students were required to set up a Google Plus page, a kind of personal website that communicates with other students at their grade level and with Ignite program directors and the University of Notre Dame community. This is the beginning of a process to learn to repre-



BRIGHT HOPE for the future shines in the faces of students from the Cathedral Academy in Bridgeport. Some of the top scholars in the Cathedral Academies of Bridgeport, including these students, have been chosen to participate in an outreach pilot program with the University of Notre Dame. (l-r) David Sanders, Daruis Daniel, Asha-gaye Lewis, Trinham Le and Brian Estrella.

sent themselves accurately in an online environment, making the most of online resources such as online profiles and ePortfolios.

The students had to set up the webpage themselves, at home. This newest technology left them beyond the assistance of even the most well-meaning parents. “It was really cool!” was the response they brought back to school. “My page is up and running!”

“When it’s completely up and running, they will be able to communicate with students nationwide,” said Donnelly.

This semester, the students will meet weekly after school as they use the program to stretch their horizons, explore their own strengths and weaknesses and begin to plan for both short- and

long-term goals. According to Donnelly, “It puts a yearning in them, starts them thinking about their future—how can you find the right fit, what’s going to be the focus of your life?”

Donnelly, herself a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, sees the ND Ignite program as an outreach of its Catholic mission, an attempt to assist students in some of the country’s most difficult areas.

“Academic enrichment programs for students run in the thousands of dollars, and through ND Ignite we have the privilege to offer this to Bridgeport Catholic schools for no cost to parents,” agreed Rivers. “We’re excited about the potential to help students prepare for college.” ■

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National Catholic Schools Week

Bishop visits Cathedral Academy

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano paid a pre-Christmas visit to the Cathedral Academy and was delighted by the progress made by the students and faculty.

The children were excited to have the new bishop visit their school and made posters and bulletin boards to welcome him.

His day began with a visit to the lower school at St. Raphael campus where he met the “happiest students” in the diocese.

From there he visited the St. Augustine campus for upper school students.

It was a chance to tour the renovated facilities, meet students and faculty, and encourage all in their good work.



A total of 1,016 children are currently enrolled in Catholic Academies of Bridgeport. Sixty-five percent are Roman Catholic and 35% are non-Catholic. The schools embrace a culturally, spiritually and economically diverse environment.

Bishop Caggiano spoke powerfully about his commitment to inner-city Catholic education and backed up his comments with financial and economic facts about

the poverty levels in Bridgeport, the diversity of the students, and the \$1.5 million required in financial aid each year to make the dream of Catholic education a reality for many families.

(To find out more about making a contribution to the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport, call 203.416.1466 or email scelere@diobpt.org.)



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National Catholic Schools Week

'This is going to be a Blue Ribbon School forever'

By BILL BITTMAN
COURTESY OF MONROE PATCH

St. Jude School celebrated its first ever designation as a Blue Ribbon School, a national award recognizing academic excellence and just what makes a school special. On January 9, the building was decked out in blue, all of the students and Principal Patricia Griffin donned the color and there was even a table in the gymnasium covered with blue ribbon cupcakes.

The entire school community gathered in the gym for a ceremony with special guests, including Bishop Frank J. Caggiano; Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, superintendent of schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport; Msgr. John Sabia, St. Jude's pastor; and Michelle Turbak, Edith Wheeler Memorial Library's children's librarian.

"It is about work ethic and applying ourselves every single day we're in school," Griffin said from the podium.

Now that St. Jude School earned the prestigious Blue Ribbon designation, Griffin told her students they must work hard to keep it.

"You can't get lazy," she said.



"You can't stop doing your homework. You have to stay focused and on your game at all times."

As a Catholic school, Griffin said, St. Jude's students strive for academic excellence with a belief in Jesus Christ, practicing their faith with a commitment to their community.

Olivia, one of the students who spoke, said, "There are a lot

of good things about St. Jude. If you asked me to list them, I don't have enough paper or time."

A slideshow of photos from the past year was set to music, then special recognition was given to students and teachers.

Bishop Caggiano said, "I am very impressed and proud to be with all of you. You are a wonderful school community."



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The bishop noted how respectful the children were in the classrooms he had visited and their "willingness to continue to learn and follow Jesus."

"We are not a private school. We are not a public school. We are a Catholic school, which means Jesus is here with us every day," he said. "Treat each other

with respect and love."

Bishop Caggiano asked students if they could open the door to their hearts and they answered with a resounding yes.

"Then you are going to have the best school you could have," he said. "And this school is going to be a Blue Ribbon School forever."

Feature Teacher: Henry Rondon

“The Best of the Best”

BRIDGEPORT—It’s always hard to choose “The Best of the Best.” That’s the challenge every year as the Inner City Foundation for Charity & Education prepares to name the teacher to be honored with the “Tim Russert Making A Difference Award.”

This year’s honoree, Henry Rondon, is a member of Kolbe-Cathedral High School in Bridgeport. A teacher in the theology department, he is also director of athletics and dean of students.

“Henry lives our Gospel values, practices what we preach

and teaches by example,” says Jo-Anne Jakab, Kolbe’s principal. “He calls students to embrace truth, make good choices and learn to accept the consequences of poor decisions. Using patient instruction and personal example, he leads them to greater growth and development. Henry is an asset to the Kolbe-Cathedral High School community.”

The award was presented at the 22nd Annual Benefit Dinner, which was held on November 16 at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich.

“Tim had three specific quali-

ties that should be part of the selection,” says Richard Stone, executive director of the foundation, recalling his conversation with the late Tim Russert. “We should choose someone who goes the extra mile, who donates their time, and who stays after school to work with the kids.”

Thirteen years ago Russert was the featured speaker at the foundation’s Annual Benefit Dinner. He spoke about the teachers he had in Catholic school and the important role they played in his life and

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



MAKING A DIFFERENCE—Kolbe-Cathedral High School teacher Henry Rondon was recognized for his achievement at the recent Inner-City Foundation dinner held in Greenwich. (PHOTO BY CYNTHIA STONE)



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St. Vincent's Medical Center

Leadership transition at St. Vincent's

BRIDGEPORT—Stuart G. Marcus, MD, FACS has been appointed CEO and president of St. Vincent's Health Services (SVHS). SVHS, a \$500 million healthcare system, is a member of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic and largest non-profit healthcare system. SVHS includes St. Vincent's Medical Center, St. Vincent's College, St. Vincent's Special Needs Services and St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation.

Dr. Marcus has also been named a Ministry Market Leader by Ascension Health for its Connecticut and New York Regions, which include three additional hospitals: St. Mary's Healthcare in Amsterdam, NY, Lourdes Memorial Hospital in Binghamton, NY, and Mount St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston, NY. He most recently served as president of St. Vincent's Medical Center and executive vice president of St. Vincent's Health



Services.

He succeeds Susan L. Davis, EdD, RN, who is transitioning full-time to her role in Pensacola, Florida as president and CEO of the Sacred Heart Health System, also a member of Ascension Health. Davis will continue in

her service as ministry market leader for Florida and Alabama. She will remain a member of the SVHS Board of Directors.

"I know that St. Vincent's will be in the best possible hands with someone as well qualified and passionate about the delivery of safe and compassionate health care as Dr. Stuart Marcus," said Davis. "With his many years of clinical experience as a cancer surgeon and as the guiding force behind the creation of our cancer center and oncology program, he has always demonstrated exceptional leadership and integrity."

Dr. Marcus, who joined St. Vincent's in 2006, was named president of St. Vincent's Medical Center in 2012. Prior to that, Dr. Marcus served as senior vice president, chief medical officer and chairman of oncology at St. Vincent's.

In his new role as CEO/president and ministry market leader, he will provide strategic and operational leadership for St. Vincent's Health Services, while promoting strategic alignment among Ascension's New York and Connecticut health

ministries.

"I am humbled by the tremendous responsibility of leading St. Vincent's, and continuing the mission of our founders, the Daughters of Charity, in providing high quality, compassionate care to all with special attention to the poor and underserved," Dr. Marcus said.

"St. Vincent's has received widespread recognition as a national leader in patient safety and is now poised to lead the transformation of healthcare in our region. The future will build upon the safety, quality and platform of excellence that Susan Davis has led here over the past ten years. We also look forward to the benefits that our partnership with the Frank H. Netter, MD, School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University will bring to the greater Bridgeport community."

In his past role as CMO, Dr. Marcus provided administrative oversight of the medical staff, paying particular attention to enhancing hospital-based, patient-centered quality initiatives throughout the Medical Center. A specialist in gastrointestinal cancer surgery, Dr. Marcus led

the development of the Elizabeth M. Pfriem SWIM Center for Cancer Care at St. Vincent's, which opened in 2010.

Prior to coming to St. Vincent's, Dr. Marcus held clinical and administrative positions at NYU Langone Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital Center in New York City. He received his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine, was trained in general surgery at NYU/Bellevue and completed a fellowship in surgical oncology at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD.

According to current St. Vincent's Board Chairman Daniel Gottschall, MD, "The tradition of patient-centered and relationship-based care will continue under Dr. Marcus, with his strong clinical background and knowledge of the healthcare environment. He is well equipped as a leader to handle the challenge of running a complex health system with many components such as St. Vincent's, and will bring his own unique style of creativity, inspiration and appreciation of the mission to the task." ■

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Inner-City Foundation Gala raised \$1.2 million for charity

GREENWICH—The Inner-City Foundation For Charity & Education raised nearly \$1.2 million dollars to support agencies, institutions and programs throughout Fairfield County at the foundation's Twenty-Second Annual Benefit Dinner. James C. Smith, chairman and CEO of Webster Bank, was the chair of the Corporate Committee for the annual black-tie event.

More than 400 guests attended the annual event at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich that featured a concert performance by The Fab Faux—the highly acclaimed Beatles tribute band with Grammy winner Will Lee.

Five-time Emmy winner Dave Price was master of ceremonies. In addition, individuals who participate in programs supported by the Inner-City Foundation expressed their gratitude for the help they have received and for the opportunities that have been



BENEFIT COMMITTEE CHAIRS (l-r)—Vince and Linda McMahon of Greenwich with Tom Coughlin of New Canaan.

made available to them.

Brownie and Tom Coughlin of New Canaan and Linda and Vince McMahon of Greenwich were the Benefit Committee chairs and were assisted by co-chairs, Audrey and Daniel Dornier of Greenwich, Helen and Dan FitzPatrick of Greenwich, Vilma and Dick Matteis of Greenwich and Bill Mitchell of Westport.

Since 1992, the foundation has awarded more than \$25 million in grants to organizations that provide assistance, including food, clothing, shelter, counsel-

ing and education to at-risk and needy children and adults of Fairfield County. In addition to providing scholarship assistance, organizations receiving grants include the Cardinal Shehan Center, Caroline House, Center for Women & Families, Child Guidance Center, Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Domus Kids, Emerge Inc., Homes with Hope, Junior

Achievement, Kids in Crisis, Liberation Programs, Mercy Learning Center, Morning Glory Kitchen, New Covenant House of Hospitality, Norma F. Pfriem Breast Cancer Center, Regional YMCA of Western CT, and the Thomas Merton House of Hospitality.

(For more information about The Inner-City Foundation For Charity & Education or to make a contribution, visit their website at www.innercity-foundation.org, call 203.416.1363, or write The Inner-City Foundation For Charity & Education, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606.) ■



A GREAT EVENING—Joel and Barbara Miller (right) chat with Bishop Caggiano at the 22nd Annual Benefit Dinner.

BLACK TIE EVENT—Christine Herman and Michael Herman, MD, of Southport say hello to the bishop. They were among the 400 guests at the Hyatt Regency in Greenwich.



(PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA STONE)

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Sports: Immaculate High School

Everybody is a Mustang

By JOE RYAN

Success will bring you a lot of things.

It brings adulation and self-satisfaction, but it also has another effect in athletics. The team becomes a destination for good players, and Immaculate High School has a chance to become the place where good players go to be a part of a winning program plus get the extra attributes which a Catholic school education can provide.

It was the fourth time in the school's history they won a state crown in basketball. While the little high school wedged up in the woods of Western Connecticut has not attracted a lot of attention, the Mustangs have put together a nice resume of success over the last forty years and 41 state titles and maybe that is about to change.

The outside of the school was a shell on this gray December day. The usually bustling halls were minus the students who would be walking and talking on their way to class.

But the building was not totally silent, as through the darkness came the squeaking of



IMMACULATE'S MUSTANG CAPTAINS Joey Wallace and Darel Bowman.

sneakers and unmistakable sound of basketballs bounding against the floor of the gym. It was nine o'clock in the morning, two days before Christmas, and there were twenty basketball players running sprints and practicing drills under the sometimes critical gaze of Coach Nelson Mingachos.

Mingachos knows what he is looking for because his Mustangs put together one of those seasons that schools remember in 2011-2012. He had a senior-laden lineup which posted a remarkable 19-1 regular season. Immaculate did not stop there; they continued on in the post-season and

won the CIAC Class S basketball championship.

"When those kids came in as freshmen, we knew they were a good group," says Mingachos. "Did we know we were a state championship team? No. We were hoping we would be able to compete, but all the right things came along and the kids worked hard so it was a perfect storm at that time."

They finished with a 9-8 mark last year with a loss to Cromwell in the opening round of the state tournament.

"We knew it was going to be one of those years," says Mingachos. "We were only a half game out of the league tournament. Then going on the road in the first round of the state tournament is always tough and we lost on a last second shot."

This season they have gotten off to a 3-1 start. They won the Tip Off Classic with victories over North Haven and Abbott Tech but lost in double overtime to Brookfield (48-42) in the Candlewood Classic, which was the Christmas Tournament they hosted in the Immaculate gym. The Mustangs outlasted New Milford by the score of 72-60 in the consolation game. Mingachos says he was pleased with the start.

Mingachos is in his tenth year as the head coach and he acknowledges what that initial

championship meant to his program—the doors it opens to the future for the Mustangs but also the pressure to keep succeeding.

"Once you've had as successful a year as that one, people's eyes open up and people want to come play for a winner," says Mingachos. "We were always very competitive but had not won a championship. Once we got there, it was a great high for everyone and now I think a lot of younger kids want to come here and to play for a winner and hopefully get back to play in the state finals."

Captains Darel Bowman and Joey Wallace are examples of players who have transferred in. Bowman was across town at Danbury High School. Wallace came in from Rochester, New York, but says the friendship with Bowman helped him when he became a Mustang.

Bowman admits that matching the record of two years ago is a lot to ask for. He was a freshman that year and one lesson he learned from that team was about how much hard work it takes to succeed.

"We were supposed to be good, but I don't think we were picked to be that good," says Bowman. "One thing I will say about that team is that they worked hard for everything. The amount of running and the way they pushed us, I don't think we would have made it that far without it."

The goals have always been the same says Mingachos: to prepare the kids to compete to the best of their ability and hopefully qualify for conference and state tournament play. He does not want that to ever change, but how far they go is about fate and match ups.

Mingachos is somebody who understands all facets of being a Mustang athlete after having been one himself, plus coaching in some capacity for 15 years.

"I know to seek truth, to seek God—that is one of the mottos of Immaculate," says Mingachos. "I don't want to say that we get a different type of player, but eyes are on them all the time. Respect is big and the kids know it. Our shirts say 'Family' and that's what I want the kids to realize. At

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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Youth

St. Luke's helps rebuilding after Philippines typhoon

By **SOFIA VEGA**

WESTPORT—A banquet fund-raiser was held at St. Luke Parish in December 21 to raise



FR. CYRUS BARTOLOME LEADS a conga line at a banquet fund-raiser for Philippine typhoon victims.

money and awareness for the typhoon that hit the Philippines last November. Fr. Cyrus Bartolome, parochial vicar, came up with the idea for the fund-raiser. He is from the Philippines and was on vacation in his hometown when the typhoon hit. Luckily it was not close to the center of the typhoon, but he did see much of the damage and felt obliged to help his neighbors.

Fr. Cyrus wanted parishioners to focus more on the smaller islands that were not getting as much press and aid from international support. Six baskets differing in contents were raffled

MUSTANG CAPTAINS
FROM PAGE 24

Immaculate we are a big family." Wallace agrees with his coach that the feeling he gets just from being in the halls and having all the students know each other makes each day at Immaculate work.

"All the students are friends and the teachers go out of their way to help you," says Wallace. "I just feel like we all just get along."

The isolation of a big school like Rochester where he came from can be a lonely place. A kid may only know a few kids in class or the other members of a team. For the rest of the day, they can feel alone in a crowded hallway.

Here everybody is a Mustang. ■

off to raise money, and free-will offerings were also accepted. The baskets were donated by Melissa and Doug, LLC, a toy company in Wilton, and many families donated raffle items.

All money raised will go directly to help rebuilding in the Philippine islands. "I will send the money to bishops in different dioceses so they can help the people in that area," Fr. Cyrus said.

The entire community came together to help raise money for the cause. Attendees danced to the music a DJ played and ate a variety of Philippine foods brought by the Philippine community, who were happy to join the party. About five different organizations that were also helping raise funds for the Philippines were present at the banquet.

Elsa Mole, a member of the board of directors of the Connecticut Association of Philippine Americans families, came from New Jersey to help. The St. Luke's event was the 14th fundraiser she attended to help

aid victims of the typhoon. She comes from the region where the typhoon hit strongly and so is very active in as many ways she can be to help the people in her homeland.

Members and friends of Saint Luke's Parish came to support the cause, including many teenagers from Saint Luke's Youth Group. The night ultimately raised over \$5,000, enough to ship 22 boxes of supplies to the Philippines.

"We have already sent out boxes of relief goods, including items like used clothes, soaps, toiletries, etc., to islands that seem to be neglected from these goods," said Fr. Cyrus. His goal is to see that helping the people of these smaller islands shouldn't stop with the December fund-raiser and he asks anyone interested in assisting to contact him.

(Sofia Vega is a sophomore at Staples High School in Westport. Photographer Andrew Van Riper is her classmate. People interested in helping the small islands of the Philippines can contact Fr. Cyrus Bartolome: 203.227.7245.)

FEATURE TEACHER FROM PAGE 21

his success. That night, Tim announced he was establishing the "Making A Difference Award," to be given annually to a teacher in the Diocese of Bridgeport School System. He stressed that the recipient of the award must be a teacher who inspires students.

"He said it must be someone who truly makes a difference in the lives of others," Stone stresses. Rondon fulfills that description many times over.

Born and raised in Manhattan, where he attended St. Catherine of Genoa Elementary School and Cardinal Hayes High School. Rondon came to Connecticut to attend Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, where he majored in theology. He had always loved sports, particularly baseball, and played both baseball and basketball on the undergraduate level.

"I really wanted to coach, and one of my teachers encouraged me to on for my masters in education at Sacred Heart."

He worked in campus ministry, including leading a student service project to El Salvador, and coached as an assistant to Dave Bike, former head basketball coach at SHU. During his second year of graduate school he was offered the position of part-time teacher of religion at Kolbe.

That fall, as a full-time member of the faculty, he began coaching at Kolbe.

"They were so helpful to me," Rondon says. "Jo-Anne Jakab was always encouraging me, and Lisa Matson, the assistant principal, became my mentor. She helped me not only with planning good lessons but showed me how to respond to individual student's learning styles." That was 16 years ago. Rondon, who finished his Sixth Year Certificate at SHU, is now dean of students.

"Especially with the younger kids, who tend to think that being on the team is everything, they need to learn what we're all about. I tell them, 'We're not a team, we're a school—that happens to have a good team.'"

His concerns don't end with sports or classroom activity. "Henry gives generously of his time in community service endeavors and to promote a high standard of students' code of conduct," says Jakab.

For his part, Rondon gives full credit to Kolbe's administration and staff. "Jo-Anne and Lisa have dedicated their lives to Kolbe. It's hard not to live up to their example. "We all need to be accountable and not let kids fail." ■

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Obituaries

'Citizen-scholar' and SHU leader

WASHINGTON—Former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Thomas P. Melady, who served in several diplomatic posts and continued to play a role as "citizen-scholar" long past the age when most people would have retired, died January 6. He was 86.

Dr. Melady served as president at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield from 1976-86 and was named President Emeritus when he moved on.

"His service came during a time of great change for Sacred Heart as the university began to move from a start-up college to an acclaimed regional university," says Dr. John J. Petillo, who became president of SHU in 2011. "His vision played an important role in Sacred Heart

becoming not only the nationally known university it is today, but also in our reputation as a special place where members of the community are treated with respect and dignity."

Dr. Melady served as an American ambassador under three presidents and as a sub-cabinet officer for a fourth. Under President Richard M. Nixon, he was Ambassador to Burundi (1969-72), senior adviser to the U.S. delegation to the UN General Assembly (1970), and Ambassador to Uganda (1972-73). Under Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, he was Ambassador to the Holy See (1989-93). Under President Ronald Reagan, he served as

assistant secretary for Post-Secondary Education (1981-82). Since 2002, he had served as senior diplomat in residence at The Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C.

Already an accomplished diplomat before serving at SHU, Dr. Melady reentered the world of diplomacy in 1989, when he was named ambassador to the Vatican by President George H.W. Bush. It was a dramatic time to be in Rome, with Pope John Paul II often cited as a prime moral force behind the collapse of the communist bloc in Eastern Europe.

"We had a major interest in seeing conversion to liberty without resorting to violence," Dr. Melady told the Hartford

Courant in 1993. We "worked very closely with the Holy See and the pope in these transitions to democracy."

Dr. Melady was also entrusted with a secret mission at the Vatican—he was instructed to open quiet negotiations that would move the Vatican toward official recognition of the state of Israel. He worked with Jewish and Israeli representatives during his tenure as ambassador, from 1989 to 1993, and he was the direct intermediary between the president and the pope.

In addition to his ambassadorial posts, Melady was a prolific writer, with 17 books and more than 180 articles to his credit. He most recently had been senior diplomat in residence and a professor at the Institute of World Politics in Washington.

In 2010, The Catholic University of America Institute on Policy Research and Catholic Studies awarded Dr. Melady the Bishop John Joseph Keane Medallion for lifetime service to Church, country and academia.

Dr. Melady was born March



4, 1927, in Norwich, CT, and served in the U.S. Army at the close of World War II. He earned degrees from Duquesne University and The Catholic University of America and taught at St. John's University. As an early proponent of African studies, he served from 1959-67 as the president of the Africa Service Institute.

Among his many honors and awards, he was a Knight of Malta and recipient of the Grand Cross of the Order of Malta; was a recipient of the Order of Pius IX and the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

A funeral Mass was celebrated by Donald Cardinal Wuerl on January 13 at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington. Sacred Heart University celebrated a memorial Mass the following day. ■

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20	Msgr. Ralph P. Buongervino	1994
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	Rev. Andrew L. Farkas	1967
	Rev. Robert E. Onze	2010
22	Rev. Felix P. Werpechowski.....	1972
	Rev. John Mitchell.....	2006
23	Rev. James J. McCormick.....	1965
27	Msgr. Francis G. Galla.....	1996
28	Msgr. Joseph R. McCarthy.....	1964
30	Msgr. John F. Cavanaugh	1990
	Rev. James F. Desmond.....	1963

FEBRUARY

2	Rev. Joseph W. Kupec	1978
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3	Msgr. Martin F. Doran.....	1967
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	Rev. John R. Polinski.....	2001
12	Rev. John J. Filip.....	1984
13	Deacon Matthew Ashe.....	2008
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Obituaries

A tribute to a local legend, Alvin Clinkscapes

By DON HARRISON

How likable was Alvin Clinkscapes? There is no appropriate answer, because the word to describe his friendly demeanor and infectious good humor has yet to be created.

"Even people who met him for the first time said he was so nice," says Dave Bike, whose enduring friendship with Alvin began when Bike was a freshman member of the Notre Dame High School basketball team and Clinkscapes was the varsity coach. "If he had one fault, his wife Peggy said, he was too nice."

Alvin T. Clinkscapes, Bridgeport-area basketball legend, educator, husband and father, was 81 years old when he died on November 5. But his memory will remain in the minds and hearts of the thousands whose lives he touched ... at home, on the basketball court, and at Sacred Heart University, where, as vice president of financial aid, he helped countless disadvantaged young people enter college and attain a degree.

Basketball was the focal point of his early life. As a lanky 6-foot-4 senior center, he was the intimidating defensive presence on the 1949-50 Bridgeport Central High team that dropped a one-point decision to New Britain in the Class A state championship game but then rebounded—the appropriate word—to win the New England Interscholastic Championship at Boston Garden. The Hilltoppers defeated Somerville (MA) High, 51-46.

"Al was the Bill Russell of the early '50s, a zone by himself," says Frank "Porky" Vieira, then a high school teammate and later an opponent in the semi-pro ranks.

At tiny Arnold College in Milford, Clinkscapes developed the offensive side of his game, occasionally challenging such notables as Seton Hall's 7-foot All-American, Walter Dukes, and St. John's All-American Zeke Zawoluk. After Arnold was absorbed by the University of Bridgeport, Alvin had the distinction of becoming UB's first basketball All-American when, as a senior co-captain, he averaged 21 points and 14.7 rebounds during the 1953-54 season.



ALVIN CLINKSCAPES is congratulated for his 40 years of service to Sacred Heart University by President Dr. John Petillo at the university's annual Founder's Day on March 4, 2012. (Photo courtesy of Sacred Heart University) Alvin Clinkscapes, right, with his illustrious Harlem Globetrotter teammate, Meadowlark Lemon, circa 1955.

After graduation, he weighed two basketball choices: A tryout with the New York Knicks or a tangible offer from the Harlem Globetrotters. He opted for the latter, but said later, "I have no doubt I could have made an NBA team."

Clinkscapes toured the nation with the Globetrotters for two years, clowning night after night to the strains of "Sweet Georgia Brown."

"When I was in the circle, I never enjoyed it," he once admitted. "Clowning wasn't my forte."

Drafted into Uncle Sam's Army, Alvin teamed up with All-Americans Tom Gola (La Salle) and Sihugo Green (Duquesne) to lead the Fort Dix team to back-to-back Army championships.

After his discharge, Clinkscapes returned to his native Bridgeport and married an attractive woman named Peggy Holmes. Their family would eventually embrace three children, Keith, Norma and Erik. Along the way, he converted to Catholicism, with his good friend and roommate from college, Vito Montelli, standing with him.

Bike doesn't recall the exact year, but he remembers watching a game at the Bridgeport Armory (now the Cardinal Shehan Center)

and saying, with a smile, "Clinks, what are you doing?"

In 1958, Clinkscapes made the decision to pursue a career in education and he was hired as a teacher and basketball coach at a new Catholic high school, Notre Dame of Bridgeport (now Fairfield). Significantly, he became the first African-American to be a head basketball coach at a Connecticut high school.

Alvin's teams performed well against strong opposition, winning or sharing four MBIAC titles and making nine straight appearances in the state tournament. His 1964-65 Lancers, led by 6-foot-5

"That was my best team," he once recalled, "and that was the only game we lost."

After a decade of coaching, Alvin put aside his sneakers and became a full-time administrator, first at Notre Dame and then across the street at Sacred Heart—where he would spend 40 rewarding years in financial aid and other capacities and become a beloved figure on campus.

Julie Bellico Savino, now the executive director of university financial assistance, speaks warmly of the man she considers her mentor, her friend and father figure at work. "I entered school on the fall of 1975 and started with Alvin as a work-study student. He kind of took me under his wing; he saw some potential in me. I was like a daughter to him," she recalls.

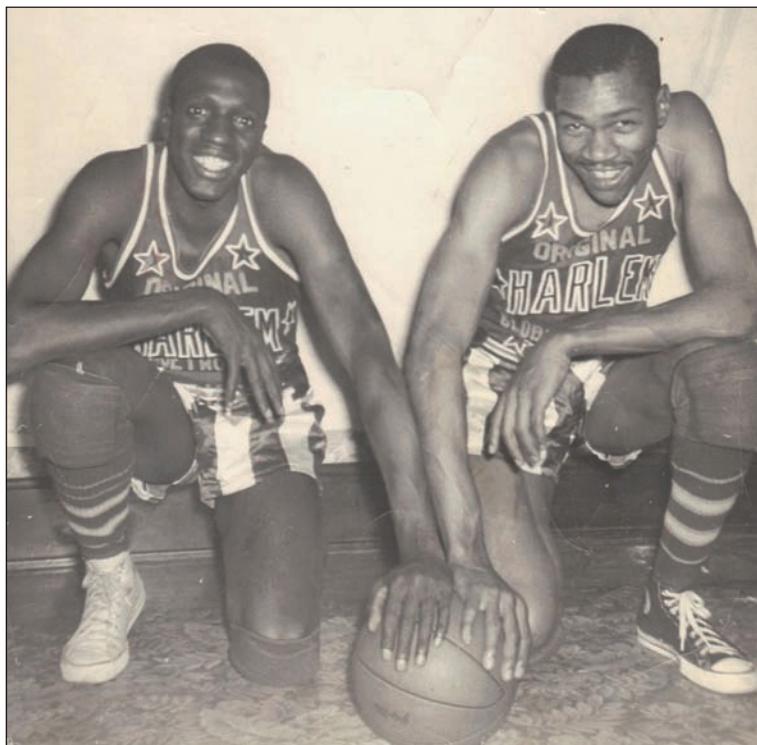
"From Alvin, I learned about sensitivity. And I came to understand the importance of diversity. He left me with some of the best lessons of my life."

How many Sacred Heart students did he help along the way?

"When you think about the number of students who have come through this office since he started in 1972, it's got to be in the thousands," she responds. "'It's really about the people we serve,' he'd say."

Bike, who recently retired from coaching after 35 eventful seasons at Sacred Heart, and Savino were among those sharing reflections at the Clinkscapes' funeral, held in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on the SHU campus. Dozens of alumni—his students—were among those in attendance.

To many, the recessionary song seemed appropriate: "Sweet Georgia Brown." ■



when Clinkscapes—playing for the semi-pro Milford Chiefs—actually scored a basket over the Boston Celtics' vaunted Bill Russell. After that unforgettable play, Alvin recalled Russell turning to him

center Dave Bike and a springy 5-foot-9 All-Stater, Rodock Cox, reeled off 23 straight victories before coming up short against a powerful Hillhouse team, 57-51, in the Class L state title game.

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Guest Column



Moral debates at the dinner table

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

Joe Pisani, a journalist for many years, is principal at The Dilenschneider Group, a strategic communications firm.

My daughter had a harrowing experience recently while she was sitting around the holiday dinner table with family members and friends, and the festivities suddenly turned into something resembling the Jerry Springer show. Every so often the so-called real world hits you right between the eyes.

I wasn't there to witness the fireworks display, but I heard about it afterwards, and all I could say was "Whew. I'm glad I was in New Hampshire shoveling snow. Bring on the blizzards."

According to usually reliable sources, this is what allegedly occurred: Everyone gathered for the holiday at my sister's home. Songs were sung, pleasantries

were shared, alcohol was consumed, and then it was time for ... family meltdown.

The conversation between the youngsters and the oldsters quickly got out of control. There was none of the usual chitchat about gluten-free diets, college applications, 401(k) investments, ObamaCare and Kim Kardashian. It was a lot more scandalous.

The adults suppressed gasps of horror as they listened to the teenagers take the discussion into uncharted territory of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Their personal revelations about life in high school and college left the assembled guests shell-shocked. (Adolescent candor can often be unsettling.)

On the other hand, the teenagers were stunned by the adult reaction because, as one said, "What's the big deal? It's socially acceptable. They even do it on TV."

There were tales of casual sex, drug use, cheating and other unsavory activities—activities once considered "sinful." Of course, in our secular society, that word is seldom used, and the concept, itself, is an anachronism.

What's a parent to do when you discover your kids are victims of the notorious "peer pressure," hanging out with the wrong crowd, and engaging in "self-destructive behavior," to use the popular euphemism? How do you convince them it's better to swim upstream than get swept away in the swift current carrying everyone downstream to the sewer? How do you convince them that despite what they see on television and what their friends say, some things are wrong?

In her book *The Shelter of Each Other*, psychologist Mary Pipher says, "Parents are trying harder than parents twenty years ago, and yet their children aren't doing as well. ... Parents seem desperate and lost, and their children are bitter and out of control."

She concludes that everything in society conspires against parents—the entertainment industry, the media, peer pressure, celebrity worship and lax moral values.

As crazy as it sounds, the greatest challenge for 21st century parents is teaching children there's a right and a wrong—and

that they should choose the right. Even "good" kids are floundering morally and often justify bad behavior by saying, "Everybody's doing it."

God bless my late mother, whose moral vision was clear and unblemished. No equivocating with her. Whenever we said, "But everybody's doing it!" her response was always the same: "If everybody jumped off the bridge, would you jump off, too?" I confess that at the time, the temptation to jump was great.

That tidbit of moral advice could rank right up there with "Just say 'no'" and the classic, "What would Jesus do?"

In our society, virtually everybody, whether they're classmates or celebrities like Miley Cyrus and Lady Gaga, is jumping off the bridge and good kids are following them.

Doing the right thing is seldom popular. Nowadays, more and more people are doing the wrong thing because they've confused the wrong thing with the right thing—or they just don't care.

Most young people suspect something is drastically wrong,

however. In fact, a survey conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion and the Knights of Columbus showed that some 75 percent of the Millennial Generation think America's moral compass is pointed in the wrong direction.

Young people need to understand that they can't "compartmentalize" their values. You can't leave your moral beliefs at the door when you go to college or work, and you can't have two sets of values—one for Christ and one for your friends. They also need to understand that following Christ usually means going against the grain.

As parents, we have to be there to parent, which sometimes means yelling long and forcefully at the dinner table when the moral debates start—assuming there's debate at the dinner table and everyone isn't text-messaging or playing Candy Crush.

Some of us are old enough to remember what society was like before good became bad and bad became good. It's time to give moral clarity to our children and grandchildren ... one person at a time. ■



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Column



A letter from Emily

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

“The music in my heart I bore
Long after it was heard no more.”
(William Wordsworth, “The Solitary Reaper”)

During the first days of the summer when I was twelve years old and it seemed that the summer vacation would last practically forever, my father bought me a new bike, one with tubeless tires. On that bike I began to explore the outskirts of my apartment-building neighborhood, and went to the “countryside,” the place of one-family houses. I rode past a particular house with a big screened in porch. The second time I rode past that house, there was a girl sitting on the front porch, reading a book. She was about my age. She looked up. The next time I saw her there, we both smiled. The time after that I stopped in front of the house, ostensibly to look at the view. She came to the road, and said, “I’ve got a bike just like that.”

The next day, when I came again, she came to the road and said, “Do you want to come in? We’ve got some chocolate cake that’s really good.” I went. We took our cake back to the front porch. I can still remember its taste vividly. With it we drank cold milk, and then we had seconds and more milk, and we discussed what we liked to read. The girl’s name was Emily.

As I was leaving that day, she casually said, “We could ride our bikes to Forest Park.”

In the velvet of summer days we rode our bikes to the park and explored every corner of it. The long copperish curls that swung down Emily’s neck bobbed almost constantly with excitement. I found her girlish enthusiasm irresistibly charming. She was effortlessly lovely. Her voice

was musical. I amused Emily; I almost always made her smile and laugh.

On the way home from the park we generally stopped for cokes at a drugstore. Many times we stayed on her front porch where we moved the marbles of Chinese checkers from one triangle to another; bounced a rubber ball and scoped up starry-pointed bits of metal called jacks; played checkers.

I have a vivid memory of Emily and I sitting on the porch watching a thunderstorm gather. We heard the low roll of distant thunder and saw heat-lightning play softly along the horizon. It grew darker and darker. The first big drops of rain began to splat-

ter the sidewalk. Then the heavy rain came; it came down in what seemed solid sheets. It drummed on the roof of the porch. We laughed nervously, like the children we were, despite all our literary talk. Once a jagged bolt of lightning ripped the sky, and Emily took my hand. Almost as suddenly as it began, the torrential storm ended and I remember the cool, gentle breeze that followed, fresh and clean.

A couple of times I stayed for dinner with Emily and her parents. The mother had a gentle, wise smile and an acceptance of human irregularities. The father was a kindly, generous, amused man. There was an all-forgiving fatherliness about him.

I sensed that Emily was deeply loved.

In early September, Emily moved. We promised to write each other every day, and for a few weeks we wrote a couple of times a week. We wrote about solitary bike rides we took and what we were reading. Then we lost touch.

About a year ago, in a magazine to which I subscribed, I saw a short story by Emily. I wrote

her, in care of the magazine in which I had seen the story, telling her it was wonderful.

Two months later, a letter came from Emily, from Florence, where she was staying at the time. It had taken a while for my letter to catch up with her. Her letter was very moving. She wrote that an image that still moved her to tears was the image of us on our bikes outside her house getting ready to go to Forest Park. She told me how her parents were so extremely fond of me. “They missed you, and they talked about you for years. They liked me best with you.” It was a lovely letter—it made me find some new colors in my life. She wrote “In my mind I ride my bike around Forest Park with you. I loved you and I missed you.”

I replied with a letter trying to tell her that the times I spent with her that summer were enchanted times and I hope she knew how much they meant to me. There had been more of what was good in life and more of life itself. I told her that whenever I was with her I was happy. To think of her as she was then could bring tears to my eyes.

I didn’t want her to reply,

and she didn’t. I was certain she didn’t want any more letters from me. I wanted her to be always twelve years old and it would always be summer. I wanted that slice of time we shared to be frozen forever in my mind; that stream of things that were bright and beautiful and alive. I wanted to always think of her as a blooming girl, glowing with health, looking full of sunshine and laughing her fresh, ringing laugh, and bathed in summer bloom.

I didn’t want to have to think of her as someone whose beauty had been whittled by time. I did not want to think of her growing into an adult and fading into a mother and grandmother. I didn’t want to get letters telling of the disappointments, regrets, worries, deaths that etch all our lives. I wanted Emily to stay in my mind as she was when we were twelve years old. I’m certain Emily felt the same way, and so there were no more letters. We let it be.

“When life was like a story, holding neither sob nor sigh,
In the olden, golden glory of the days gone by.”

(James Whitmore Riley, “Days Gone By”) ■

SAINTLY LIVES

BY ED WALDRON



ALFRED BESSETTE WAS THE 8TH OF 12 CHILDREN BORN TO A POOR FRENCH CANADIAN COUPLE SOUTH OF MONTREAL. HIS PARENTS DIED A FEW YEARS APART, MAKING HIM AN ORPHAN AT THE AGE OF 12. ALFRED WAS SICKLY AND UNDER EDUCATED, BUT HAD STRONG FAITH AT A YOUNG AGE. HE WAS ADOPTED BY HIS UNCLE AND SPENT THE MAJORITY OF HIS YOUTH WORKING ON THE FARM.



HE WORKED AS AN UNSKILLED LABORER IN THE U.S. AND CANADA, BUT PERCEIVED A CALLING TO LIFE AS A RELIGIOUS. HE JOINED THE CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, BUT WAS REJECTED AFTER NOVITIATE DUE TO HIS HEALTH. THE HOLY CROSS REVERSED THIS DECISION AFTER THE ARCHBISHOP INTERVENED AND ACCEPTED ALFRED AS A LAY BROTHER.



NOW BR. ANDRE, HE WAS ASSIGNED THE HUMBLE ROLE OF DOORKEEPER AT THE COLLEGE OF NOTRE DAME. ANDRE HAD A STRONG DEVOTION TO ST. JOSEPH AND PRAYED FOR THE SICK WHO VISITED THE COLLEGE. MIRACULOUS CURES BEGAN TO TAKE PLACE. ANDRE QUICKLY INSISTED THAT IT WAS NOT HIS DOING, BUT GOD’S.



THE SICK AND DESPERATE BEGAN TO VISIT ANDRE IN DROVES AND MORE MIRACLES OCCURRED. IT IS REPORTED THAT HE WAS RECEIVING APPROXIMATELY 80,000 LETTERS A YEAR.



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Bits & Pieces

CONNECTIONS! Ministry for Catholic Singles 40 and over will meet at St. John the Evangelist, Stamford, on Mon., **Jan. 20**, from 7 pm-9 pm. Colin Nykaza, the director of Young Adult Outreach for the Archdiocese of New York, will speak on "The Ache of the Human Heart Through the Lens of the Theology of the Body." Refreshments and fellowship follow. Donation: \$10. RSVP to connectionsfairfield@gmail.com.

MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE sponsored by the Charismatic Renewal Office will be offered Mon., **Jan. 20**, at 7:30 pm at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton. For more information, call 203.268.8253.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS will be held on Mon., **Jan. 20**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, at 7:30 pm; and Mon., **Feb. 3**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, at 7 pm. For more information, contact Jeanette: jkovacs@snet.net.

WINTER CARNIVAL at St. Mark School, Stratford, will take place Sat., **Jan. 25**, from 11 am-3 pm. Moon bounces, games,

food, face-painting and more. On Sun., **Jan 26**, the school will hold an open house for Pre-K-grade 8 from 9 am-1 pm. For more information, call 203.375.4291 or visit www.stmarkschool.org.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION is held the first Fri. of every month (**Feb. 7**) at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, from 8 pm-12 midnight. For more information, call the parish: 203.324.2910.

GOSPEL OF LIFE SOCIETY meets the second Sat. of the month (**Feb. 8**) at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, at 10 am. Rep. Al Adinolfi of the State Judiciary Committee will speak on parental notification for abortions on minors. For more information, contact 203.847.5727 or smarygols@aol.com.

WOMEN'S CLUB at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, will meet Mon., **Feb. 10**, at 10 am. Fr. Peter Cipriani, chaplain of Notre Dame High School, will speak. For more information, call Pat: 203.261.8020.

BIBLE STUDY: Jeff Cavins "James: Pearls for Wise Living"

will be held at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, Fri. mornings from 9-10:45 am starting Fri., **Jan. 31**. For more information, call Liz: 203.268.8695 or email ctkparish@aol.com.

"UNIQUELY CREATED: The Male and Female Heart," with Dr. Philip Mango, will be held on Sat., **Feb. 8**, from 9:30 am-3 pm at St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield. For more information, email faithformation@smcr.org or call the parish: 203.438.6538.

ASSISTED SUICIDE will be the topic of a speech by Peter Wolfgang, executive director of the Family Institute of CT, at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, on Sun., **Feb. 2**. Snow date: **Feb. 9**. For more information and for lunch requests, call 203.426.1014.

LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY celebration will take place St. George Parish, Bridgeport, on Sun., **Feb. 16**, with a 12 noon Mass and following program. For more information, call 203.878.0519.

"SACRED RELICS OF THE SAINTS: Treasures of the Church," a teaching and exposition of relics by Fr. Carlos Martins, will take place at St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, on Sun., **Feb. 23**, at 2 pm. For more information, call 203.261.3676 or visit www.treasuresofthechurch.com.

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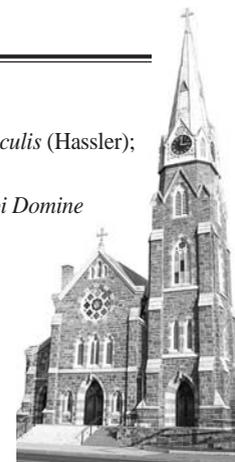
January 19: Second Sunday after Epiphany: *Missa Inclina cor meum* (de Monte); *Tribus miraculis* (Hassler);
O sacrum convivium à 6 (Victoria); organ music of Alain

January 26: Third Sunday after Epiphany: *Missa In illo tempore* (Monteverdi); *Confitebor tibi Domine*
(Monteverdi); *Cantate Domino* (Monteverdi); organ music of Bach

February 2: Feast of the Purification (Candlemas): *Missa de Beata Virgine à 4* (Morales);
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February 9: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany: *Mass for Four Voices* (Byrd); *Dextera Domini*
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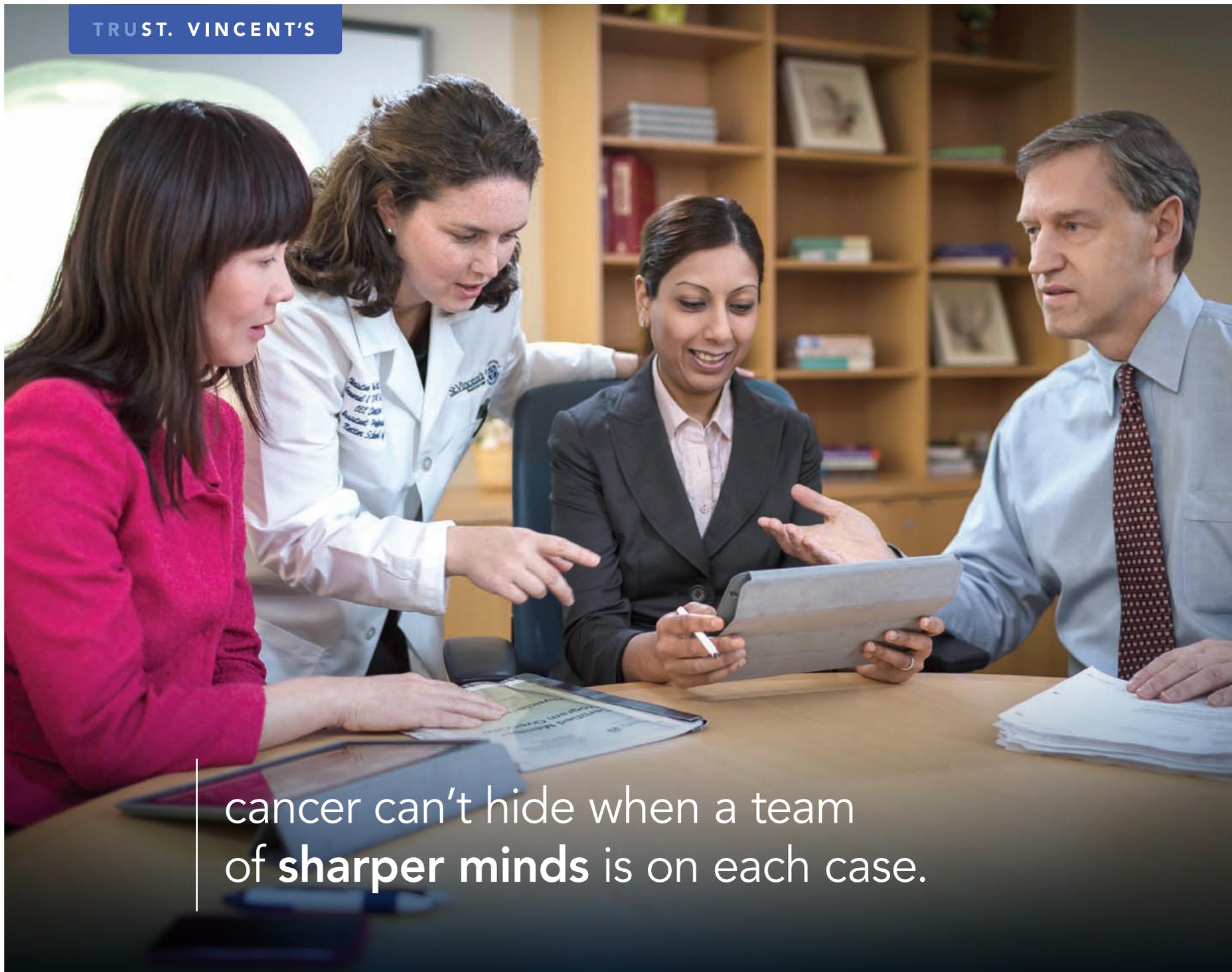
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