



# FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

JUNE 2014 | VOLUME 31, NUMBER 6 | GRADUATION ISSUE

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## Synod 2014

## An end and a beginning

By BISHOP FRANK CAGGIANO

Over the last few weeks, I was privileged to attend all but one of the commencement exercises celebrated for the graduates of 2014 from our local Catholic high schools. As I reflect upon each of these experiences, I remain deeply impressed with the achievements of our young women and men on many levels.

For example, 100 percent of the graduates from Kolbe Cathedral High School, the only urban Catholic high school in the State of Connecticut, will be attending college in the fall. This is a testimony to the wonderful education they received at Kolbe. In addition, while we are still calculating the final numbers for all of our high schools, the amount of scholarship and grant money awarded to the graduates at two of our high schools—figures that were announced during their respective commencement exercises—amounts to nearly \$35 million.

Moreover, students of every age at each of our high schools have amassed an amazing record of service hours and projects that addressed the charitable and human needs of the poor in our county and beyond! I am proud of all of our graduates. They are the new generation of Catholic leaders who are being sent to college to continue their education so that they can change the world.

While their graduation signals the end to an important stage in their lives, it also represents the start of a wonderful journey to greater knowledge and formation. May our Lord bless, protect and guide them in the year ahead.

The month of June is also the



ONE HUNDRED PERCENT of the graduates from Kolbe Cathedral High School, the only urban Catholic high school in the State of Connecticut, will be attending college in the fall. "I am proud of all of our graduates," says Bishop Caggiano, who attended graduations at diocesan high schools with Sister Mary Grace Walsh, superintendent of schools. "They are the new generation of Catholic leaders."

time for an end and a beginning of certain stages of the synod. On June 21, we concluded our initial listening sessions in every vicariate of the diocese. Your comments, observations and suggestions have helped me tremendously to better understand the current needs and issues facing our diocese. You may see the summaries of these sessions on the synod website at [www.2014synod.org/LS](http://www.2014synod.org/LS).

I am grateful to all who attended these listening sessions and who filled out forms online. Your overwhelming interest in the life of the Church demon-

strates how deeply you care about our community of faith as it is lived out in our parishes, schools, charitable organizations and throughout the diocese. It is very edifying and gives me great hope for our future!

While this edition of the *Fairfield County Catholic* goes to print, the Diocesan Synod Commission continued its work to summarize all the data received from various venues, with the goal of preparing a summary report that will identify the most important issues raised by the participants. Shortly after the report is finished, I will be able to

announce four or five general topics of the synod.

The official announcement of the topics to be examined by the synod will take place during the Solemn Celebration of Vespers for the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul, Sunday, June 29, at Saint Augustine Cathedral at 7 pm. All are most welcome to attend! In a special way I ask that all clergy, religious and the general delegates who will be my closest collaborators in the synod make a special effort to attend this solemn celebration.

Let me also share some news with you. Recently, the diocese

welcomed Patrick C. Turner as the Deputy Director of the Synod (please see the article on page 3). He will assist Msgr. Dariusz Zielonka in the diocesan Synod Office as Msgr. Zielonka prepares to begin his new position as the pastor of Saint Jude Parish in Monroe. I am thankful to both of them for their willingness to move the synodal process forward in the months ahead.

In addition, I am pleased to announce the members of the new Liturgical Committee of the Synod. They are Gina Donnarummo, Jenna Donovan, Juanita Evans, Father Francisco Gomez, Father Robert Kinnally, Father Peter Lynch, Thom Marino, Father Damian Piesesz, Patrick Turner, Msgr. Andrew Varga and Msgr. Dariusz J. Zielonka

The liturgical committee is already planning the many liturgical celebrations that will accompany the synod and working on creating a comprehensive spiritual program for the diocese, parishes and other institutions. Many thanks to all of them for their service to the Church!

These upcoming summer months will be a busy time for those involved with the Fourth Diocesan Synod. They will be working on formation, preparations and as members of the study committees in order to ensure that all is ready for the Opening Session of the Synod on September 19. Let us keep them in our prayers.

However, let us also remember to take some time to rest and refresh. Let us remember to spend some time in prayer with Our Lord who is the source of our strength and who refreshes us. God bless you all! ■

## ON THE COVER

**WE DID IT!** Kolbe Cathedral High School graduates take "selfies" on their way to higher education and new lives. One hundred percent of the graduates are going on to college or post-secondary education. There were 84 graduates in the Class of 2014 of Kolbe Cathedral, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. **ABOVE THE FOLD:** The Kolbe Cathedral Class of 2014 processes to St. Augustine Cathedral for Commencement Exercises. (Photos by Amy Mortensen)

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## Local News

## Father Robert Kinnally named chancellor

BRIDGEPORT—Father Robert Kinnally has been named chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. The appointment will be effective June 30.

He succeeds Anne McCrory of Fairfield, who was named to the new post of Chief Legal and Real Estate Officer of the Diocese of Bridgeport in April.

Father Kinnally's appointment is part of the overall reorganization of the diocese and redefinition of key job titles being undertaken by Bishop Caggiano.

"Father Kinnally is a man of prudential judgment and ability to see the larger picture. His successful career in educational administration prior to becoming a priest and his excellent work as rector of St John Fisher Seminary speak to his ability to work with others. Additionally, he has represented the diocese well through his service on the board of Sacred Heart University. He will serve as a great resource to the entire diocese as we prepare for the

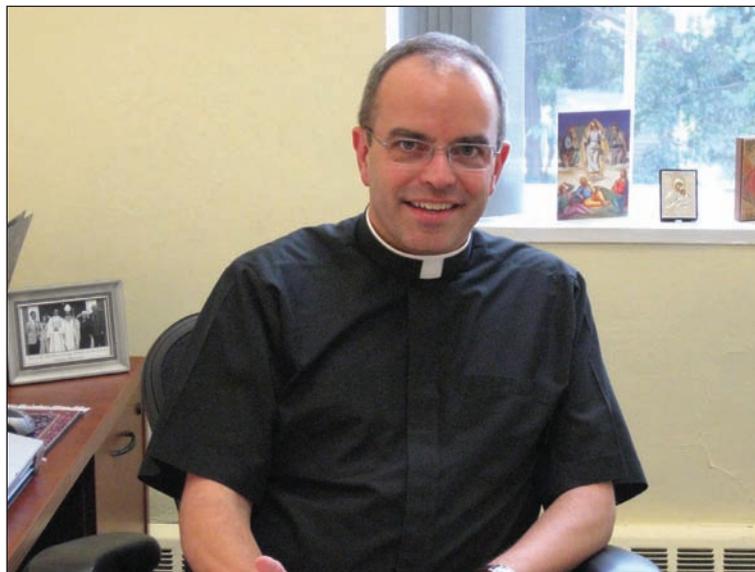
future," said Bishop Caggiano.

In his role as chancellor, Father Kinnally will serve as diocesan notary and chief advisor to the bishop in addition to sitting on key diocesan boards.

He will also continue to serve as rector of St. John Fisher Seminary, the diocesan house of discernment and study for men considering a vocation to the priesthood. Father Kinnally was appointed director of vocations in August 2009, and rector of St. John Fisher Seminary in 2011.

Under Father Kinnally's leadership the diocese has experienced a surge in vocations, with a total of 22 men now studying for the priesthood at the St. John Fisher and other seminaries throughout the country.

Father Kinnally is also serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of Sacred Heart University, an appointment he accepted in November 2008. In the past he has served as parochial vicar of St. Pius X parish in Fairfield.



FATHER ROBERT KINNALLY

Father Kinnally was ordained by Bishop William E. Lori in 2005 after a distinguished educational career in which he was dean of admissions and financial aid at Stanford University. During his educational career, he also taught special education at Iona College and was an

admissions professional at Pace University, Purchase College, the University of Bridgeport, and Sarah Lawrence College, where he was also dean of admissions.

Born and raised in Yonkers, New York, he spent his summers in Brookfield where he attended St. Joseph Parish. He graduated

Iona Preparatory High School in New Rochelle, N.Y., and earned degrees in English from Manhattan College and New York University, and a degree in Sacred Theology from the Catholic University of America.

A professional organist, pianist and vocalist, he served as music director and organist at parishes in Connecticut and New York prior to his ordination.

The Diocese of Bridgeport includes more than 460,000 registered Catholics in Fairfield County, representing 45 percent of the total population.

In addition to its 82 parishes, the diocese sponsors 30 regional elementary schools and five diocesan high schools, educating more than 10,000 youth. It also sponsors 14 cemeteries and a wide range of social programs including Catholic Charities, a network of Bishop Curtis Homes for the elderly, the Cardinal Shehan Center for inner-city children and other ministries and programs throughout Fairfield County. ■

## Turner named synod deputy

BRIDGEPORT—Patrick C. Turner of Brooklyn has been named the deputy director of the synod. He will assist Synod Director Msgr. Dariusz Zielonka in managing the year-long synod process in the diocese.

Turner comes to the Diocese of Bridgeport from Brooklyn, where he served as a vicariate representative for the Diocese of Brooklyn from September 2006-14.

"In that role, Patrick served as a bridge between the diocesan curial offices and the more than 90 parishes in Brooklyn," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. "He brings great organizational and strategic planning skills to his new role and will help us to move the synod forward in the months ahead."

Working closely with the vicar general, the Office of Pastoral Planning for the Brooklyn diocese and the episcopal vicar for Brooklyn, Turner assisted individual parishes, groups of parishes and deaneries in pastoral planning processes and the development of collaborative activities.

While in Brooklyn, his prin-



PATRICK C. TURNER

cipal responsibilities included outreach and advocacy to the pastors, parish staffs, and lay leadership. He assisted parishes in developing and implementing pastoral and strategic plans. His role also involved working with the curial offices to respond more effectively to the needs expressed by the parishes.

Turner served as a member of the Faith Formation Advisory Board, the Pastoral Institute Advisory Board, and the Diocesan Strategic Planning Commission, led by the former vicar general,

Bishop Frank Caggiano, and Msgr. Edward Scharfenberger, vicar for strategic planning (now bishop of Albany, N.Y.).

The Diocesan Strategic Planning Commission undertook a full-scale, three-year review (2010-2013) of all parishes in the diocese by analyzing detailed sacramental, financial, and temporal data and making pastoral visits. Recommendations were then made to the bishop regarding parish strategic planning and/or reconfiguration. Turner provided pastoral resources to nearly 40 parishes to implement those recommendations.

Prior to beginning his work for the Diocese of Brooklyn, Turner spent nearly 21 years in Washington, D.C., working in the public policy/government relations arena. An undergraduate of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, he completed graduate level coursework at Loyola College in Baltimore in pastoral and spiritual care. Turner was born in Texas, and grew up in the Seattle area. ■

## Vespers Service to open Synod 2014

BRIDGEPORT—All are invited to attend the Synod 2014 Vespers prayer service for the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul on Sunday, June 29, at 7 pm in St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport.

The evening prayer service will include hymns, psalms, Scripture readings and a homily by Bishop Frank Caggiano.

After his homily, the Bishop will also announce the major topics for the Synod based on the hundreds of comments and suggestions made at the listening sessions held throughout the diocese during the spring. Comments have also been submitted online through the diocesan website.

"It is fitting that we begin the Synod with prayer on the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, the two great Apostles who represent the very foundations of the Church," said Bishop Caggiano. "They are the solid rock on which the Church is built, and they remain our protectors."

The Vespers service will bring together more than 300 Synod delegates for the first time along with pastors, clergy and religious throughout the diocese to pray for the success of the Synod.

During the listening sessions, Catholics throughout the diocese have offered suggestions on a wide range of issues including the need to welcome Catholics back to Church, to reach out to youth and young adults, to increase collaboration between parishes and to offer new opportunities for lay spiritual formation.

The Synod will formally open on Saturday, September 20 when delegates convene for the First General Session at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. ■

# Building Bridges for the Future

## The Bishop's Appeal funds Catholic education

When we were in school, the very last place on earth we wanted to be was sitting in the principal's office. On a recent, rainy Monday, however, we found ourselves doing just that. Sitting not only in one principal's office, but over the course of the day, we had the pleasure, yes, PLEASURE, of sitting in the principal's office of THREE of our diocesan schools. We visited the lower and upper schools of the Cathedral Academy in Bridgeport as well as Notre Dame

High School in Fairfield.

Unlike those unforgettable feelings of our youth, we were happy to be there and interested in learning about the amazing accomplishments of our diocesan schools. Generous donors to the Annual Bishop's Appeal help support the ministry of administrators and teachers in 30 diocesan elementary schools, five diocesan high schools and St. Catherine's Academy for children with special needs, under the tireless leadership of Sister Mary

Grace Walsh ASCJ, PhD.

Sister Mary Grace sets the tone of excellence at the top, making our schools powerful, transformative places of learning with a rigorous standards-based curriculum that infuses Gospel values and exceeds state and national academic standards. Fifty percent of our elementary schools have received the National Blue Ribbon of Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Education ranking them in the top 10 percent of

the country for math and reading skills. Our Catholic schools are a bridge that keeps our children connected and growing in the faith of Christ.

### Lower and Upper School of Cathedral Academy

The first stop for our school bus was the Cathedral Academy Lower School (Pre-K-third grade) on the St. Raphael Campus in Bridgeport. Students at the lower school come from culturally and economically diverse backgrounds.

We were met by the principal, Sister Deborah Lopez, a wonderful ambassador for the school. As we walked the halls of the school and popped in on classes, we were impressed by the excitement these young students exhibited at being in school, exploring questions and solving problems.

Most heartwarming was a stop into a Pre-K classroom where we were greeted with a "good morning" by the students, followed by one boy rushing to the side of Sister Deborah to give her a quick, yet very meaningful, hug.

"The diocese is essential to our success. We are totally dependent on the diocese to help us preserve education in the inner city and give our families a chance to choose a school where they can have a safe, faith-based, academically challenging program for their child," says Sister Deborah.

When students complete the third grade at the Cathedral Academy Lower School, most continue on to the Cathedral Academy Upper School (grades 4-8), located in the heart of Bridgeport on the St. Augustine Campus. Greeted by the upper school's dynamic principal, Larry DiPalma, our visit was off to a great start.

We witnessed a place where the students weren't just following directions and repeating back information but were actively engaged and sharing their gifts and talents. We were impressed by one seventh-grade U.S. history class as students eagerly raised hands to confidently share with us the knowledge they had learned this year. The confidence these kids showed was a testament to not just the instruction they are receiving but also to a caring and supportive environment. The school is a real beacon of hope for the children of inner city Bridgeport.



Cece & Mike Donoghue tour Catholic Schools

### 2014 Appeal Chair Couple

As Principal DiPalma described it, this is not just a place where students come to learn, it is a place where a devoted faculty and staff come together in a dedicated and committed effort to educate the whole child, building a strong foundation of both faith and knowledge.

The cost to educate a child in the Cathedral Academies is \$6,000 per student. Every student receives financial assistance through reduced tuition costs, and 65 percent of families receive additional financial aid based on need through the Annual Bishop's Appeal and gifts of individual donors. More than 700 scholarships are available.

### Notre Dame High School

Notre Dame High School, Fairfield, was our last stop. We met both the principal, Chris Cipriano, and the president, Father Bill Sangiovanni. It became clear right away that the strong partnership between these two men is what makes the leadership of Notre Dame so successful and why the school attracts such excellent, loyal teachers.

Father Sangiovanni cites the diocesan programs offered to the school for professional development and the ongoing support from the diocese as two of the many reasons why Notre Dame can offer such an outstanding education to its students. The diocese supports all efforts to achieve the mission of Notre Dame High School, which is to build character, faith and intellect among the 400 students that the school serves.

Our 35 Catholic Schools,  
▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Planned Giving—leaving a legacy for the future

BRIDGEPORT—Every year thousands of parishioners support their parish and the diocese through their weekly offering and the Annual Bishop's Appeal. It is an expression of their faith and the foundation in which they live out their life as they take part in an array of programs and ministries and the sacraments. They can continue this expression of faith by making a lasting gift after they pass on through Planned Giving.

Bishop Caggiano recently launched the St. Augustine Legacy Society Planned Giving Program to assist individuals in taking the necessary steps to provide for the future of the Church in Fairfield County. Many parishioners during their lifetime desire to make a large gift, but personal responsibilities limit their means. A planned gift can make that investment.

Planned Giving offers the opportunity to manage and protect one's personal assets in a way that not only benefits family, but memorializes the ministries that meant so much to individuals during their lifetime. Legacy giving, or leaving bequests in one's will, is for everyone. Anyone can create a will and leave detailed instructions for the distribution of one's estate after their demise.

"There are some donors who are unable to make a large

gift to their parish or to the diocese right now; they can provide for substantial gifts in their will," says Bill McLean, chief development officer for the diocese.

Although we often do not think about how we will distribute our assets at the end of life, it is important to overcome any apprehension, plan ahead, and realize this can be another way to support your parish or diocese.

One way to begin is by visiting the new website at [www.bridgeportdiocese.com/planned-giving](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com/planned-giving). The site includes steps to inform, educate and walk one through the preliminary process. Individuals who remember their parish or diocese in their estate plans will be invited to join the St. Augustine Legacy Society. "The St. Augustine Legacy Society honors and celebrates planned donors while they are living, and we respect donors who want to remain anonymous," says Pam Rittman of the development office.

In addition, a Planned Giving Advisory Committee will provide their professional skills to guide donors and the diocese. The diocese has enlisted Thomas Kolenberg, KM; Brian Donovan, Esq.; Deacon Thomas McManus, Esq., CPA; and Michael Hanlon, CPA, CFO for the Diocese of Bridgeport and are grateful for their volunteer support.

The committee also provides useful information on the benefits of legacy giving for estate planning. Committee member Brian

Donovan encourages people of faith to be diligent about the state of their finances. "Even if you already have an estate plan in place, it is vital that you periodically review and update it to ensure that it continues to reflect your values, goals and aspirations for your loved ones and your charitable interests. Philanthropy can instill a tradition of giving in your family that will inspire future generations," says Donovan.

Deacon McManus stresses, "It is important that every individual have a will, even if you don't have a taxable estate. Specific charities of your choice named in your will can benefit from proceeds that might otherwise be taxed."

In today's financial environment, it is important for individuals and families to consider planned giving as an integral part of their overall financial planning. Donors may have a personal interest in a particular aspect of Church ministry and may want to designate their gift to that area. Unrestricted gifts are also welcomed and benefit both the donor and the recipient of the gift.

Planned giving is a wonderful way to continue a spiritual legacy.

(For more information, or to let us know if you have named the diocese in your estate plans, contact Pam Rittman or Bill McLean at 203.416.1470.)

# Bishop's Appeal

## Many support bishop's vision through the appeal

BRIDGEPORT—The 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal is nearing 90 percent of its \$11.5 million goal and is more than \$1.2 million ahead of last year's at this time, says William McLean, chief development officer of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

"We're at a crucial time in the campaign as we near the end of the campaign, and we need

everyone to join in. Now is time to give," said McLean, who noted that more than 23,000 donors have already given to the appeal.

McLean recently reported the status of the 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal to the Priest Advisory Committee (PAC) chaired by Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz of St. Mary Parish

in Ridgefield and Father Reginald Norman, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton.

"The best way to affirm our new bishop and the leadership he has brought to the diocese is to get behind the appeal," said McLean. "Bishop Caggiano has worked tirelessly to bring a new



OVER GOAL—To date, 34 parishes have gone over goal, including St. Anthony of Padua in Fairfield, which is at 170 percent of goal.

vision and energy to the diocese by calling the Synod and reaching out in so many ways. The appeal is a major way to reach out to him and accept his invitation to build bridges of faith."

McLean said that people can make gifts to the appeal through the end of the year, but he encouraged people to give now and send a strong signal of support for diocesan programs.

"The diocese has much important work ahead of it with the synod. It is important to get appeal out of the way now, so that we can move forward with new initiatives and projects that prepare us for the future," he said.

To date, 42 parishes have gone over goal. Leading the way have been St. Leo Parish in Stamford with 231 percent of goal, followed by St. John, Darien (181%), St. Thomas More, Darien (181%); and St. Anthony of Padua, Fairfield (170%). In the inner-city of Bridgeport several parishes are surpassing their goals, most notably St.

Peter (112%); Blessed Sacrament (109%) and St. Andrew (110%).

"We're encouraged by the number of parishes that have surged over goal, but we have more work to do," said McLean. He said that 30 percent of donors have increased their donations and 24 percent of gifts are from new donors.

McLean said that in addition to responding to the direct mail envelopes sent into homes, 1,347 donors have pledged based on to online solicitation, 1,596 have made their pledge through envelopes inserted into Fairfield County Catholic, and almost 5,887 have given through in-pew requests.

"Building Bridges in Faith and Charity" is the theme of this year's appeal, which supports a wide range of programs including Catholic Charities, diocesan schools, care of retired priests, religious education, St. John Fisher Seminary and clergy ministries.

(For more information, phone: 203.416.1470. To make a gift online, go to [www.2014ABA.com](http://www.2014ABA.com).)

### Catholic Education in the Diocese

## What makes us stand out

Comprised of 30 diocesan elementary, five diocesan high schools and St. Catherine's Academy for children with special needs

Rigorous standards-based curriculum infuses Gospel values and exceeds state and national academic standards

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) courses are integrated throughout the curriculum

Fifty percent of elementary schools received the National Blue Ribbon of Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Education ranking them in the top 10 percent for math and reading skills.

### Cathedral Academies of Bridgeport

Comprised of three elementary schools: St. Andrew Academy, Cathedral Academy Upper and Lower School and St. Ann Academy.

Students perform at or above grade level  
65 percent of families receive tuition assistance  
More than 700 students receive scholarships



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

### DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

238 Jewett Avenue • Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606 • 203-416-1352 • FAX: 203-371-8323

Dear Friends in Christ,

I wish to thank all of you who have contributed to this year's Annual Bishop's Appeal and invite those who have not given to make a pledge. There is still time to give and so much depends on it.

The appeal assists the diocese to fulfill the mission the Lord has given us to put faith into action and to allow the mission of the Church to move forward.

As I write this note, we are very close to achieving something important for the diocese: your pledge will help us reach out to others in faith and compassion and build spiritual bridges of faith to prepare us for the future.

I truly believe that the appeal is the single most important investment you can make in the Church in Fairfield County. Every day in my visits to our parishes and schools, I see how your generosity in the appeal helps so many people in need and becomes a Christ-centered expression of your commitment to the community.

Many of you have mentioned with pride and enthusiasm the way our Holy Father, Francis, has reinvigorated the Church. Indeed, our new shepherd is giving us a second look at the beauty of being Catholic as he courageously asks the entire world to imagine a future with greater reverence for all life.

During recent 2014 Synod listening sessions, you have told me that the diocese has so much good to build on. I have heard praise for priests and parishes, our schools, St. John Fisher Seminary, Catholic Charities soup kitchens and other charitable programs, and the many pastoral services that help us grow in faith. You should know that your participation in the appeal makes all this, and so much more, possible.

We are living in a singular moment of grace that has come to us through this remarkable successor of the poor fisherman who became the cornerstone of the Church. We should not let the opportunity pass; but rather have it said that we lived it well and lived it generously.

It is in this new spirit of Francis that I convened the Synod 2014 and why I have asked all Catholics to get involved, not simply by giving financially, but through your prayer, charitable actions and conversion of heart. Together we can build bridges to those who suffer in poverty or who are poor in spirit and need the healing graces of our Lord.

Please join me in making a sacrificial gift in faith and charity to the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Your participation helps us to continue to build spiritual bridges in our diocese.

With my deepest esteem and gratitude for your generosity and love for the Church,

Sincerely,

*Frank J. Caggiano*

Frank J. Caggiano

# St. Mary's, Greenwich

## Msgr. Wissel remembered with moving tribute

By JOSEPH McALEER

On Mother's Day, May 11, one month before he died, Msgr. Frank C. Wissel received the surprise of his life. A marble statue of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal was unveiled outside St. Mary Church in downtown Greenwich, dedicated to the pastor who served there for 17 years.

"I never expected it to be dedicated to me," Msgr. Wissel said. "In Brooklyn you'd have to be dead 30 years for that to happen!"

Msgr. Wissel died peacefully in Greenwich Hospital on June 19, four days after his official retirement from St. Mary's. He was 76 years old.

In the days since his passing, the statue has become a focal point for parishioners, who remember Msgr. Wissel's concern and devotion to the people entrusted to his care. Like the

statue, his was a towering presence both in Greenwich and among the inner-city students he had formerly led in Bridgeport.

Carved from Carrara marble by the Arrighini Family of Pietrasanta, Italy, the one-ton statue is an exact replica of the one in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Paris, France. The chapel is where Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine Labouré in 1830, encouraging her to create the medal.

The statue was donated anonymously by a parish couple in honor of Msgr. Wissel and in gratitude to Our Lady for her intercession in the healing of cancer patients.

"It's beautifully done, a unique gift given by a very special couple," Msgr. Wissel said on that happy day, as Bishop Frank J. Caggiano blessed the statue, with many parishioners and well-

wishers looking on.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Msgr. Wissel was ordained to the priesthood in 1977 by Bishop Walter W. Curtis. From 1981-91 he was principal of Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport, where in 2011 the school annex was christened "Msgr. Frank C. Wissel Hall."

Msgr. Wissel was the founder and director of the St. Maximilian Kolbe House of Studies for Boys, established in Bridgeport in 1983. Its mission is to educate young men in a family setting, who have a strong desire to learn and to be honest and good citizens. To date, 49 young men from around the world have attended and gone on to college and graduate school.

Appointed pastor of St. Mary's in 1997, Msgr. Wissel expanded the number of parish programs and organizations and established a fund to assist the poor, including the large immigrant community. All of this was accomplished, he noted, through the "overwhelming" generosity of parishioners in devoting their time, talent, and resources.

His trademark style of running a successful parish was to build a team effort between clergy and qualified lay people. "You have to delegate, and you have to affirm people when they are doing a good job," he said.

For many years Msgr. Wissel

==== CHAIR COUPLE  
FROM PAGE 4

some of which are in economically disadvantaged urban areas of Fairfield County, educate 11,000 children. Fully 98 percent of our graduates go on to pursue higher education. The additional expense of sending their children to a Catholic school can be financially difficult for many families, but it is a sacrifice they are willing to make.

The support and generosity of the many donors to the 2014 Annual Bishop's Appeal, Building Bridges in Faith and Charity, assists in providing excellent Catholic education for our children and professional development and growth of our administrators and teachers. On behalf of them all, thank you for your gift. ■



ON MOTHER'S DAY, May 11, Bishop Frank Caggiano dedicated a new statue of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in front of St. Mary Church in Greenwich. The statue honors Msgr. Frank Wissel (l), who retired as pastor on June 15, just four days before he died. (PHOTO BY JOHN GLOVER)

wrote a popular column in the *Greenwich Citizen* newspaper. In one, he offered sound advice that expressed his philosophy of life. "God has given us the Bible," he wrote. "We are, indeed, our brother's keeper. We have a choice, being blessed with many things, but unless we share them with the needy, all is for nothing."

Msgr. Wissel's body was received into St. Mary Church on June 23, where it lay in state until the Vigil Mass. The celebrant and homilist for the Mass was Msgr. William Scheyd, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan.

"Monsignor Wissel had one of the most generous hearts any of us will ever encounter," Msgr. Scheyd said. "His motto was, 'Work hard and be good,' and

that is all that Jesus asks of each one of us."

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Msgr. Wissel at St. Mary's on June 24. Bishop Caggiano was the celebrant, and Msgr. J. Peter Cullen, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Greenwich, delivered the homily.

"He was the spiritual father of a very large and extended family," Msgr. Cullen recalled of his friend. "Our Lord said, 'Feed my sheep.' Like a true father, Monsignor did just that. He reached out to help people who were hungry for compassion, encouragement, knowledge, understanding and justice."

Interment followed in the Priests' Circle of St. Mary Cemetery. ■

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# Ordination

## 'Live what you preach,' bishop tells deacons

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano told the two men ordained as transitional deacons on June 14 to use the great gift of the priesthood to serve others in sacrificial love throughout their lives. The ordination rite was celebrated in St. Augustine Cathedral.

Before family, friends and priests from throughout the diocese, David Peter Clark of Danbury and Carl Dennis McIntosh of New York were ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon, the last step on the way to their ordination as priests next June.

"This is a noble and beautiful moment, not just for you but in the life of the entire Church," Bishop Caggiano said in his homily. "Become a living Gospel to the world. The power of preaching does not lie in your words but in the integrity of your life." The bishop said that in his first 15 months as Holy Father, Pope Francis has taught us "that for many, love is just a word, and most people don't feel loved. It's for you to make real the sacrament of God's love through your generous service."

"You may be thinking, 'Am I ready.' Nobody is ready for so awesome a gift. Are you worthy? No one is worthy, myself included, but God loves us wildly. He will give us every grace to service," the bishop said.

### Deacon David Clark

Deacon David Clark, 30, was born and raised in Danbury, attending St. Peter School and graduating from Immaculate High School in 2002. His parents, David and Sandy, have since moved to Canton, N.C., where they are members of Immaculate Conception Parish. His sister, Jaime Bryant, lives in Syracuse, N.Y.

He graduated from the Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in 2006 with a concentration in history. Somewhat at loose ends following graduation, he worked in food service while considering future possibilities. He was weighing the choice of teaching or, possibly, law school. During that same period he started going back to Mass with his grandmother, a practice he had let slide during young adulthood.

"The Lord began to reinvigorate my vocation to his priest-

hood which had been given to me when I was an altar server in middle school but from which I fell away from in high school and college," he says.

A visit to St. John Fisher Residence in Stamford reinforced his commitment to a vocation to the priesthood. He entered Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., where he will complete his studies in 2015.

A summer assignment in 2013 introduced him to St. Joseph Parish in Brookfield with Father Chip O'Neill and Msgr. Edward Scull. The two priests have had a powerful influence on the growth of his vocation, and he now considers St. Joseph's his home parish.

Deacon Clark preached his first Mass as a deacon at 11 am on Sunday, June 15. Msgr. Scull was the celebrant.

"The Lord has placed faithful and loving men and women throughout the chapters of my life" says Deacon Clark. "Most importantly, I am grateful for the priests the Lord has surrounded me with. They have guided me to my own vocation to Christ's priesthood by their charity and prayerful presence. The ebbs and flows of life can lead a person to confusion and worries. Remembering the Lord's love and faithfulness, and seeing his fidelity in his people, has been the compass that helped me not only to persevere in difficult times but to grow in the servanthood of Christ our Lord and Shepherd."

### Deacon Carl McIntosh

Deacon Carl McIntosh, 63, grew up in New York City. His mother Cecile and brother Neil are deceased. His father, Leonard, is a parishioner at St. John the Martyr Parish in Manhattan. His two sisters also live in New York.

He graduated from Fordham Prep in the Bronx and Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., with a degree in music. After several years of freelancing as a word processing operator in Manhattan, he enlisted in the U.S. Army band program as a piano player.

After attending the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary, he worked as a legal secretary for several of the top attorneys in New York City, including former mayor Rudolph Giuliani.



DEACON CARL MCINTOSH (l) and Deacon David Clark stand with Bishop Caggiano after their ordination.

Deacon McIntosh had been struggling with a possible vocation to the priesthood since he was an altar boy in grammar school, but the timing was never quite right and things never seemed to work out.

A pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City bore fruit, and he entered the program at St. John Fisher. However, he had to withdraw after one semester in order to satisfy outstanding law school

educational loans before entering major seminary. He will complete his theological studies at Mount St. Mary's in 2015.

"I received a call from the vocations director of the Diocese of Bridgeport just two weeks prior to satisfying my loans," he recalls. "A lifetime of prayers and hard work were suddenly answered. Within weeks, I had left my job and apartment of some 20 years in Manhattan and had begun my studies for the priesthood in earnest. By the grace of God, just three years after my affirmative answer to the call, I was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Caggiano. I am especially looking forward to winning over our lapsed, lost and indifferent brothers and sisters to a love of Christ and his holy Church."



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Mobile website for smartphones & tablets due to be released July 1, 2014



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# SYNOD COMMISSION REPORT



## report on pre-synod listening sessions for May 5 through June 21

“Now is the time to come together to discuss the future of the Church in Fairfield County and to plan accordingly,” said the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Fifth Bishop of Bridgeport, after formally convoking the 4th Synod of the Diocese of Bridgeport on February 22, 2014.

### GATECHESIS AND EDUCATION

*Catholic education in all its forms from our elementary, high schools and universities to the many religious education programs available for youth and adults is embraced throughout the diocese. Yet speakers want more—a new generation of programs that inspire youth and re-ignite the faith of adults. Schools are an asset to the diocese*

Improve religious education programs in parishes, including improved formation for catechists

Religious Education and our catechists are areas of strength in our parishes

Expand resources for teachers and schools, including spiritual resources and support for students with special needs

Sr. Mary Grace and school office staff are very supportive

Improve the Catholic identity of the schools

Increase access to Catholic education

Our schools have supportive, qualified teachers and leaders

Better collaboration between education offices and teachers

Salaries and benefits need to increase for teachers

School office needs more staff

St. Cyril program provides consistent formation

### CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS

*Deep gratitude for our priests, deacons and religious is accompanied by the concern that pastors and priests need greater administrative support and opportunities for ongoing education and formation. Programs that support vocations of men and women to religious life also remain a priority.*

Pastors and priests are great strengths of the diocese

Expand ongoing formation for clergy (i.e. better homilies, administrative support)

Permanent Diaconate provides a great service to the diocese

Clergy provide good formation in their homilies

Increase vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life

Need a greater sense of our Catholic identity

St. John Fisher Seminary is a great program and all seminarians are well trained

More support for religious men and women

Increase the role of the diaconate in parish administration

Greater assistance for newly ordained priests

### STEWARDSHIP

*Creating a volunteer hotline to make individuals and families aware of all of the volunteer and service opportunities within the diocese was mentioned by many speakers. Putting faith into action and using resources efficiently and compassionately are among the major goals.*

Would like to see expansion of community service opportunities

Still need more improvement regarding financial transparency

Expansion of women's programs, ministries and retreats

Pastoral Services does great work with limited resources

Diocese does a good job with development, such as through the ABA

Expand ministries for people with special needs

Safe environments is a good program and very responsive to the needs of the diocese

Increase financial collaboration between parishes

Improve and update VIRTUS training

### PARISH LIFE

*Catholics in the diocese have high hopes for the parishes of the future. They view them as extended families of faith that enrich lives and create spiritual sanctuaries in a secular world. Greater cooperation between parishes, sharing of programs and best practices, and deeper engagement of the laity were among the priorities.*

Our parish community is strong and like a family

Parishioners and laity have a great sense of faith, service, and generosity

Greater collaboration between diocesan offices and parishes

Parishes have great ministries (i.e. men's groups, family groups, ladies' guilds etc.)

Expand the role of the laity in parish administration, evangelization, and education

Better collaboration of ministries between parishes

Better collaboration between schools and parishes

Pastoral and parish staff are great assets to our parishes

Better training for lay parish ministers

### EVANGELIZATION

*Welcoming Catholics back to the Church, inspiring youth over a lifetime, reaching out to those who are marginalized and suffering, and bringing the good news of the Gospel to our families and the community is the work of evangelization and a major concern for all those who attended listening sessions. They are eager to share the good news of the Gospel.*

Need more outreach to disenfranchised groups (i.e. poor, gay/lesbian, fallen away Catholics)

Need more programs for lay spiritual formation (i.e. retreats, speakers, bible studies)

Improve outreach to young families

Expand resources for outreach to ethnically diverse communities and parishes

Increase available support for parishioners in difficult times (i.e. bereavement support, mental illness, addiction counseling)

Improve outreach to divorced and single Catholics

Expand resources for interfaith collaboration

Good faith formation in our parishes

# SYNOD COMMISSION REPORT

In announcing the first synod in the diocese in 32 years, Bishop Caggiano said that Synod 2014 would begin with listening. In response to his call, the diocese hosted seven listening sessions throughout Fairfield County:

Monday—May 5 at 7:30 pm  
Vicariate I, Trinity High School, Stamford

Friday—May 16 at 7:30 pm  
Vicariate II, St. Aloysius, New Canaan

Saturday—May 17 at 1:30 pm  
Youth Listening Session, Notre Dame High School, Fairfield

Monday—June 2 at 7:30 pm  
Vicariate III, St. Thomas Parish, Fairfield

Sunday—June 8 at 5 pm  
Hispanic Community, the Catholic Center, Bridgeport

Tuesday—June 17 at 7:30 pm  
Vicariate IV, St. Catherine, Trumbull

Saturday—June 21 at 1 pm  
Vicariate V, Immaculate High School, Danbury

This first Synod Commission document is offered as a report to the faithful throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport at the conclusion of the seven listening sessions. Each session was open to the public and ran for 90 minutes. The hundreds of comments, thoughts, and suggestions made at the listening sessions were grouped and organized by the Synod Commission into the 10 topics included in the report. They represent vital input that will be factored into the final selection of topics by Bishop Caggiano for 4th Synod of the Diocese of Bridgeport, “Building a Bridge to the Future.”

Speakers were asked to confine their comments within the context of the following three questions:

1. The strengths of the diocesan ministries are... 2. I would like to see new diocesan outreach

in... 3. The diocese should improve its ministry by...

## Online Forms

Those who were unable to attending a listening session were invited to submit comments online using Form G, CL, and LS. (Synod Website: [www.synod2014.org](http://www.synod2014.org).)

The online forms proved to be an excellent tool in collecting opinions, comments and suggestions from the faithful of the diocese.

Though some chose to print them and write the answers, the overwhelming majority used the Internet to submit their responses.

There were three forms to choose from: Form G—general public with six questions, three pertaining to a specific parish or institution and three pertaining to the diocese. In addition, form CL (Clergy and Leadership of the parish/school) included three questions pertaining to the diocese that each pastor submitted to the Synod Office after consultation with the lay leadership of the parish.



Finally, form LS (Listening Session) was created as a companion to the seven listening sessions with Bishop Caggiano. This form also had three questions pertaining to the diocese, and allowed those who participated in the events with the bishop to submit additional comments. After tabulating the input, we had over 4,000 individual comments that were processed by the Synod Commission.

In total, more than 4,000 comments were offered at listen-

ing sessions and online. After collecting all the input from the faithful of the diocese, the Synod Office grouped the material into ten major topics: Catechesis and Education, Clergy and Religious, Evangelization, Parish Life, Leadership, Communications, Stewardship, Liturgy and Worship, Youth and Young Adult, Justice and Charity.

## Condensed Summary Report of Pre-Synodal Input

The Diocesan Synod Office collected input from the parishes, schools, institutions and individuals from March to June 2014. The input was collected via online forms G, CL and LS. Moreover, Bishop Caggiano met with the faithful of the diocese during seven listening sessions

## COMMUNICATIONS

*Catholics want to see their parishes embrace social media to better engage the young. They also want the diocese to launch campaigns in the secular media to invite Catholics back to Church and bring the voice of the Church to the public square.*

Improve communication between diocese and parishes

Expand presence in social and mass media to improve evangelization

The Bridge and Fairfield County Catholic provide good information

Better educate the laity on what the diocesan programs and offices do

The synod itself and the opportunity to provide feedback are a strength of the diocese

Education Office communicates well with parishes and schools

Improve communication between education offices and parents

## LITURGY AND WORSHIP

*Liturgy is the center of all we do as Catholics and the fundamental expression of our faith as individuals and parish communities. Speakers called for improving music, expanding opportunities for retreats and devotions, more education in the faith and outreach to increase Mass attendance.*

Need for more spiritual devotions needed in parishes (i.e. Adoration, Rosaries, novenas, etc.)

Increase Mass attendance through liturgical improvements (i.e. more interesting, better understanding of Mass)

There is a respect for the liturgy in parishes

Improve music as an effort to improve liturgy in parishes

Good opportunities for Adoration, Mass, sacraments across the diocese

Need more diocesan support for liturgy (i.e. create Office of Divine Worship)

## JUSTICE AND CHARITY

*Speakers throughout the listening sessions expressed concern about the growing gap between rich and poor in the diocese. They also wanted more opportunities to serve the needy, while they praised diocesan soup kitchens, prison ministry, and other programs that serve those in need and work for justice.*

Expand social justice initiatives (i.e. Pro-Life, Courage, traditional marriage)

Catholic Charities is an asset to the diocese and reflects our faith's tradition of service to others

The diversity of the diocese is a great strength

There is a strong presence of ministry for people with special needs through Pastoral Services and St. Catherine's Academy

Integrate community service opportunities into the schools

Greater focus on legislative issues and educating the faithful

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT

*Youth are not only the future—they are the vibrant present. Yet speakers said that many youth begin to tune out of the Church and there is very little programming for young adults who are out of college. Better faith formation and programs that speak directly to the young are needed.*

Need to work on retaining youth in the parishes through the expansion of youth programs and outreach

There is a need for better faith formation for youth and young adults

Youth programs are a strength across the diocese (i.e. Convivio, Fan the Fire, current youth groups)

More community service opportunities for the youth

More active youth groups

## LEADERSHIP

*Transparency, accountability, information sharing and leadership at all levels are important elements at the diocese plans its future. Speakers praised Bishop Caggiano for his leadership and transparency but also emphasized the need for increased collaboration.*

Bishop Caggiano is a great asset to the diocese

Diocesan staff is helpful and accommodating

There is much greater transparency in the diocese with the arrival of the bishop

Need greater level of accountability at the diocesan level

Finance office very helpful

# SYNOD COMMISSION REPORT

in each of five Vicariates of the diocese, as well as with youth and young adults group, and the Hispanic community. This report is the result of the input from all of these venues.

The charts on the previous pages contain grouping of specific comments made both at the listening sessions and online. Readers can also download the summaries of each of the listening sessions or listen to the audio recording of these sessions at [www.2014synod.org/LS](http://www.2014synod.org/LS).

They were then presented to the bishop, who will announce the final themes at the Solemn Vespers in the Cathedral on June 29 at 7 pm. Likewise, the synod study commissions, specially appointed by the bishop, will analyze the comments from the listening sessions and present the findings to the synod delegates in preparation for the General Sessions.

## Listening Session Summary

The following section offers an overview of each of the listening sessions held throughout the diocese:

### First Listening Session

*Vicariate I, Monday, May 5, Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford*

Inspiring the young to grow in the faith, pooling resources between parishes to improve religious education for adults and children and reaching out to Catholics who no longer attend Mass were among the major concerns at the first listening session at Trinity Catholic High School.

More than 200 laity, priests and religious were in attendance. In a little more than 90 minutes, the laity, priests, and religious who came out for the session made 98 comments about the life of faith in Fairfield County.

Most speakers took the opportunity to praise their pastors and priests, to offer strong support for Catholic education and to express their gratitude that the sacraments are readily available to Catholics across the diocese on a daily basis. They were also proud of the Church's outreach to hospitals, prisons and the poor who are served in diocesan soup kitchens.

Many speakers asked for improved catechesis for adults, more Bible Study groups and the use of contemporary Christian music to engage young people. They also said that parishes should upgrade the level of their

communications by improving websites and using new social media to reach out to young people and families. While speakers praised their parishes, they said they would like to see them become more welcoming to young people. They would also like more sharing between parishes and fewer boundaries.

Many also felt that their pastors were bogged down with

concerns that their own family members have stopped attending Mass.

While participants voiced many concerns, they were also deeply grateful for their pastors, priests and deacons and for the gift of faith in their lives. They praised Catholic Charities for its outreach to the poor and gave high marks to diocesan youth programs and pastoral services,

Young people said they want more bi-lingual programs, more outreach to public school teens and special services for young people struggling with their faith. They also asked for active youth groups, engaging music, good preachers and more modern prayers.

The agenda for the afternoon asked youth of the diocese to consider what made them proud

pared sandwiches and spent the dark hours of frigid winter nights delivering them to the poor in the Bronx.

They welcome the opportunity to experience God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They wish for more occasions for Eucharistic Adoration. At the end of the session, the bishop called forward 33 youth who will serve as delegates to Synod 2014. The youth delegation will form the largest single group of delegates to the Synod General Sessions.

### Fourth Listening Session

*Vicariate III, Monday, June 2, St. Thomas, Fairfield*

Participants asked for more sharing between parishes, a new generation of programs to reach high school students and young adults, and an outreach to divorced Catholics.

More than 260 people attended the session and offered 110 comments on a variety of topics ranging from the need for improved parish and diocesan communications, religious education programs that speak to contemporary families, and the need to build a bridge between affluent and poor parishes.

Through their many different comments and questions, speakers articulated the need for liturgies, homilies and ministries that deepen their spirituality and also renew and expand their knowledge of the Catholic Church.

Speakers praised diocesan programs including St. John Fisher Seminary, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, the availability of Mass and the sacraments, the annual Confession Campaign, "Share" and other religious education efforts, and the Convivio youth congress.

Many of the comments during the evening were focused on



paperwork and financial concerns and had less time for spiritual ministry. One woman suggested that suburban parishes should "twin" with inner city parishes so that both could learn more from each other and share their lives and faith. Some speakers said the Church was not doing a good job of capturing the idealism and energy of youth, which is often seen in their commitment to social change. Others seem baffled that their own children or family members stopped attending Mass and they wanted to see them back in the Church parishes.

### Second Listening Session

*Vicariate II, Friday, May 16, St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan*

Concern about the large number of Catholics who have left the Church and the need to better engage young people in parish life dominated the second Synod 2014 listening session held at St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan.

Many speakers invoked the name of Pope Francis as they urged the Church to be more welcoming and open and to serve others with joy and compassion. A number of speakers expressed

including the Lenten Confession campaign. They also asked for an expansion of women's ministries and retreats, more lay involvement in parish finances and business decisions, and new programs to engage youth and young couples in the life of parishes.

Among the suggestions for improving the Church's outreach were comments on creating programs that engage entire families in acts of service; creating a list of volunteer opportunities on the diocesan website; offering conversion retreats for teens as well as adults; improving the quality of music in Churches by training parish musicians; providing more outreach groups to divorced Catholics; and greater cooperation with other faiths to have an impact on the secular world.

### Third Listening Session

*Special Session for Youth, Saturday, May 17, Notre Dame High School, Fairfield*

Better religious education programs, more opportunities to be involved in parish life and greater outreach to the poor were among the thoughts and comments raised by the more than 200 teens who attended the special Youth Listening Session.

to be Catholic. They were asked what topics the synod should discuss, and what changes they would like to see in the diocese.

As the first fully "tech" generation, they suggested ways to use technology for the advancement of the Church, and they had time for an open forum with Bishop Caggiano.

The young Catholics took their faith seriously. Proud that their faith encourages them to think of the needs of other people, they discussed their volunteer work in soup kitchens and in Appalachia. They have also pre-



# SYNOD COMMISSION REPORT



the need to speak to youth in a language that engages them and makes them lifelong Catholics. Speakers asked for more inter-faith cooperation, and more missions, retreats and novenas that help to spark faith. Other ideas included the diocese purchasing a radio station, launching a media campaign to bring Catholics back and encouraging parishes to use social media to communicate with youth. Speakers also voiced concern about the growing gap between rich and poor in the diocese and suggested building more bridges between city and suburban parishes.

## Fifth Listening Session

*Spanish-speaking Community Sunday, June 8, the Catholic Center, Bridgeport*

Spanish-speaking Catholics throughout the diocese expressed many of the same concerns articulated at earlier listening sessions and also brought forward some unique issues and hopes at the fifth listening session.

More than 150 men women attended the special session held in Spanish, a language that is common to an estimated 25 percent of Catholics across the diocese. A deep desire for evangelization, Catholic education of

children and youth and the need for strengthening Christian family values, and putting faith at the center of our lives were among the major concerns of those in attendance.

Speakers also expressed a need for the diocese to develop a greater capacity for serving the Spanish speaking, and to develop programs that support their practice of the faith in ways that are familiar to their different cultures and traditions. From the need for having counseling services offered to the uninsured through Catholic Charities, to a request for a Spanish-speaking voice on the other side of a phone when callers dial the Catholic Center, speakers asked for more resources in serving the Spanish-speaking Catholics in the Fairfield County community.

Many speakers also cited examples of how Francis, the first Latin-American Pope is challenging the Universal Church through his earnest call for action, fidelity to Jesus and to the Gospel. Participants also voiced the concern for the number of Catholics leaving for Protestant and Evangelical congregations.

The evening began with speakers praising diocesan programs such as the Lenten Confession Campaign; Rite of

Christian Initiation of Adults and Children and parish catechesis; St. John Fisher Seminary; ministry to those preparing for marriage; formation opportunities for parish lay leaders; presence of religious communities; youth programs; social outreach programs; social justice and immigration services.

Like other speakers throughout the diocese, Hispanic participants said they thought the Church should put a major emphasis on ministry to the divorced and separated; education of parents on how to bring up children in the faith; increased scholarships for Catholic school education for those who cannot afford it; support to parents of teen-agers; a program on intimacy and chastity for the youth; allocation of diocesan funds for the education of catechists; and better use of mass media and outreach to the most vulnerable in society.

## Sixth Listening Session

*Vicariate IV, Tuesday, June 17, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull*

Catholics in Vicariate IV expressed their praise and concerns for the ministries of the Diocese of Bridgeport at a listening session held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. The vicariate is a microcosm of the diocese in its own right, stretching along its eastern edge from Bridgeport and Stratford to Shelton and including Trumbull and Monroe.

At nearly 300 strong, one of the largest listening sessions expressed gratitude for the dedication and inspiration of their priests. They praised the excellence of Catholic schools, the increasing availability of Adoration Chapels, youth programs like Convivio, *Fairfield County Catholic* and the diocesan website and Facebook, pro-life and family ministries, and the work of Catholic Charities.

A recurring concern, one that has arisen at every listening session, was the lack of attendance at Mass, particularly among young adults. Several speakers noted the attraction of energetic Protestant denominations—not just to youth but to Catholics of all ages—and recommended an aggressive campaign to find why people don't come to Mass.

Suggestions included catechesis for parents during their children's First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes; higher

quality, and more modern, music during Mass; the importance of sharing resources, like youth groups and Bible studies, between parishes; and the need to re-evangelize the people who are in the pews every week.

Participants also discussed the need to reach out to struggling parishes in Bridgeport and to find ways to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the greater Bridgeport area.

## Seventh Listening Session

*Vicariate V, Saturday, June 21, Immaculate High School, Danbury*

A sense of loss and confusion over the large number of Catholics no longer attending Church, including the children and grandchildren of some of those in attendance, overwhelmed the seventh and final listening session of Synod 2014.

Participants voiced equal concern over losing the young and the need to engage and inspire them to grow in their faith.

More than 150 men and women gathered in the gymnasium at Immaculate High School to share their concerns and hopes for the local Church as its plan for its future through the yearlong synod.

Over an intense, honest, and heartfelt 90 minutes, speakers made 97 suggestions and comments. While speakers voiced concern, they also expressed a deep appreciation for the teachings of the Church, the availability of the sacraments, the presence of Adoration chapels and the gift of faith in their lives.

Many spoke of the beauty of a "personal relationship with Jesus" and the need for the Church to reach people's hearts with a deep sense of conversion.

In response to the first question about the strengths of diocesan ministries, speakers cited Catholic schools, the Diaconate Program, Pastoral Services, youth programs, the Cursillo movement and the outreach of Catholic Charities to help the poor and suffering throughout the area.

Suggestions for new initiatives targeted the need to reach out to alienated Catholics and youth, and to provide more adult formation and catechetical programs that teach the faith in a vibrant and contemporary way. Speakers agreed that the Church needs to learn to be more welcoming, not simply in a social or superficial way, but a change of culture that forms small communities of faith.

Two finance council members from different parishes in the Danbury area said that it was time for laymen with financial and accounting expertise "to take the burden off pastors" by becoming more involved in the financial management of parishes. Other speakers asked for more use of social media to communicate with the young, and they expressed a need for the diocese to make people more aware of all the services and volunteer opportunities it provides.

In brief closing remarks, Bishop Caggiano directly addressed the challenge of bringing back Catholics who no longer attend Mass.

"We all know there are large numbers with members of their families who won't come here because they are disaffected, and they need to speak for themselves," he said, adding that he was considering a poll or some other method of hearing from them. ■



## Synod Commission Members:

Msgr. Dariusz Zielonka  
*Synod Director*

Patrick Turner  
*Deputy Synod Director*

Carol Pinard  
*St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan*

Damien O'Connor  
*Senior Director of the diocesan office of Pastoral Services*

Deacon John DiTaranto  
*St. Jude Parish in Monroe*

Martha Missimer  
*St. Patrick Parish in Redding Ridge*

Msgr. Walter Orłowski, KCHS,  
*Pastor, St. Matthew Parish, Norwalk*

Sister Rita Petrarca, ASCJ,  
*Pastoral Associate Saint Joseph Parish, Shelton*

John Rodriguez  
*St. Peter Parish, Bridgeport*

For more information visit the Synod 2014 website at [www.synod2014.org](http://www.synod2014.org).

# Safe Environments

## Ministerial Misconduct Board members named

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has announced the members of the new Ministerial Misconduct Advisory Board, created in May to review cases involving clerics accused of misconduct that involves adults or occurs in the exercise of ministry.

The board reviews cases in which the bishop must consider action regarding a priest or deacon's assignment, including temporary or permanent removal or suspension. The bishop said the goal of the advisory board is to review credible reports of ministerial misconduct involving adults and to assess the plan designed to address the issue. Additionally, it creates a mechanism for parishes, including lay leadership, to be

notified and consulted regarding the assignment of a priest or deacon. "These new norms are presented for both the protection of our community of faithful and for the maintenance and protection of the integrity of the priesthood. I'm very grateful to those who have agreed to serve. They bring considerable experience and judgment from a wide range of disciplines and they are committed to serving the Church," the bishop said.

**Misconduct Board members**  
**Michael Tintrup, LCSW**, chief operating officer of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, is a graduate of Fordham University School of Social Work and a licensed clinical social worker with 30 years of clinical counsel-

ing and administrative experience at Catholic Charities. He has also been instrumental in the Catholic Charities response to trauma and has worked extensively with parishes throughout the diocese. Michael and his wife Jan, are parishioners of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull.

**Dr. Timothy G. Lock, PhD**, of Brookfield is a clinical psychologist and a member of CatholicTherapists.com, which offers an online referral base of qualified Catholic therapists. Dr. Lock was trained by the late Dr. Peter Rudegear in psychotherapy to help individuals with same-sex attraction; from that training, Dr. Lock became a trusted referral source for Father Harvey and Courage, an apostolate that ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. He serves on the Courage Board of Directors.

**Vincent DeMaio** is captain of the operations division of the New Canaan Police Department. Captain DeMaio has served with the department for 25 years, beginning as a patrolman. He has also been the department's accreditation manager, assuring the department's successful re-accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and a master's in public administration from the University of New Haven. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two children and are members of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan.

**Bill Hoey, MAHCM, LCSW**,

is vice president of Mission & Ethics at St. Vincent's Health Services in Bridgeport. Prior to joining St. Vincent's, Hoey served as vice president for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Bridgeport, overseeing all aspects of the multi-program agency including the implementation of a program of clergy and victim assistance counseling for victims of sexual abuse. After graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from St. Anselm's College, he earned his master's in social work from Fordham University, and a master of arts in health care mission (MAHCM) from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in Saint Louis. He and his wife, Joan, have one son.

**Father Paul Holland, S.J.**, is the rector of the Fairfield Jesuit community. He served as rector of the Jesuit community and director of the Campion Center in Weston, Mass., from 2005-10. Prior to that, he served for eight years as pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish at the University of Connecticut and as associate chaplain and instructor in religious studies at Fairfield University. He graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 1970. After entering the Jesuits in 1972, he taught secondary school in Zambia, studied philosophy at Boston College and theology at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley in California. Ordained in 1980, Father Holland then attended the University of Notre Dame for doctoral studies in theology and ecclesiology.

**Father Ian Jeremiah** is vicar of clergy and director of the

Office of Clergy and Religious of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The Office of Clergy and Religious serves the more than 300 active and retired priests and deacons of the Diocese of Bridgeport as well as 350 religious. A native of Malaysia, Father Jeremiah, 50, came to the Catholic Center from St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan, where he had served as parochial vicar since June 2008. He entered the Saint John Fisher Seminary Residence in Stamford, in 2002. He completed his seminary studies at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, M.D., and was ordained by Bishop William E. Lori at St. Augustine Cathedral on May 17, 2008.

**Attorney Anne McCrory** is the chief legal and real estate officer of the Diocese of Bridgeport. She was named chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport in February 2012 by Bishop Lori, and served during the 16-month interim when the diocese was without a bishop. In the past she served as managing attorney/senior attorney and counsel for the Southern Connecticut Gas Company and UI. She received her law degree from Boston College Law School and attended Fordham University School of Law as a visiting student. She earned B.A. in English from Boston College. She and her husband, Hugh, are the parents of four children. They are members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Fairfield.

**Deacon Donald Foust** is a retired Norwalk High School teacher and administrator. Ordained in 1998, he is now

► *CONTINUED ON PAGE 15*

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### Office of Communications Diocese of Bridgeport

238 Jewett Avenue  
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**Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano**  
Publisher

**Brian D. Wallace**  
Executive Editor bwallace@ccfc-ct.org

**Pat Hennessy**  
Managing Editor phennessy@diobpt.org

**Renée Stamatis**  
Art Director rstamatis@diobpt.org

**Ralph Lazzaro**  
Advertising Manager rlazzaro@diobpt.org

**Fr. Colin McKenna**  
Staff Writer frmckenna@diobpt.org

**Brian A. Wallace**  
Graphic Designer bwallace@diobpt.org

**Jill Monroe**  
Office Manager/Admin jmonroe@diobpt.org

**Madeline Ghilardi**  
Copy Editor (Consultant)

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# 25th Anniversary Celebration

## St. John Fisher and the Church Triumphant

By FATHER COLIN MCKENNA

On Friday evening, June 20, the sanctuary in Assumption Church in Westport was awash with brilliant shades of red. The Cardinal Emeritus of New York, Edward Egan, was looking splendid in his cardinal's attire and Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was also resplendent in red vestments for the occasion, flanked by two newly-ordained deacons who wore red vestments that matched the bishop. To top it off, the pastor of Assumption, Father

Tom Thorne, had arranged two enormous bouquets of red roses for the celebration, one in front of the altar and one in front of the ambo. In total, there were over one-hundred fresh red roses helping to illuminate the sacred space.

Liturgical red was the color of the occasion because those gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of St. John Fisher Seminary gathered first to celebrate the holy sacrifice of the Mass, with the liturgical prayers for the feast day of St. John Fisher, an English bishop

who was martyred by King Henry VIII.

The color red in the Church honors the martyrs but it is also the color of victory, and the tone set during the Mass was certainly triumphant. With over 50 priest concelebrants—many of whom had attended Fisher—and many more religious and laity in attendance, both Cardinal Egan and Bishop Caggiano spoke to the tremendous success that has been St. John Fisher Seminary. Cardinal Egan even joked about

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



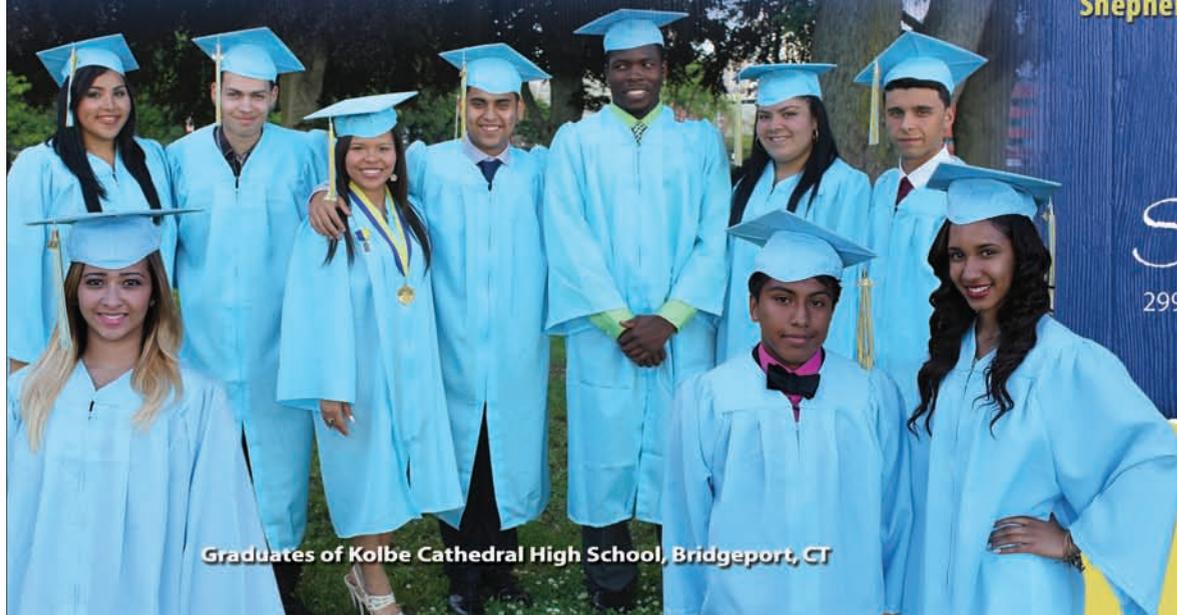
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# St. Vincent's Medical Center

## St. V's says 'good-bye' to the Daughters of Charity

BRIDGEPORT—During a weekend-long commemoration of their 110-year history, St. Vincent's Medical Center said good-bye to the Daughters of Charity, but not to their mission.

The Daughters of Charity who first came to St. Vincent's in 1903 wearing their wing-like cornette headdress that morphed into the plain blue habits they wear today will no longer be a familiar site in the hallways or departments.

More than 25 Daughters of Charity who had worked at St. Vincent's over the years returned to the area to celebrate their heritage, remember the Sisters who had come before them, and to say good-bye to co-workers.

Two Masses brought the health services system together as a community of faith: A public Mass held at St. Patrick Church on May 17, and a special Mass for management and staff held in

St. Vincent's Hawley Conference Center on May 19.

St. Patrick's played an historic role in the founding of the hospital in the late 1890s, when Catholic physicians, concerned about the health needs of the burgeoning immigrant population, contacted Father James Nihill, then pastor, and asked for his assistance. Father Nihill extended an invitation for the Daughters of Charity to visit the city.

At St. Patrick's, when Father Peter Lenox asked how many people in attendance had been patients or treated at St. Vincent's over the years, nearly the entire congregation stood.

Father Thomas McKenna, provincial director of the Daughters of Charity of the St. Louis Province, USA, was the main celebrant of the Mass. He was assisted by Father Al Forlano, a member of the pas-

toral care staff at St. Vincent's; Father John Punnakunnel of Christ the King Parish in



**CELEBRATING THE MISSION**—More than 25 Daughters of Charity who had worked at St. Vincent's over the years returned to the area to celebrate their heritage, remember the Sisters who had come before them, and to say good-bye to co-workers at a special weekend celebration honoring their 110-year history in Bridgeport. St. Vincent's Health Service President/CEO Stuart Marcus honored the Daughters and said the medical center will always be grounded in their mission of faith and service.

Trumbull; and Deacon Tim Bolton, coordinator of Pastoral Care at St. Vincent's.

In his homily Father McKenna said the Daughters left a lasting legacy because "they came to heal and help people," and had a larger vision of service.

"They brought another world to this one, the conviction that they were bringing the Kingdom of God into the here and now," Father McKenna said.

The Mass, attended by hundreds, was followed by a soup and

bread reception in the parish hall.

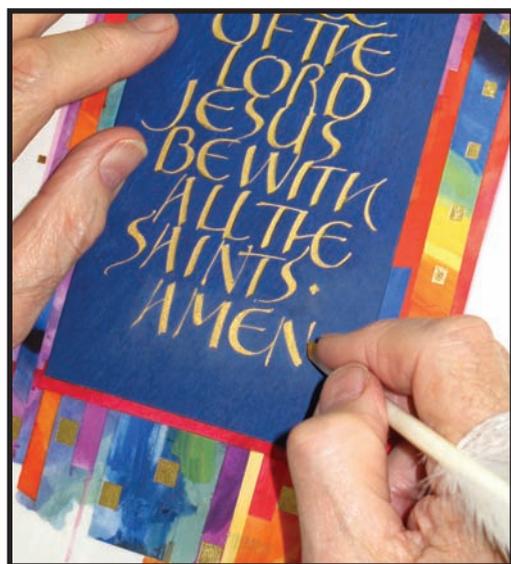
In her remarks following Mass, Sister Louise Gallahue, provincial of the Daughters of Charity St. Louis Province, which stretches from Texas to Maine, noted that 300 Daughters served at St. Vincent's in the past 110 years. "Bridgeport is still a city of immigrants, though the countries they come from have changed," she said.

Earlier this year the Daughters of Charity announced that they would be moving the four remain-

ing Sisters at St. Vincent's to new assignments, where they will work directly with the poor and underserved. Sister Louise said the Daughters are committed to serving "the poorest of the poor," and will be working in "under-served areas" that lack basic medical care and social services.

However, two Sisters will continue to serve on the Board of Directors, and St. Vincent's will continue to be sponsored by Ascension Health, the Daughters of Charity health system.

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## Catholic Charities

## Merton Breakfast testifies to faith in action

BRIDGEPORT—Merton Center Director Mark Grasso told nearly 400 people at the Merton House Celebrity Breakfast that “poverty today is complex.” Featured speaker Cindy Bigelow, president/CEO of Bigelow Tea in Fairfield, proved the point when she shared her own story of working with a Fresh Air Fund child.

The event, held this May in the Bridgeport Holiday Inn, raised over \$170,000 for Merton Center, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary. The first diocesan soup kitchen serves and distributes more than 275,000 meals each year to the working poor and homeless.

“Our 40th year is the busiest on record and that’s disheartening,” said Grasso, who served as social worker at Catholic Charities before being named to lead Merton House.

Bigelow riveted the audience with her story of a young girl named Tracey whom she took into her home one summer as part of the Fresh Air Fund and is now a part of her life.

“I’ve been blessed. I’ve never needed a soup kitchen or shelter. I’ve never had to navigate a difficult bureaucratic system to get



40th ANNIVERSARY YEAR—Merton House celebrated its 40th anniversary at the recent celebrity breakfast: Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities; Cindy Bigelow, president/CEO of Bigelow Tea in Fairfield, the featured speaker; and Bishop Frank J. Caggiano gather for a photo after the event, which raised more than \$170,000 for the inner city soup kitchen.

help,” she said, describing the many challenges and reversals young Tracey faced during her growing years.

The first day they met, she had expected a cute five-year-old to play with her own children, but a seven-year-old with “an attitude” and a world of problems got off the bus. She needed medical care and other help, but more than that she needed a sense that someone cared.

In describing the many problems that Tracey faced over the years, Bigelow gave insight into

the importance and difficulties of working with kids held back by poverty and violence. Tracey dropped out of school, became homeless, got pregnant, and was not always appreciative or able to take advantage of the opportunities that Bigelow provided her.

“People have asked me over the last twenty years, ‘Why are you doing this?’ and it’s the same question people may ask you who support the Merton Center,” she said, noting that she is the godmother of Tracy’s daughter. “She’s family now.”

“It’s not a Cinderella story, but it’s not a lost cause either. I’m just one person, but you are many. You are the reason that Merton Center can exist, and that it is a warm place to go. God bless you for your support of this essential part of our community.”

During the breakfast the Merton Center honored board member Joe Mulcahy of Fairfield posthumously by creating the first Joseph E. Mulcahy Creative Service Award. Just before his death Joe worked with Ed Mitchell’s to provide socks and underwear for guests who were homeless.

The first Mulcahy award was given to Judge F. Paul Kurmay, a deacon of St. Mark Parish in Stratford, for his outstanding work in purchasing food, cooking and

serving meals meal three times a month at Merton Center. Deacon Kurmay was honored for trading in his judge’s robes for a chef’s outfit and handling the kitchen. His work has also encouraged other parishes to get involved.

In his closing remarks, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano praised the donors and thanked them for “putting their faith into action” to help those who are often neglected and unloved. The bishop said that in the Gospel of John, the evangelist asks, “How can you love the God you don’t see if you can’t love the neighbor who you do see? Your charity makes faith real.”

(Merton Center is sponsored by Catholic Charities. To serve as a volunteer or make a gift, call 203.367.9036 or email [www.ccfairfield.org](http://www.ccfairfield.org).)

## MISCONDUCT BOARD FROM PAGE 12

serving as administrator of St. Margaret’s Shrine in Bridgeport. A graduate of Stamford Catholic (now Trinity Catholic) High School, he earned a BA in psychology from the University of Connecticut, an MA in counseling from Fairfield University, and a Sixth-Year degree in school administration from the University of Bridgeport. He later coached at Norwalk High School, Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield and the University of Bridgeport, and he was elected to the Connecticut Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000. He and his wife, Natalie, have four adult children.

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## EDITORIAL

## Outstanding

If you want to feel totally exhausted, read even one paragraph on the valedictorians and salutatorians featured in this issue's center spread. They are far more than simply top scholars, belonging to a number of National Honor Societies. Immaculate's Valedictorian Jaclyn Daily, for example, has given over 450 hours of community service during high school, founding and serving as president of the Box of Books Foundation, which delivered more than 6,000 books to less fortunate children. Additionally, she was a four-year varsity athlete in soccer, basketball and lacrosse, and was named captain in each sport. Plus more activities, honors and awards than we can list.

She's actually typical of these outstanding students. They plan youth group retreats and study bio-medical engineering. They teach English as a Second Language, volunteer at Camp Sunshine for children with life threatening illness, help out with the Special Olympics ski team. Valedictorian Sean Epp from Trinity Catholic spent hours volunteering at an assisted living facility. Between his studies and volunteer work, he found time to captain both the cross country and baseball teams, was on the ice hockey team, and earned the FCIAC Scholar Athlete Award in all three sports. Sean plans to pursue a degree in finance.

Intelligence, energy, talent, deep faith and compassion. Read about them. They'll leave you breathless. They'll leave you proud.

## Summer to-do list

Before you leave for summer vacation, *Fairfield County Catholic* has a to-do list, which we promise won't take much time at all but will have a profound impact on our diocese:

Make your gift to the annual appeal. We've reached 90 percent of goal, and your gift can help us put this year's appeal over the top! So many good things happen as a result of the appeal. From the faith-filled achievement of our students and recent graduates, to the gift of the newly ordained and the witness of those who volunteer in our soup kitchen—none of this would be possible without your gift. When our new bishop launched this year's appeal with a special Mass, he said that the appeal is a way to build bridges to others. What better way to invest in infrastructure of faith and caring! Sincere "Thanks" to all those who have given. Thanks for leading the way.

Plan on attending the Synod Vespers service coming up Sunday, June 29, at 7 pm at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. Bishop Caggiano has challenged us to move mountains and told us that all is possible with faith. The Vespers Service promises to be a beautiful evening, most of all because it launches the synod within the context of prayer, music and faith. There's no better way to move forward as we plan the future of the diocese. And our special thanks go out to all those who have agreed to serve as delegates and to the hundreds who attended listening sessions throughout the diocese.

Encourage someone to come back to Church. You don't have to wait for Christmas or a campaign. Synod meetings have told us that many Catholics are deeply troubled that children, family members and friends no longer attend Mass or participate in parish life. Let them know that you miss them—and what they're missing. They will find something that can be found nowhere else.

## Saying goodbye

Saying goodbye to co-workers has become a fixture of office life, but sometimes it can be an inspiring, even joyful, moment. Such was the case last week when Catholic Center employees bid farewell to Sister Ruth Aubrey, ASCJ, administrative assistant in the Clergy Personnel office. It was a bittersweet moment, not simply because she's leaving but because we realized how much she had given all of us. "People are important," she said in her brief remarks—and she went out of her way to make you feel that way.

Much has changed since she entered the convent in 1952, but one thing that hasn't is the need for people to be affirmed in faith and love. Sister Ruth instinctively knew when someone needed a pat on the back or a kind word. It worked every time: we all felt better for her presence. No wonder polls show American Catholics are so proud of their women religious! They are constantly learning, sacrificing, moving on to new assignments. They inspire with their selflessness and amaze us with us with their strength and goodness. Thank you Sister Ruth, for looking out for us!



## PASTOR

REV. GUSTAVO FALLA, to Pastor, St. Mary/St. Benedict/Our Lady of Montserrat Parishes, Stamford. Fr. Falla remains Vicar for the Spanish-Speaking Catholic Community. Effective June 30.

REV. RICHARD GEMZA, from Parochial Vicar, St. Mary Parish, Greenwich, to Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman. Effective June 30.

REV. CYPRIAN LAPASTINA, from Administrator, St. Mary Parish, Greenwich, to Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Greenwich. Effective June 30.

REV. MICHAEL LYONS, from Spiritual Director, St. John Fisher Seminary, Stamford, to Pastor, Notre Dame Parish, Easton. Effective May 19.

REV. JOSEPH MARCELLO, to Parochial Vicar, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull. Effective October 1, and to Pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull. Effective January 31, 2015.

REV. NICHOLAS PAVIA, from Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Shelton, to Pastor, Our Lady of Peace Parish, Stratford. Effective June 30.

REV. ALBERT PINCIARO, from Pastor, St. Maurice Parish, Stamford, to Pastor, St. Cecilia Parish, Stamford. Effective June 30.

REV. ALFRED RIENDEAU, from Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman, to Pastor, St. Maurice Parish, Stamford. Effective June 30.

REV. JOHN RINGLEY, from Spiritual Director, Kolbe Cathedral High School, Bridgeport, to Pastor, The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport. Effective June 30.

REV. PETER SMOLIK, from Parochial Vicar, St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield, to Pastor, Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Stamford. Effective June 30.

REV. MSGR. DARIUSZ ZIELONKA, to Pastor, St. Jude Parish, Monroe. Msgr. Dariusz remains Director of the Diocesan Synod and Judge in the Tribunal. Effective June 30.

## RECTOR

REV. GIANDOMENICO FLORA, from Pro-Rector, St. Margaret's Shrine, Bridgeport, to Rector, St. Margaret's Shrine, Bridgeport. Effective June 30.

## ADMINISTRATOR

REV. FREDERICK SAVIANO, to Administrator, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, Shelton. Fr. Saviano remains Director for the Office of Propagation of the Faith. Effective May 2.

## PAROCHIAL VICAR

REV. CYRUS BARTOLOME, from Parochial Vicar, St. Luke Parish, Westport, to Parochial Vicar, St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan. Effective May 12.

REV. JOHN CONNAUGHTON, completion of Studies, to Parochial Vicar, St. Thomas More Parish, Darien. Effective June 30.

REV. IVANILDO CELESTINO DOS SANTOS, new to the Diocese, to Parochial Vicar, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport. Effective June 30.

REV. JOSEPH GILL, from Parochial

## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

Vicar, St. Mary Parish, Bethel, to Parochial Vicar, St. Mary/St. Benedict/Our Lady of Montserrat Parishes, Stamford. Effective June 30.

REV. JOHN INSERRA, from Assistant Chaplain, Stamford Hospital, Stamford, to Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Parish, Georgetown. Effective June 30.

REV. KRZYSZTOF KUCZYNSKI, completion of Studies, to Parochial Vicar, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown. Effective June 30.

REV. THOMAS LAKRA, new to the Diocese, to Parochial Vicar, St. Luke Parish, Westport. Effective May 1.

REV. RICHARD MURPHY, from Pastor, Our Lady of Peace Parish, Stratford, to Parochial Vicar, St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Greenwich. Effective June 30.

REV. SUNIL PEREIRA, I.M.S., from Parochial Vicar, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Norwalk, to Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Parish, Norwalk. Effective June 30.

REV. CHRISTOPHER PERELLA, Newly Ordained, to Parochial Vicar, St. Mary Parish, Bethel. Effective June 30.

REV. ROGERIO PERRI, from Parochial Vicar, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport, to Parochial Vicar, St. Thomas Parish, Norwalk. Effective June 30.

REV. ROLANDO TORRES, from Parochial Vicar, St. Benedict/Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Stamford, to Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Shelton. Effective June 30.

REV. ANDREW VILL, Newly Ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Summer Assignment, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull. Fr. Vill will return to the North American College to complete his studies. Effective June 1.

REV. ROBERT WOLFE, Newly Ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Summer Assignment, St. John Parish, Darien. Fr. Wolfe will return to the North American College to complete his studies. Effective June 30.

## ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

REV. CHARLES ANEMELU, from Parochial Vicar, St. Thomas More Parish, Darien, to Assistant Chaplain, Stamford Hospital, Stamford. Fr. Anemelu also remains Assistant Chaplain of Norwalk Hospital. Effective June 30.

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR/EPISCOPAL CHAPLAIN

REV. CIPRIAN BEJAN, from Parochial Vicar, St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Greenwich, to Episcopal Chaplain, Notre Dame High School, Fairfield. Fr. Ciprian will reside at St. Ann Parish, Bridgeport. Effective June 30.

REV. AUGUSTINE NGUYEN, from Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Shelton, to Episcopal Chaplain, Kolbe Cathedral High School, Bridgeport. Fr. Nguyen will reside at The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport. Effective June 30.

REV. MSGR. EDWARD SURWILO, from Pastor, Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Stamford, to Spiritual Director, St. John Fisher Seminary, Stamford. Msgr.

Surwilo will reside at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford. Effective June 30.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

REV. PETER LENOX, from Administrator, The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport, to Licentiate in Sacred Liturgy, Pontifical Athenaeum of St Anselm, Rome. Effective June 30.

REV. ARTHUR MOLLENHAUER, from Pastor, St. Mary/St Benedict/Our Lady of Montserrat Parishes, Stamford, to Licentiate in Canon Law, St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada. Effective June 30.

## SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

At the request of Msgr. James Checchio, Rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Rev. Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni is assigned to research and write a history of the College, effective September 6, 2014. Msgr. DiGiovanni will resume as Pastor of the Basilica of St John the Evangelist, Stamford on September 1, 2015.

## RETIREMENT

REV. MSGR. THOMAS DRISCOLL, from Pastor, Notre Dame Parish, Easton, to Retirement. Effective May 19.

REV. DAVID RILEY, from Pastor, St. Cecilia Parish, Stamford, to Retirement. Effective June 30.

REV. MSGR. RICHARD SHEA, from Pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull, to Retirement. Effective January 30, 2015.

## TRANSITIONAL DEACON

REV. MR. DAVID CLARK, from studies, to Transitional Deacon, St. Joseph Parish, Brookfield. Effective May 15-July 5.

REV. MR. CARL McINTOSH, from studies, to Transitional Deacon, St. Thomas Parish, Norwalk. Effective June 2-July 22.

## IN-RESIDENCE

REV. PETER TOWSLEY, In-residence Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Stamford, to In-residence, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton. Effective June 30.

## CHANCELLOR

REV. ROBERT KINNALLY, to Chancellor, Diocese of Bridgeport, Bridgeport. Fr. Kinnally will remain Director of Seminarian Formation and Rector of St. John Fisher Seminary. Effective June 30.

## PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL

The following men have been appointed to serve on the Presbyteral Council.

REV. VICTOR MARTIN  
REV. LUKE SUAREZ

## COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS

The following men have been appointed to serve on the College of Consultors.

REV. MSGR. JERALD DOYLE  
REV. BRIAN GANNON  
REV. IAN JEREMIAH  
REV. REGINALD NORMAN  
REV. MSGR. WILLIAM SCHEYD  
REV. MSGR. ANDREW VARGA  
REV. MSGR. DARIUSZ ZIELONKA,  
Secretary

*Reverend Ian Jeremiah, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Religious, June, 2014*

## Editorial



## At his name...

## CATHOLIC BY GRACE

BY DENISE BOSSERT

*Denise Bossert is a convert and a syndicated columnist. Her column has been published in 60 diocesan newspapers.*

**M**y mother may have gone overboard. In order to keep our tongues in check, she not only banned us from using Our Lord's name in vain, but she also prohibited my siblings and me from using gentler cuss words. Not geez. Not gee whiz. Not jeepers. Not gosh or gosh darn.

It was too easy to go from the benign to the profane, she said.

It may have been extreme,

but Mom's high standard kept me from breaking the Second Commandment. I still have a low tolerance for foul language—especially when it misuses the name of Our Lord.

At his name, knees should bow. At his name, there should be no punching of walls, no throwing of dishes, and no stamping of feet.

By his name, all creation should be blessed.

Not cursed.

There are many ways to express anger. Even Our Lord became angry. But he did something rather amazing in that moment. He affirmed the authority of the Father. He elevated the dignity due his Father—and his Father's house. Yes, he raised his voice. But even in anger, he remained perfectly holy. It is possible for us to model his righteous anger. It is possible to be angry and yet not sin (Ephesians 4:25-26).

This is a frustrating world. We can hardly escape feeling angry at times, but we do not have to defile the tongue in order to express emotion.

The book of James tells it like it is. "If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, his religion is vain" (James 1:26).

The old adage has some truth to it: you can lose your religion—or at least render it useless.

When my parish priest was transferred to our little Missouri town, he immediately began visiting the local establishments. He learned names. Made friends. Won our respect. After

"If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, his religion is vain."

morning prayers, he stopped by the local watering hole. And when the good ole boys began taking the name of his Lord in vain, he cringed inside, but he waited. He waited until he'd

gained their respect. And then, he said it, quietly, friend-to-friend.

"You know, guys, I love starting my day with you. And I hope to keep doing that. But there's something you have to know about me. When you say Our Lord's name carelessly, you are using the name of the one I love in order to curse. To vent. That's hard for me to hear. Just thought you should know."

Sure, the guys sometimes fall into old habits, but they are more careful now. They see my priest as a friend—and now, they see him as a friend of Christ. That has made a difference.

I don't suppose we have to go to extremes. We don't have to purge words like gee and gosh from our vocabulary.

But we must remember that Jesus Christ is worthy of worship and praise. And holy is his name. ■



## Butch Cassidy and the Weight-Loss Kid

## A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

**S**ummer is great. I love the sun. I love cooking on the grill. I love the ice-cold lemonade. What I don't love is parading half-naked before friends and neighbors at the town pool.

Oh yes, bathing suit season is here. That means it's time again to crowbar myself into those five year-old swimming trunks (the ones bought because they were a little bigger and a little baggier than the 10 year-old pair). Time again for this suburban slug to take a hard look at his soft tummy.

I'm not a vain fellow. If I was, I probably wouldn't have let myself go like this. At 20, I was a wisp. At 30, I was fit and trim. Now, at 40, I have trouble find-

ing pants that fit.

Let me put it this way: I'm on the edge of having to buy my clothes at the big and tall shop, and I'm not that tall.

What happened? I can pinpoint it. Around 2004—when I became a dad and exercise went AWOL from my life—I got it into my head that I deserved a couple of beers every evening. Just two itty-bitty little beers. You know, as a reward for all the hard work of fatherhood.

It seemed so sensible. As a bachelor, I would hit the town weekly. When I did, I'd have far more than just two beers. So two seemed a reasonable compromise, even if it was every night. I thought it would be a wash—calorically, that is.

A friend of mine once told me that Paul Newman drank two beers every night. Ever seen a Paul Newman movie? That guy was as fit as a fiddle. I wanted to be like him. I wanted to be like Butch Cassidy. Two beers never hurt anybody.

Well, 10 years, 7,300 itty-bitty little beers, and 1.2 million unnecessary calories later, I can honestly say that drinking two beers every night is a bad idea. I don't look like Paul Newman. I look more like Newman from Seinfeld.

(You may be thinking, "What's this guy talking about? He looks pretty slim in that picture." Well, that headshot is at least 10 years-old. I've been meaning to replace it—I just didn't want to face reality. Look for a new one in the next issue of *Fairfield County Catholic*.)

Appearances are not my only concern. They're not even my main concern. There is heart disease in my family tree. I don't want to be the guy who dies of a coronary in his 40s or 50s. I'd rather be the guy who lives long enough to play with his great-grandchildren, and explain who Paul Newman was.

The good news: I'm making progress. Over the last two months I've made changes. Sensible stuff. Bread and pasta are out. Instead, lunch is a nice salad and dinner is chicken or a chop. The two-beer days are gone, too. A glass of wine, with dinner, once or twice a week, is all I'll allow myself now. Desserts are minimized.

I won't lie—it's been tough.

"A friend of mine once told me that Paul Newman drank two beers every night. Ever seen a Paul Newman movie? That guy was as fit as a fiddle. I wanted to be like him. I wanted to be like Butch Cassidy. Two beers never hurt anybody."

The hunger is unrelenting. But you probably can't lose weight and get healthy without being a little hungry once in a while. That's the price, I suppose.

Luckily, I'm not doing it alone. I couldn't. Prayer is my crutch.

Don't misunderstand. I'm not praying to lose weight. That hard-

ly seems like God's problem. But I am praying for the strength to endure the struggle of self-denial. It's been a challenge. Willpower ain't my thing. I wasn't built for abstemiousness.

Then again, I wasn't built for gluttony either. None of us were. Our bodies are a gift. They should be taken care of. Doing otherwise is an insult to the giver.

So I am recommitting myself to responsible stewardship of my gift. I am recommitting myself to living a healthy life. I hope you will, too.

And if you see me at the pool, I won't mind at all if you stop and say, "Looking good, Butch." (You can follow Matt on Twitter @matthenmessey.) ■

# Catholic Schools

## Congratulations and Farewell

The Class of 2014 has graduated with cheers, laughter, and caps tossed high. *Fairfield County Catholic* congratulates all graduates receiving diplomas this spring, and gives them a round of applause as they move on to their next stage in life.

Graduation ceremonies at the five diocesan high schools began with Notre Dame, Fairfield, on May 30 and St. Joseph, Trumbull, on May 31. Others followed within the week. Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, PhD, superintendent of schools

for the Diocese of Bridgeport, was on hand for all five graduations to confer diplomas and offer congratulations. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrated the Baccalaureate Mass for Notre Dame graduates, held in the Holy Spirit Chapel of Sacred Heart University. He was on hand to present diplomas at the four other diocesan high schools. In addition, he was the speaker at the two private Catholic high schools in Fairfield County: the Convent of the Sacred Heart and Fairfield Prep.

"On behalf of all the Catholic school educators of the Diocese of Bridgeport, I offer warmest congratulations to the 2014 graduates of our Catholic High Schools," says Sister Mary Grace. "As you begin the next phase of your life's journey, please be assured of our prayers and



IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL, DANBURY – Jaclyn Daily, valedictorian; Rachel Giorgio, salutatorian



remember that you may always 'come home' to our schools. I am also grateful to the parents and guardians of these fine young women and men who entrusted

their children to our care during their formative years. May God bless you abundantly for your support of our schools and our administrators and teachers."

captain in each sport.

She received the University of Rochester's Bausch and Lomb Science Award and the AP Scholar with Honor Award. Jaclyn will be attending the University of Notre Dame, where she plans to major in biology.

Salutatorian Rachel Giorgio founded and was editor of the school newspaper beginning her sophomore year. She was selected to the Tri-M Music Honor Society and was secretary of the National Honor Society. Rachel was a member of the varsity volleyball and softball teams, being named captain of the softball team her senior year. She received the Cornell Book Award and the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and was named an AP Scholar. An altar server at St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield, she has been Confirmation teen leader and a Vacation Bible School counselor.

Rachel was selected to take part in the Partners in Science program offered by Boehringer Ingelheim and participated in the High School Engineering Program at Fairfield University. She will be attending Cornell University in the fall, where she will major in biology.

"Jaclyn has been an exemplary student from her first day at IHS, serving as the embodiment of the school's motto: 'Reverence, Respect and Responsibility.' Most impressive has been her founding and continued directing of the Box of Books Foundation, delivering over 6,000 books to encourage children to read," says Principal Joseph Carmen. "Rachel has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement from the day she entered IHS. Combining athletics, music and drama and intellectual activities, she is an exceptional scholar-athlete."

### Kolbe Cathedral, Bridgeport

Commencement for Kolbe Cathedral High School graduates took place on June 5 in St. Augustine Cathedral. There are 84 graduates in the Class of 2014; Kolbe, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, has a total enrollment of 300 students. Eric Cruz is valedictorian for the Class of 2014. Kolbe has two salutatorians this year: Kiana Forti and

## ST JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

*Privilege & Responsibility*

### CONGRATULATIONS to our Class of 2014!



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# Vals and Sals



KOLBE-CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL, BRIDGEPORT – Eric Cruz, valedictorian; Kiana Forti and Jessica Ramos, co-salutatorians

Jessica Ramos. All three graduated from the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport: Eric from St. Peter School, now part of the Cathedral Academy; Kiana from St. Andrew Academy and Jessica from St. Ann Academy.

Valedictorian Eric Cruz is active both in school and in St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport. He has been a leader on the Varsity Soccer Team for four years, and was the CIAC Scholar Athlete from KCHS. Eric was the recipient of the Cornell Book Award and a semi-finalist in the Governor's Scholar Program, and represented KCHS at Fairfield University's Business Challenge team competition. As a member of the school's Honors Curriculum, he was inducted into the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Societies, and served as a peer tutor. At St. Peter's Eric taught religious education classes, served at Masses and has been a leader for the youth group. Eric has participated in Convivio and helped plan school and youth group retreats. He is interested in bio-medical engineering and will attend the University of Connecticut with a full Day of Pride UCONN Scholarship.

Co-salutatorian Kiana Forti, a consistent honor roll student in the Honors Program, has been a member of the girls softball and basketball teams and the honor societies. Kiana is a peer tutor and a member of the ECHO program: embracing empathy, compassion, hope and opportunity. As an active participant of the school's BuildOn club, she has provided community service locally and with partnership clubs in the Greater Bridgeport Area.

Kiana was the recipient of the Saint Michael's College Book Award for scholarship and service. She will pursue her interest in the medical field by attending the University of Notre Dame with a full university scholarship.

Kolbe's second scholar to tie for honors as co-salutatorian is Jessica Ramos. Benefiting from the Shepherds, Inc. program at Kolbe, Jessica is a member of National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society; has served as a peer tutor; and is a member of BuildOn, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and the Passing on Kindness Community Project. She has been active in the ECHO program as a volunteer and has interned at Community Health in Wallingford during the summer. She was a four-year member of the girls' soccer team, and sang in the school's choir. Jessica, who belongs to St. Peter Parish, will attend Fairfield University this fall on a Magis Scholarship.

"Eric, Kiana and Jessica are outstanding examples of the quality of Catholic Education in Bridgeport," says Principal Jo-Anne Jakab. "From the elementary schools they attended through their years at Kolbe, they have embraced their studies, exemplified Catholic values and generously provided time and talent to help others. We are so pleased and proud to add their names to the valedictorian/salutatorian history during this 50th Anniversary year of KCHS."

### Notre Dame, Fairfield

Notre Dame held its 54th graduation ceremony on May 30. The 92 graduates of the Class of 2014 represented 32 cities

and towns, plus South Korea and China. Bishop Caggiano was unable to attend graduation but celebrated the school's Baccalaureate Mass in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Sacred Heart University. Sister Mary Grace Walsh handed out diplomas at the graduation.

There are currently 405 students enrolled at Notre Dame. The school's valedictorian is Matthew Lasky of St. Agnes Parish in Milford. Rachel Jankovsky of West Haven, a member of the First United Church of Christ in Milford, is Notre Dame's salutatorian.

Valedictorian Matthew Lasky has been active throughout his

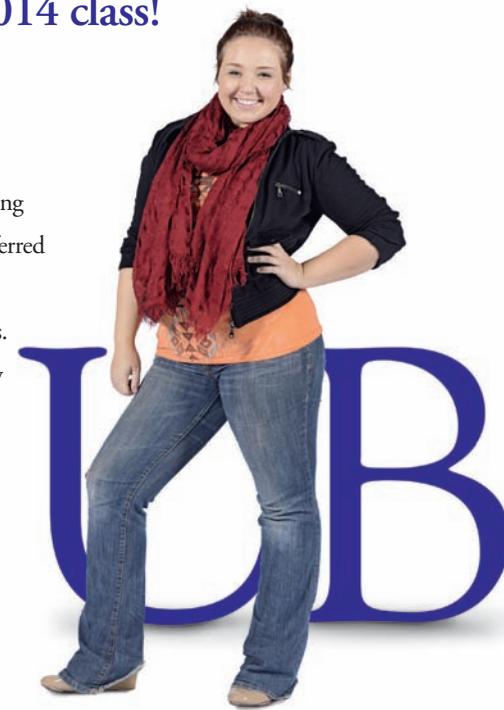
years in the Notre Dame community, participating in the Key Club, the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, Campus Ministry and numerous volunteer activities. He also served as a freshman retreat leader and freshman mentor. Matt has been a four-year member of the varsity baseball team and has received the CIAC Scholar Athlete Award, the St. Thomas Aquinas Award, the Fairfield University Book Award and the SWC All Academic Team Award. Demonstrating a wide variety of interests, he has volunteered for the Engine 260 Fire Muster, the annual Milford

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



## Congratulations to Megan Ey and the rest of the University of Bridgeport's 2014 class! Good luck graduates!

The University of Bridgeport proudly congratulates the 719 undergraduates and 884 graduates who received degrees during UB's 104th Commencement ceremony. The University conferred an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters upon Governor Dannel P. Malloy, who delivered the commencement address. Our graduates represent more than 80 countries and are now on their way to bright futures and promising careers across the globe. Best of luck to all of our superstars!



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# Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS  
FROM PAGE 19

Antique Fire Apparatus Show and Muster; Kisses from Katie, an organization dedicated to providing resources to critically ill children and their families; and served as a Northeast Baseball School Summer Camp volunteer. Matt also holds a second degree black belt in karate. He will be attending Bard College in Annandale, N.Y.

Salutatorian Rachel Jankovsky has been active throughout her years in Notre Dame. A member of both the Drama Club and Art Club, she participated in the spring musical from freshman



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Matthew Lasky, valedictorian; Rachel Jankovsky, salutatorian

through senior year. Added to that, she served as a freshman mentor and a member of the National and Spanish Honor Societies. In addition to her phenomenal academic record, Rachel has also been honored by Milford Hospital, where she has compiled over 400 hours of volunteer service since 2010. Rachel was the recipient of the Regis College Book Award and the Sister Marion Reilly Memorial Scholarship. She will attend Kings College in Pennsylvania.

“Both Matt and Rachel have distinguished themselves as outstanding students and seniors committed to serving others. They have excelled in the class-

room and proven their desire to give of their time and effort whenever needed. They exemplify the character, faith and intellect we strive to instill in all our students,” says Notre Dame’s principal, Christopher Cipriano. He adds with pride, “This class as a whole earned \$12.2 million in scholarships and grants. That’s a tremendous achievement, especially for a class of fewer than 100 students.”

## St. Joseph, Trumbull

St. Joseph High School held its graduation ceremony on May 31. The largest Catholic school in the diocese, St. Joseph’s graduated 195 seniors, out of a

## Congratulations to the Fairfield Prep Class of 2014!

Anthony M. Abbazia Jr.  
Christian M. Alvarado  
John Aquino Jr.  
John J. Arnold  
James R. Artell  
Andres Ayala III  
Christian C. Backe  
Trevor R. Baker  
Dyshae K. Baldwin  
Aaron C. Ball  
Keith W. Banquer  
Austin W. Barrett  
Nicholas M. Bartoli  
Steven S. Bayles  
Spencer F. Bebon  
Matthew R. Beck  
Brendan D. Bernard  
Jake W. Berry  
Shawn M. Blake  
Tanner J. Blank  
Curran P. Bloom  
Reilly C. Bloom  
Hunter J. Bohn  
Jake E. Bowtell  
Ryan P. Brickner  
Terrance A. Brown  
Stephen E. Cadoux  
Robert L. Cafero  
Liam R. Cahill  
Travis J. Cantu  
Austin D. Cantwell  
Conor M. Carey  
Paschal C. Chukwu  
Wesley Ciccone  
Thomas C. Cirillo  
John N. Clark  
William O. Clyne  
Brandon C. Cole  
Elliot G. Collins  
Brian J. Connolly  
Michael A. Conte  
Angelo J. Coppotelli V  
William J. Corona  
Anthony M. Cosenza  
Logan K. Cotter  
Austin T. Crane  
Nicholas D. Crowle  
Sergio L. Cruz  
Bjorn C. Davis

Alexander E. Decoteau-Fredericks  
John P. DeMarco  
Michael A. DiVincenzo  
Wade R. Dodge  
Daniel J. Donahue  
Jeffrey R. Donofrio  
Nicholas A. Dosky  
Kryztoff A. Duenas  
Tyler J. Duffy  
Conor P. Duggan  
Christopher J. DuMont  
Ryan A. Dunkin  
Christopher H. Dunn  
Darren J. Edwards  
David B. Evans  
Timothy L. Falvey Jr.  
John M. Ferguson  
Chance D. Filep  
Kevin C. Finlay  
Justin A. Flayhan  
Brandon J. Flemming  
Tyrone A. Fleurizard  
Albert J. Forno  
Tony R. Fox II  
Robert J. Fredericks  
Robert J. Fumai  
James D. Funnell III  
Thomas N. Gagne  
Owen B. Gallagher  
Thomas J. Garzillo  
Tucker J. Gavey  
Patric A. Gerard  
Scott A. Ghavidel  
Marc D. Giangregorio  
Brett D. Gibbs  
Kevin R. Gillooly  
Samuel L. Gilmore  
Ta’von M. Givens Hunter  
Christian X. Gonzalez-Caraballo  
Peter A. Grennan  
Alexander M. Grundt  
Christopher E. Gutierrez  
Charles M. Haley  
Daniel C.G. Hamar  
Justin Han  
John J. Harrison  
Michael P. Hennessey  
Alec B. Hilton  
Charles B. Hinnant

John K. Hoin  
Nicholas C. Hunter  
Tristan H. Jesby  
Anthony B. Johnson  
Gregory J. Kabasakalian Jr.  
Brent D. Kaiserman  
Jeram S. Kamalani III  
Connor W. Kasper  
Thomas M. Kavulich  
Ethan C. Kee  
John G. Keklik  
Darragh C. Kelly  
Timothy R. Kiernan  
Raphael D. Kinney  
Kenneth H. Kochiss  
Brendan J. Lacobelle  
Robert M. Lancia  
Matthew R. Lee  
Cole J. Lewis  
Allan E. Linke  
Dean F. Lockery  
Bojken Lohja  
Colin B. Lomnitzer  
Edward P. Long  
William J. Lopata III  
Phillip K. Lynch Jr.  
Robert J. Lynn  
John M. Manion  
Dakota B. Mann  
David B. Martens Jr.  
Jairo E. Martinez  
John Paul Masaryk  
Liam J. Mason  
John T. McGarrity  
Matthew B. McKinney  
Zachary W. McNulty  
Andrew M. McPhee  
Colby T. Monachino  
Daniel J. Moran  
Bernardo Moreno  
Luke R. Morrison  
Sean J. Morrison  
Ryan P. Morrissey  
James P. Mulliken  
Billy R. Narvaez  
Joshua J. Nascimento  
James T. Nemia  
Peter D. Nestor  
Aidan F. O’Brien

John H. O’Connell  
Thomas P. O’Connor  
Brian S. O’Donnell  
Robert J. O’Keefe  
Liam F. O’Reilly  
Andrew J. Ostrosky  
Matthew J. Ownes  
Keith M. Pettway  
Patrick J. Polley  
Zeeshan J. Pothiwala  
Jonathan P. Pruden  
Richard J. Quigley IV  
Robert F. Ranzilla  
Nicholas S. Rapillo  
Tyler R. Rapillo  
Sheldon A. Rawson  
Connor P. Richardson  
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Antonio M. Rosa  
John Robert Royak  
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Robert M. Scarpetti III  
Christian E. Schlegel  
William J. Schlegel  
Matthew A. Scholl  
Nicholas M. Schuermann  
Stephen P. Schwartz  
John N. Schwoerer  
Andrew B. Scott  
Colin J. Scull  
Luke R. Sheeran  
Aaron N. Simkovitz

Malik M. Simpson  
Austin M. Sims  
Jeffrey A. Skiba  
Burke Smith  
Adam C. Stanco  
Jeremiah P. Starke  
Erik P. Steinborn  
Ryan C. Steinborn  
Stuart T. Stritzel  
Brendan C. Sullivan  
Robert J. Sylvester III  
Brian A. Taccone  
Matthew G. Tarantino  
Jeremy N. Torres  
Stephen P. Tortora  
Maxwell T. Trudeau  
Fernando Valdovinos  
Robert J. Valus III  
Richard L. Van de Berghe III  
Maximilian Van Munching  
Adam S. Vare  
Andrew M. Vegliante  
Fraily A. Ventura  
Jon Paul Vontell  
Stephen P. Walsh  
Ryan M. Ward  
Nicholas G. Wargo  
Brian F. Whelan  
Matthew H. Wikman  
Donald S. Williams Jr.  
Stewart R. Williams  
Matthew R. Wood  
Michael D. Workman  
Luis E. Zamora  
Ryan R. Zentner  
David F. Zielinski



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# Vals and Sals

total enrollment of 820 students. Bishop Caggiano and Sister Mary Grace Walsh were on hand to offer congratulations and hand out diplomas. Both of the top scholars this year are members of St. Jude Parish in Monroe. Marina Spinelli, a resident of Shelton, is St. Joe's valedictorian. Tiffany Marini of Monroe is salutatorian.

Valedictorian Marina Spinelli was a member of both the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society and has made the President's Honor Roll each quarter. She is a recipient of the Excellence in Math and Science Award, the University of Rochester Bausch &

Lomb Honorary Science Award and the AP Biology in Academic Excellence Award. Among her numerous activities she was president of the Spanish National Honor Society, a member of the National Honor Society, serves as a Student Ambassador, was active in Campus Ministry and works as an ESL tutor in the Writing Center. She has been a counselor at Camp Sunshine working with children with life threatening illnesses. Marina will spend the next four years at Harvard studying biology/pre-med and Spanish.

Tiffany Marini has been a member of the National Honor Society and was president of the



SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, TRUMBULL – Marina Spinelli, valedictorian; Tiffany Marini, salutatorian



Italian National Society and the Writing Center and the Math Center. She also was vice-president of the Student Ambassadors and volunteered in Campus Ministry. She worked with the Missionaries for Charity tutoring young children in an after school program in Bridgeport, and at Camp Sunshine for children with life threatening illness.

This fall, Tiffany will matriculate at Providence College where she earned the St. Catherine of Sienna Scholarship to study in the "Liberal Arts Honors Program." She will pursue a double major in English and pre-med.

"Marina embodies all the best  
▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

University of Alabama  
Albany College of Pharmacy  
University of Arizona  
Arizona State University  
University of Arizona  
Assumption College  
Babson College  
Bates College  
Baylor University  
Becker College  
Bentley University  
Binghamton University  
Boston College  
Boston University  
University of Bridgeport  
Bryant University  
Bucknell University  
Buffalo State College of SUNY  
Butler University  
California Polytechnic University  
San Luis Obispo  
University of California at Davis  
Canisius College  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve  
University  
Central Connecticut State  
University  
University  
Champlain College  
Chestnut Hill College  
Clarkson University  
Clemson University  
Coastal Carolina University  
Colby College  
Colgate University  
College of Charleston  
Colorado School of Mines  
Colorado State University  
Columbia University  
University of Connecticut  
Connecticut College  
The Cooper Union for the  
Advancement of Science and Art  
Cornell University  
Creighton University  
The Culinary Institute of America  
Curry College  
University of Dallas  
Davidson College  
University of Dayton  
Daytona Beach Community  
College  
University of Delaware  
Denison University  
University of Denver  
Dickinson College

Drexel University  
Duke University  
East Carolina University  
Eastern Connecticut State  
University  
Eckerd College  
Elon University  
Emmanuel College  
Endicott College  
Eugene Lang The New School for  
the Liberal Arts  
Fairfield University  
University of Florida  
Florida Institute of Technology

Lasell College  
LeMoyne College  
Lewis and Clark College  
Long Island University Brooklyn  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola University Chicago  
Loyola University Maryland  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Lynchburg College  
University of Maine  
Manhattan College  
Manhattanville College  
Marist College

Parsons The New School for  
Design  
Pennsylvania State University  
University of Pittsburgh  
Plymouth State University  
Pratt Institute  
Princeton University  
Providence College  
Purdue University  
Quinnipiac University  
Regis University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic University  
University of Rhode Island  
Rice University  
Rider University  
University of Richmond  
Roanoke College  
University of Rochester  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Roger Williams University  
Sacred Heart University  
St. Lawrence University  
St. Anselm College  
St. Bonaventure University  
St. John's University  
St. Joseph's University  
St. Louis University  
St. Michael's College  
St. Peter's University  
College of St. Rose  
Salisbury University  
Salve Regina University  
University of St. Andrews  
University of San Francisco  
Santa Clara University  
Savannah College of Art and  
Design  
Siena College  
Sierra College  
Southern Connecticut State  
University  
Southern Methodist University  
University of South Carolina  
State University of New York at  
Albany  
State University of New York  
Purchase

State University of New York –  
Plattsburgh  
Sterling College  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Stonehill College  
University of Scranton  
Seton Hall University  
University of South Carolina  
University of Southern California  
Southern Connecticut State  
University  
Susquehanna University  
Syracuse University  
University of Tampa  
University of Texas San Antonio  
The Catholic University of  
America  
Temple University  
Texas Christian University  
University of Toronto  
Towson University  
Trinity College  
Tufts University  
Tulane University  
Union College  
United States Naval Academy  
Ursinus College  
Vassar College  
University of Vermont  
Villanova University  
University of Virginia  
Wake Forest University  
Washington College  
Washington and Lee University  
Wentworth Institute of  
Technology  
Western New England University  
West Virginia University  
Wheaton College Illinois  
Wheaton College Massachusetts  
Wilkes University  
Wingate University  
University of Wisconsin  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
University of Wyoming  
Xavier University  
Yale University

**Members of the Fairfield Prep  
Class of 2014 were accepted at  
these Colleges and Universities**

Fordham University  
Franklin and Marshall College  
Franklin Pierce University  
Furman University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Gettysburg College  
Gonzaga University  
Hamilton College  
Hampton University  
Hartwick College  
High Point University  
Hobart and William Smith  
Colleges  
Hofstra University  
College of the Holy Cross  
Howard University  
University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign  
Indiana University  
Iona College  
Ithaca College  
James Madison University  
University of Kansas  
Keene State College  
Kenyon College  
Kutztown University of PA  
Lafayette College  
LaSalle University

Massachusetts College of  
Pharmacy  
Marquette University  
University of Maryland College  
Park  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst  
McDaniel College  
University of Memphis  
Merrimack College  
University of Miami  
Miami University Oxford  
University of Michigan  
Middlebury College  
University of Mississippi  
University of Missouri  
Mitchell College  
Montana State University  
Bozeman  
University of Montana Missoula  
Muhlenberg College  
New England College  
University of New Hampshire  
University of New Haven  
New York Institute of Technology  
New York University  
New York University – Polytechnic  
Northeastern University  
University of Notre Dame  
Ohio Wesleyan University



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# Vals and Sals

==== VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 21 =====

of St. Joseph High School. We are extremely proud to have her as our valedictorian," says Ken Mayo, St. Joseph's principal. "Tiffany is a natural leader and will be successful in any endeavor. We are proud to have her represent us as our salutatorian."

### Trinity Catholic, Stamford

Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford held its graduation on May 31. The 104 members of the Class of 2014 received their diplomas from Bishop Caggiano and Sister Mary Grace Walsh. A total of 457 students were enrolled at Trinity this year. Sean Epp, an active member of St. Leo Parish in Stamford, is Trinity's valedictorian. Megan Bates, from St. Gabriel Parish in Stamford, is salutatorian.

Valedictorian Sean Epp is the last member of his family to graduate from TCHS, following his two older brothers, Brian

and Kevin. He was captain of the cross country and baseball teams and a member of both the ice hockey team, and earned the FCIAC Scholar Athlete Award in all three sports. In addition, Sean is a member of the National Honor Society; a member of the TCHS Business Club, where he has served as vice president of Crusader Corner Sales; and has served as a Student Ambassador for three years. Sean has spent many hours volunteering at Brighton Gardens Assisted Living. Among his many honors, Sean earned the CAS/CIAC Scholar Athlete Award, the AP Scholar Award, and was a Diocese of Bridgeport Breakfast of Champions honoree. Sean will be attending Boston College, where he will pursue a degree in finance.

Salutatorian Megan Bates is the first, but by no means the last, in her family to attend Trinity.



TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, STAMFORD – Sean Epp Conlon, valedictorian; Megan Bates, salutatorian



Her younger sister, Emily, currently attends TCHS and her brother Brian is on his way up.

Megan has been a member of the varsity volleyball team, and has served as the editor-in-chief of the yearbook. She has been a School Ambassador, member of the Art Club, president of the

Book Club and a member of the Business Club, where she was vice president of communications. Megan is also a dedicated volunteer with Special Olympics. Among others, she received the Sikorsky and Fairfield University School of Engineering Excellence in Mathematics and Science Award and the CAS/CIAC Scholar Athlete Award. This fall Megan will be attending Hamilton College in New

York where she plans to major in English.

"Sean and Megan are extremely talented people in and out of the classroom," says Diane Warzoha, Trinity's assistant principal. "They live out our core values of Faith, Respect, Achievement and Charity on a daily basis and have served as role models to their peers. While we are sad to see them leave our halls, we know that they are destined for truly great things!"

*In addition to the five diocesan high schools, students from this diocese are prominent among the scholars at several private Catholic schools in this area. The Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich and Fairfield Prep are both located in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Lauralton Hall in Milford and Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden also claim a large number of students from this diocese.*

### Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich

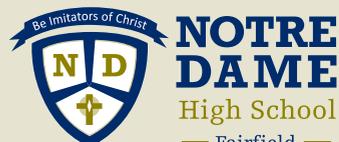
Bishop Caggiano celebrated the Baccalaureate Mass for the Convent of the Sacred Heart on



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# Vals and Sals

June 6. Following the liturgy, the 60 seniors, dressed in floor-length white gowns, proceeded to the front lawn for the graduation ceremony. There are 740 students enrolled in preschool through grade 12, with 295 students enrolled in the Upper School (grades 9-12).

Students join the high school



CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, GREENWICH – Margaret Ellison, salutatorian

from more than sixty-seven different communities, coming from public, private, and parochial schools in Connecticut and New York State. The commencement program included speeches by co-valedictorians Tara Hammond and Christina Huchro and the salutatorian, Margaret Ellison.

Tara Hammond, of Ossining, N.Y., is a member of St. Theresa Parish in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. She has a younger sister, who is in the ninth grade at CSH. Tara will attend Cornell University this fall.

Christina Huchro of Scarborough, N.Y., attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart from preschool through her senior year of high school. She joins a small group of girls who are called “lifers.” She has an older sister who is an alumna of CSH and her mother is a member of Board of Trustees and past president of the Parents’ Association. A member of the Church of the Magdalene in Pocantico Hills, N.Y., Christina will attend Stanford University.

Salutatorian Margaret Ellison, who belongs to St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Riverside (Greenwich), has attended CSH since first grade. She is trilingual—English, Japanese and Spanish—a star athlete and tal-

ented artist with an active interest in community service. She was inducted in the Cum Laude National Honor Society and is an AP Scholar with Honor. Margaret served as vice president of the student-run philanthropy, the Barat Foundation, which makes grants to non-profits that serve the needs of children. Plus, she is a member of Big and Little Sisters, where she mentors Middle School students through the challenges of adolescence. She is a National Merit Commended Student and was named the Fairchester Athletic Association’s Scholar Athlete of 2014. Margaret Ellison will attend the University of

Pennsylvania this fall.

“My hope for them and for all our graduates is that they will continue to find within themselves that strength, sense of integrity, spirit and pride to make things happen, to conceive of their direction, and to follow it,” says Head of School Pamela Juan Hayes.

## Fairfield Prep

The 72nd commencement exercises of Fairfield Prep were held on June 1 with Bishop Caggiano as the commencement speaker. There were 219 graduates, from a total student body of 894. While Prep does not recognize a valedictorian and salu-

torian, Andrew Ostrosky and Connor Kasper were both in the top one percent of their class.

Andrew Ostrosky was chosen by his classmates to deliver the student address at Commencement. An AP Scholar, he achieved recognition as a National Merit Commended Student and was awarded the Sikorsky Aircraft Excellence in Science and Math Award. He served as football co-captain in his senior year and as a four year member of Prep’s student government, where he was secretary in his junior year and vice president senior year. Andrew was inducted into both the National Honor Society and the Spanish

Honor Society, where he served as president.

He is active in his faith as a member of Prep’s Columbian Squires chapter and assists with liturgical celebrations at St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield. He participated in Prep’s Urban Plunge and traveled to El Salvador during winter break this year to participate in Prep’s Global Mission.

Andrew will attend California Polytechnic State University in the fall.

Connor Kasper has juggled various interests throughout his years at Prep. A National Honor Society and Summa Cum Laude student, STEM disciplines

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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# Shepherds

## Mother and son share the journey

By NORMA K. DARRAGH

"While attending a Sunday Mass in Darien, I heard the stories and aspirations of disadvantaged teenagers from Kolbe Cathedral in Bridgeport," recalls Tammy Taylor, "and realized that I could make a difference, close to home."

The speakers at that Mass were from Shepherds, a program whose mission is to provide at-risk inner-city Connecticut youth with the opportunity for a quality high school education at a non-public high school. The introduction of a positive role model—a mentor—fills a void in their life.

Since making a commitment fourteen years ago to the Shepherds Program as a sponsor and mentor, Tammy has directly impacted the lives of three young women at Kolbe. "I found that I could relate to them. They are teenagers, just like my kids. They want and dream the same things—good grades, a date for the prom or making a

sports team."

Tammy's first mentee, Curtia, graduated from Southern CT State University and is currently pursuing her master's degree. Celina is at Nichols College, Mass., working towards a degree in criminal justice and Chiniki will be a junior at Kolbe this fall. "I admire them," adds Tammy. "Despite challenges due to poverty and lack of parental involvement, not one of them ever complained or used their circumstances as a crutch. They simply address the tasks at hand. It is significant when they realize that 'I can do better—and I'm going to!'"

Three years ago, her son Jack decided to join the Shepherds program as a mentor. His impetus stemmed not only from his desire to give back, but also from a desire to share his mother's experience. Although he grew up in Darien, he realized through Tammy and her support of the students at Kolbe that there was



MOTHER-SON MENTORS Jack (l) and Tammy Taylor with their Shepherds mentees.

an inequality of opportunities for young people in inner-city neighborhoods like Bridgeport.

A recent Duke University graduate and young executive employed at a major financial institution in Stamford, he committed to become a mentor, sharing his time, energy and experience with Zaid. Reflecting on their introduction, Jack recalls that he was impressed with Zaid's "maturity, his great personality and his extremely firm handshake!"

"As parents, Shepherds mentors have the opportunity to pass on a legacy of caring to their children," says Executive Director Norma Darragh, mentioning

other cases of parents and their adult children becoming mentors. "This legacy is not about lessons learned in the classroom but lessons learned in the real world, relating to young people who come from distinctly different socioeconomic backgrounds and heritages, yet share the same dreams."

Founded with five students, Shepherds' population for this school year was 90 students across three partnership schools. To date, 197 Shepherds students have earned their high school diplomas. In areas where high school dropout rates can soar as high as fifty percent, Shepherds'

students—with their mentor's support—not only graduate high school but succeed at the college level as well, often earning scholarships. More than 90 percent of Shepherds students have pursued higher education.

The Shepherds Program offers individuals the opportunity to make a direct impact on not only a stranger's life, but their own. From Jack's perspective, "sharing the Shepherds journey has added another dimension to our personal relationship. There is a special connection as my mother and I spend time, work together and share ideas and insights about each other's students."

From Tammy's perspective, "the program has awakened Jack's compassion and his realization that many do not have the same opportunities he did. I am proud and enjoy watching him and Zaid interact."

Tammy believes that "Shepherds is about embracing differences. Everyone deserves a shot and a shoulder to lean on. It's a win-win situation."

Jack echoes his mother's sentiments. "It's been an exciting experience. You realize firsthand the

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

## Congratulations!

From Rev. Reginald Norman,  
Principal Martha Reitman and the Faculty & Staff



### The Class of 2014

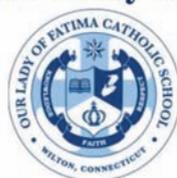
Bailey Andrews, Margaux Atkins, Maria Bonaddio,  
Russell DeRosa, Liam Duffy, Dylan Ehlers,  
Jacalin Emanuel, Jack Feeney, Jessica Highland,  
Samuel Koziolkowsky, Tucker Ludwig,  
Elizabeth Lynch, Cova Perez, Janelle Pompea,  
Jack Soucy and Caroline Sweeny

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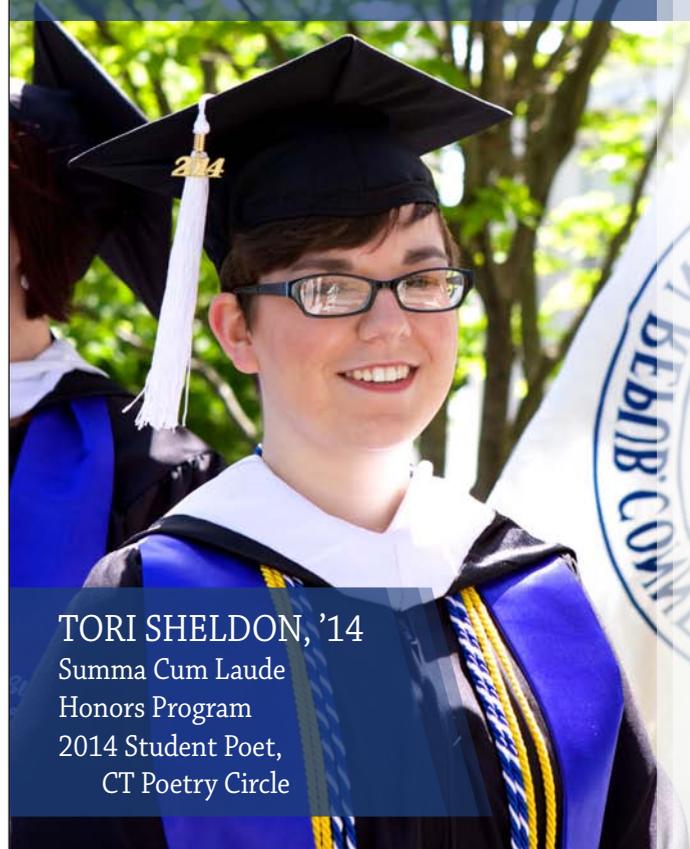
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# Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 23



FAIRFIELD PREP HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Top scholars Andrew Ostrosky and Connor Kasper



interest him most, but he also enrolled in an independent study of Japanese. He sailed for the Prep Varsity Sailing team, played saxophone for the concert and symphonic bands, was a varsity diver on the swimming and diving teams and was an avid participant in the stock market club. Connor embraced the Jesuit mission of “Men for Others,” volunteering for tutoring at both the Wakeman Boys and Girls Club in Fairfield and the Cardinal Shehan Center in Bridgeport. This year Connor was president of the Prep branch of Al’s Angels, an organization that supports families challenged by childhood cancer, AIDS, domestic violence and financial hardship. A member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Fairfield, this fall he will begin studying Environmental Engineering at the University of Rochester.

“Andrew is a thoughtful and self-aware young man who has explored his talents boldly in living his Prep years to their fullest, exercising and in fact stretching his talents, while confidently discovering new interests and avenues for his energies,” says Principal Dr. Robert Perrotta. “Connor is not just an elite scholar, but a great friend, a respected classmate, a good communicator and a person that cares about others.”

## Lauralton Hall, Milford

Lauralton Hall’s 108th Commencement Ceremony was held on June 1. One hundred nineteen young women from towns across Connecticut received diplomas. The 2014 valedictorian is Ann Marie Guzzi, who belongs to St.

Thomas Aquinas Parish in Fairfield. Salutatorian Jeanne-Claire Vincent comes from Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Stamford. This commencement ceremony was dedicated to Principal Ann Pratson. After 35 years at Lauralton Hall, 21 of those as principal, she is retiring.

Valedictorian Ann Marie Guzzi is a member of the National Honor Society. Ann Marie has been president of Youth and Government, treasurer of the Environmental Club, and was both a volleyball and lacrosse captain. She was selected for the Yale Discovery to Cure internship in the summer of 2013, where she worked on creating tracers for neurological studies in the Positron Emission Tomography Center at Yale Hospital. She volunteered 100 hours of community service each year, teaching art classes at the Wakeman Boys and Girls Club, tutoring in both French and physics and working with the Girl Scouts.

Ann Marie has received the CT Section of the Society of Women Engineers Award, the Harvard Book Award, the CT High School Scholar Athlete Award, the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford Summa Scholar Award and President Obama’s Recognition of Educational Excellence. She will be majoring in engineering at Duke University in the fall.

Salutatorian Jeanne-Claire Vincent, a member of the National Honor Society, has been active in a number of clubs, was a Freshman Ambassador and a Peer Tutor. Outside of Lauralton, she is team leader in Challenge Club, where she encourages girls

to grow in their Catholic faith; she volunteered at the Angel for a Day program organizing holiday parties for children in Harlem; and has taken part in New York City mission trips feeding the homeless. She received an Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford Summa Scholar Award, is a recipient of the Service Award and received President Obama’s Recognition of Outstanding Educational Achievement.

Jeanne-Claire will be attending McGill University in Montreal in the fall.

The McAuley Award, Lauralton’s highest honor, is named for the Sisters of Mercy’s foundress and is given to a student for her commitment to Lauralton’s mission. This year the award went to Kimberly Pritchard, a member of Our Lady of Victory Parish, in West Haven. Kimberly will



LAURALTON HALL HIGH SCHOOL, MILFORD – Ann Marie Guzzi, valedictorian; Jeanne-Claire Vincent, salutatorian



be attending the University of Connecticut in the fall.

“I am so very proud of our graduates,” says Principal Ann Pratson. “I’m happy, too, to be ‘graduating’ with them. I could not have asked for a more won-

derful group of young women to send me off into retirement.”

## Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden

The 128 young women from  
➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

## Congratulations Lauralton Hall Class of 2014



**\$18 MILLION**  
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Victoria Marie Anthony  
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Lindsey Shea Attolino  
Caroline June Auger  
Rashauna Marie Tracy Banks  
Maryclaire Helen Barnard  
Madison Clare Beem  
Kaysa Lynn Biga  
Kiernan Patricia Black  
Ashley Bocicaut  
Kathleen Lyn Brennan  
Morgan Roy Burns  
Keely Sullivan Bushby  
Emily Sophia Castagna  
Kelly Louise Clancy  
Addline Mary Cohane  
Megan Maria Collins  
Maureen Anne Connolly  
Quinn Daly Costantini  
Rhiannon Nicole Crandley  
Amanda Elizabeth Daniel  
Kaitlyn Ann DeLallo  
Katelyn Grace Dempster  
Megan Ellen Dobensky  
Brenna Marie Donahue  
Emma Elisabeth Dunleavy  
Alexandra Jane Ende  
Carly Margaret Fabbri

\*VALEDICTORIAN

Brianna Lucia Feehan  
Safirah Fequiere  
Megan Eileen Fickes  
Mary Kate Firisin  
Kaitlyn Ann Flood  
Lauren Taylor Flynn  
Katherine Grace Foley  
Lauren Tiffany Fraser  
Brittany Taylor Galuppo  
Elizabeth Christy Getts  
Isabella Helene Giannini  
Alexandra Lejla Gjoni  
Brooke Taylor Goulden  
Amanda Lynn Grillo  
Elizabeth Claire Groenstein  
Ann Marie Guzzi\*  
Samantha Rene Haba  
Veronica Grace Harris  
Megan Mary Hazzard  
Anna Maria Hempowicz  
Kaylee Alexandra Holroyd  
Emilie Leokadia Iwaszkiewicz  
Abigail Grace Janik  
Gabriella Tatiana Johnson  
Caroline Crawford Kane  
Autumn Belle Katz  
Cristina Bartlett Kempf  
Margaret McIntyre Kempf  
Marietta Anne Khalil

Alisa Rose Knight  
Ariel Christina Kovlakas  
Elizabeth Marie Lamonte  
Rachel Michelle Landock  
Victoria Rose Lang  
Katherine Ella Logan  
Andrea Lopez  
Aubrey Kiyahn Lowe  
Julia Casey Martyn  
Anaka Jade Mastrianni  
Taylor Katherine Matto  
Madison Elle Maurer  
Nicole Shannon McBride  
Emma Nicole McCarthy  
Jessica Lauren McGorty  
Emily Alice Menendez  
Madison Lorraine Meyer  
Rebecca Anne Moore  
Alexandra Kealohanui  
Morgaine Mueller  
Micaela Ann Murphy  
Audrey Rose O’Donnell  
Brittany Byrne O’Leary  
Brenna Rose Oricoli  
Olivia Grace Parise  
Sarah Elizabeth Parlato  
Georgia Anne Patrick  
Michaela Collins Pelletier  
Meredith McCabe Peloso  
Ana Cristina Peruzzi  
Kimberly Rose Pritchard

\*\*SALUTATORIAN

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# Catholic Schools

## Projects earn Science Fair trophies

By PAT HENNESSY

Young Catholic scientists were again well represented in the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair held at Quinnipiac University in the spring. The fair included 705 participants from 127 schools throughout Connecticut and nearby New York state towns.

Over 300 judges were involved in evaluating the projects in two main divisions: Dominion Physical Science and Pfizer Life Science. Several students from this diocese gained first honors in both categories, allowing them to compete for the top prize at their grade level.

Two students from this diocese took top honors in each category at the seventh grade level. Catherine Herrick, a seventh grader at St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown, took first place in Physical Science for "The Investigation of the

Presence of Plastic Microscopic Fibers in Effluent Sewage Water and Long Island Sound." At St. Mark School in Stratford, Kristen Robertson came home with the Life Science trophy for "Growing Our Future: Using LED Hydroponics to Cultivate Fresh Produce—A Solution for Urban Food Deserts."

In layman's terms, Catherine's project analyzed the number of microscopic plastic particles that remain after water has been filtered, purified and released from sewage treatment plants. She then compared that to the number of particles found in the free water of Long Island Sound.

Kristen showed how energy efficient lighting from LED light

ANALYZING MICROSCOPIC PARTICLES in water, Catherine Herrick, a seventh grader at St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown, took first place in Physical Science at her grade level.



bulbs could be paired with hydroponics, a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions in water, without soil. This pairing could be used to grow fresh fruits and vegetables in inner-city locations lacking outdoor space for plants.

Both winners have been invited to compete in the Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars) program, a national science, technology, engineering, and math competition. Sponsored by the Society for Science & the Public, the competition inspires and encourages the nation's

young scientists, engineers and innovators.

Two other schools will be sending students and their projects to Broadcom. The Life Science team of Maryjane Elwood and Elizabeth Duggan, eighth graders at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Fairfield, won a second place trophy for the research on their project "What Deodorant works the Best?" The team of James Fahey, Jake McNamara and Nicholas Buonaiuto, eighth graders at St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury, took home a trophy for third place in the Physical Science division for their project, which had the alarming title "Meltdown."

The number and scope of interest in these projects, competing as they did with over 700 entries from throughout the state, demonstrates the strength of science programs in diocesan

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

## Sacred Heart Academy

CONGRATULATES *the CLASS of 2014*

**100%** WILL FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION  
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LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

**34%** GRADUATED AS 4.0 SCHOLARS

**100%** EMBRACED THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE THROUGH  
**15,000** HOURS OF OUTREACH

Olivia Ackerson, Abigale Agresta, Beatrice Alexander, Lucy Andersen, Edrienne Arroyo, Victoria Asmus, Kaitlin Bannon, Joanna Barragan, Amanda Beecher, Maria Beecher, Alexis Bernstein, Victoria Bolliger, Perry Bowers, Nicole Brandi, Emma Brindisi, Morgan Brokaw, Elizabeth Bruchansky, Domenica Bruno, Isabella Buda, Victoria Burel, Alexandria Buscarello, Lindsey Cafano, Alexa Cafasso, Ginamarie Caiafa, Sydney Carr, Rachael Casasanta, Angela Ciaramella, Courtney Clark – *Fourth in the Class*, Gina Connolly, Hayley Corkery, Marianthe Corradino, Kristina D'Agostino, Morgan Daley, Rachel D'Andrea, Bryanna Dellaripa, Sienna DeMaio, Campbell Disbrow, Hayley Donahue, Rebecca Donahue, Madeleine Donohue, Emma Dragan, Zoe Dudek, Molly Duffy, Alison Dunne, Megan Dwyer, Jamie Falcha, Siobhan Fennell, Ginamarie Ferrigno, Charlotte Filardi, Chloé Fletcher, Molly Flowers, Natalia Fronzaglia, Shelby Gaglio, Madison Gallagher, Alexis Gerzabek, Sara Gissel, Rebecca Golia, Xena-Aixa Greene, Juliana Hanrahan, Deirdre Hughes, Mariana Jimenez, Amanda Jung, Brigid Keefe, Olivia Kelly – *Salutatorian*, Erin Kent, Caroline Kobierowski, Caroline Kohnert – *Third in the Class*, Rachel Korolyshun, Teresa Kraszewski, Jillian Kronberg, Ariana Lanouette, Kristy Latella, Jaina Maher, Emily Mancini, Lindsay Martins, Michaela Matos, Erin McCurley, Kelly McGovern, Nicole Mecca, Christina Mercugliano, Erin Milner, Julia Mocchiola, Cassandra Moore, Kathryn Mortati, Kanita Mote, Melanie Mucciacciaro, Nicolette Muro, Kayleigh Mydosh, Clare Nastri, Courtney Nowicki, Nneoma Obi, Allie O'Brien, Demery Ormrod, Sabrina Palmieri, Zelia Pantani, Amber Pinto, Rachel Porzio, Deirdre Reidy, Olivia Riccardi, Elizabeth Rice, Abby Rodrigue, Madeline Ross – *Valedictorian*, Serena Sakheim, Dana Samuel, Samantha Sansone, Maria Saracco, Sabrina Schiano, Kaelyn Sheehy, Bianca Signore, Jessica Smeriglio, Emily Smith, Verlenca Somuah, Anjali Sood, Brittany Squires, Meghan Stacy, Angela Stong, Sydney Sullivan – *Fifth in the Class*, Victoria Tavares, Leslie Torres, Anjali Vasavada, Glorimar Vega, Jessica Venables, Paige Vollero, Lalisa Wongchai, Natalia Wylezinski, Carmina Zablan-Palustre, Rachel Zealor, Alaina Zsampar



# Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 25

The Class of 2014 received their diplomas on May 24. Collectively they earned \$2.2 million in merit, service, and leadership scholarships and grants and they embraced the spirit of service through 15,000 hours of community outreach. Sacred Heart Academy currently has 511 students enrolled, many from the Diocese of Bridgeport. Madeline Ross, who belongs to St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton, is SHA valedictorian. Also from St. Lawrence, Olivia Kelly is Sacred Heart's salutatorian.

Valedictorian Madeline Ross was recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar and an AP Scholar, and is in the National Honor Society as well as the Science, French, and Math National Honor Societies and is the recipient of a number of awards. She was a member of the cross country and lacrosse teams, was a reporter for the school

newspaper and part of the paint crew for Sacred Heart's musicals. Madeline also served as president of her class during sophomore, junior, and senior years. Outside of school, Madeline is a lector at St. Lawrence and has volunteered



SACRED HEART ACADEMY, HAMDEN – Top scholars, Madeline Ross and Olivia Kelly

at the winter Special Olympics as a ski escort.

In the summer of 2013, Madeline interned at UCONN's Department of Surgery Molecular Cardiology and Angiogenesis Laboratory. She will be heading



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University School of Medicine, among other awards. She was a Bronze Medalist at the 2011 International Genius Olympiad Environmental Science Fair. In addition to membership in the National Honor Society and National Honor Societies for Science, Latin, French and Mathematics (where she served as secretary), Olivia was a Kairos peer ministry leader, co-editor of the school newspaper, co-president of Key Club, and team leader for musicals. She was a founding member of the school's

Haiti Project for Children. Olivia provided all choreography for SHA's Drama Festival during her junior and senior years.

She is headed to Brown University in the fall as a pre-medical student while pursuing a concentration in classical studies.

"The Class of 2014 never ceases to amaze me and impress me with their overwhelming compassion, academic excellence, and their willingness to serve those in need," says Sacred Heart Academy's principal, Sister Maureen Flynn, ASCJ.

ST. JOHN FISHER FROM PAGE 13

looking forward to attending its 50th anniversary!

After the Mass, the celebration moved to the Inn at Longshore on Long Island Sound where many more were able to join the festivities. In total, about 200 people enjoyed a cocktail hour in perfect weather on the outdoor patio overlooking the water before moving inside to enjoy a three-course banquet. In addition to thanking Cardinal Egan for spearheading the Fisher Seminary, other honorees who have been pivotal to the success of Fisher included Phil and Judy DeFelice, David Harvey, Dr. James Long and Drs. John and Liane Pioli.

Father Robert Kinnally, the current rector of Fisher, served as master of ceremonies for the evening, where it was announced that in addition to his current duties as rector and director of formation, he has been named the new chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Bishop Caggiano joked that Father Kinnally is going to be "a very busy man!"

In a spirit of triumph, Father Kinnally acknowledged the hard work of vocation director Father Sam Kachuba. As it now stands, ten men are scheduled to enter formation at Fisher this coming September. To make his point even more dramatic, Father Kinnally asked all of the seminarians in attendance to stand up, and the twenty or so men who did so received a rousing round of applause.

One note of humorous controversy that has been circulating concerns the exact number of men who have attended Fisher and have gone on to be ordained priests for Bridgeport. Cardinal Egan poked fun at Bishop Caggiano, who once said the number was around 80 men. By Cardinal Egan's accounting, the number is 95, including our most recently ordained. As if to settle the matter, Father Kinnally said at one point during the festivities that "more than one-million men have come through Fisher and have been ordained priests for Bridgeport!"

Whatever the exact number, soon more than one hundred men will have attended Fisher and will have been ordained priests for the Diocese of Bridgeport. In this day and age, when Catholics and others frequently wonder where future Catholic priests will come from, the Diocese of Bridgeport has found the answer: St. John Fisher Seminary.

(Father Colin McKenna writes a blog at [bridgeportdiocese.com/fcc](http://bridgeportdiocese.com/fcc). He can be reached by email at [fr.colinmckenna@yahoo.com](mailto:fr.colinmckenna@yahoo.com).)

to Boston University College of Arts and Sciences as a Trustee Scholar with a full, four-year scholarship.

Salutatorian Olivia Kelly earned the National Merit Commended Scholar Award and an internship in the Department of Therapeutic Radiology at Yale

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July 6: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Fa re ut fa sol la* (Morales)

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# Sports

## Four Aces

By **JOE RYAN**

There were a lot of great stories coming out of the local high schools during this past baseball season. One struck a chord: When was the last time four aces of this status led the local high schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport?

St. Joseph's has Nick Williams, who led them to a state championship last year and very well may lead the Cadets back to glory this spring. A pair of juniors, Kevin Stone of Fairfield Prep and Randy Polonia of

Trinity Catholic, were the dominant pitchers on the Jesuits and Crusaders staff. They will again team up to be the top hurlers for the Stamford Senior American Legions squad. The youngest of the four is Notre Dame of Fairfield's Dillon Stimpson, who has put together a stunning 18-3 career record despite having just completed his sophomore year.

The athletes have a lot in common, including their physical gifts, but their coaches are quick to point to their personalities and dedication to their teammates as the reason they succeed. They are



NOTRE DAME ACE Dillon Stimpson has put together a stunning 18-3 career record for his Fairfield school despite having just completed his sophomore year. He's the youngest of four star hurlers from the diocese, including senior Nick Williams of St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, and a pair of juniors, Kevin Stone of Fairfield Prep and Randy Polonia of Trinity Catholic, Stamford.

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*Deceased April 2, 2014*

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always working hard to improve their skills.

Nick Williams is a senior with an 8-2 record and he is already committed to play at Union College next year. His coach, Jim Chaves, said that the first thing he noticed when Williams came to the Cadets as a sophomore was his intelligence. He has grown into the almost the perfect size for a pitcher at six-foot-two.

"He is composed and hard to rattle, plus baseball-wise he has great mechanics," said Chaves. "It allows him to throw multiple types of pitches for strikes. He has a fastball, curve-ball change-up but it's his breaking ball which has a very sharp break and he has the ability to throw it for strikes"

Williams came to the team with raw talent and put in the time to make himself one of the best hurlers in the state. His "lead by example" approach makes other players understand that hard work is the best way to success.

"He's mentally tough and he

puts in the work," said Chaves. "He's exactly what we look for."

Williams has always been one to reach out to a player who is struggling, or will pick them up if they make an error, because he does not look at himself as above the team. He may have star qualities in his abilities but his low-key personality makes him a great teammate and friend.

Fairfield Prep ace Kevin Stone has been a big game pitcher since his Little League days in Stamford. The slender righty had a 7-1 record this past season for a Jesuit team which was ranked as the No. 1 baseball program in the CIAC LL ratings for most of the year.

Stone has the perfect makeup for a pitcher because he understands the art of pitching and is more than just a thrower. He is not afraid to pitch to contact and he has trust in his fielders to back him up. His coach, Rudy Mauritz, called Stone one of his

▶ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 31*

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# Mission Trip to Peru

## 'Life-changing' is not a cliché

In the late afternoon of May 21, a group of 12 college students from the Diocese of Bridgeport, entrusted themselves to the care of Holy Mary and embarked on a great mission to serve the poorest of the poor in the Shanty Towns of Lima, Peru. The trip was led by members of the Marian Community of Reconciliation, whose motherhouse is in Peru. Later, Julie Rodgers, MCR, interviewed Brianna Farens, a recent graduate of Providence College about her experience.

### How would you describe the mission trip to Peru?

Life-changing! This is my response when I'm asked how my mission trip to Peru was. I gravitate toward this answer because I realized the difficulty in trying to summarize such an intense and powerful experience. I realize that "a life-changing experience" is probably a cliché; however, I think it is impossible to go on a trip like that and remain unchanged.

### What were your expectations going into it?

I have never been on a mission trip before, so I had no idea what to expect. The poverty in the shanty towns is overwhelming. Many houses there were not much larger than a typical bedroom here. We saw numerous family members sharing one bed. They



"MORE IMPORTANT than anything we were able to build with our hands, we loved," says Brianna Farens, a graduate of Providence College, shown here greeting a young mother and her daughter during a mission trip to Peru. "Clearly we were unable to fix every house we saw; however, we always had the opportunity to love every person we encountered, and this was the most fulfilling aspect of this experience."

were grateful if they had a concrete floor, which was a significant improvement to the dirt ground that constituted the foundation of many other homes. Most children received their only meal at the soup kitchen. The physical poverty was heartbreaking.

I remember beginning this trip

with a rather pessimistic outlook. I questioned the value of our service work and the real impact it would have. Originally, I was leery of being a "voluntourist." I didn't want to act like a superhero, flying in from a more developed country and supposing I can fix other people's problems by

simply building a roof or a house.

Certainly, they have more qualified people much closer to them for that. As time went on, I began to realize that I was viewing this trip through a very narrow lens and missing the bigger picture. More important than anything we were able to build with our hands, we loved. Our



very presence, having traveled thousands of miles to serve strangers, was an act of love. Clearly we were unable to fix every house we saw; however, we always had the opportunity to love every person we encountered, and this

was the most fulfilling aspect of this experience.

### What was most surprising during the trip?

Being unable to use my cell phone during the mission trip was one of the most liberating feel-

ings. I was forced to give all of my attention to personal encounters. It was refreshing to experience and grow accustomed to such genuine mutual exchanges every day. This allowed me to connect more deeply with others; I was surprised at how quickly and authentically friendships began to form.

I would have never found this sense of community if I had not allowed myself to become vulnerable. I think we do ourselves an injustice by constricting vulnerability to being synonymous with weakness. There is a great opportunity for strength and humility in being vulnerable. I saw this expressed in many people we met from the shanty towns. The way they welcomed us into their lives and the intimacy of their homes portrayed this positive side of vulnerability. The children, vulnerable by nature and by the poverty they were born into, chose to make themselves even more vulnerable through the way they ran to us every day and jumped into our arms. There is a mysterious beauty in being vulnerable and I believe it is through the way it

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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# Obituaries

## Msgr. William Loughlin dies at 87

STAMFORD—Msgr. William Loughlin died on May 26 at St. Joseph Center in Trumbull, where he had most recently lived in retirement. He was 87 years old.

William Loughlin was born on March 3, 1927 in Wharton, N.J. He attended St. Mary's School there and Bayley High School in Morristown. Thereafter he attended the Oratory Preparatory School in Summit, N.J., and Seton Hall University, attaining BA and MA degrees. He completed his seminary studies and received a Master of Divinity degree from Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Walter W. Curtis in St. Mary Church, Greenwich, on May 3, 1969.

His first assignment was as parochial vicar at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newton. He also served at Assumption Parish in Westport, St. Philip Parish in

"He loved leading people to Marian shrines throughout the world."

Norwalk, St. Augustine Cathedral Parish in Bridgeport and St. Mary Parish in Greenwich.

In the summer of 1983, he was named pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelton. That fall, with the approval and encouragement

of Bishop Curtis, he formed the Office of Diocesan Pilgrimages and became its director. With the help of his good friends, Joseph and Mary Mitchell of St. Augustine Cathedral Parish, he continued to lead pilgrimages until his poor health prohibited travel.

He was named a Chaplain to His Holiness by Pope John Paul II, with the title of Monsignor, on July 14, 1988.

While continuing as director of the pilgrimage office, he served as parochial vicar of St. Mary's in Greenwich, St. Luke Parish in Westport and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Fairfield. In addition, Msgr. Loughlin served on the Priests' Council.

"Leading pilgrimages was his real love," says Msgr. William



MSGR. WILLIAM LOUGHLIN

Scheyd, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, who delivered the homily at his funeral Mass. "He had a great devotion to

Our Lady, and he loved leading people to Marian shrines throughout the world, the big ones like Lourdes and Fatima and lesser ones that he discovered. Each pilgrimage was, in its own way, a journey to the unknown with the element of faith behind it."

An evening Vigil Mass was celebrated for Msgr. Loughlin at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Stamford on June 2. Father Ian Jeremiah, director of Clergy Personnel, celebrated the Mass and delivered the homily.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial for Msgr. Loughlin at St. Bridget's on June 3. Msgr. Loughlin will be buried with his family in St. Mary Cemetery, Dover, N.J.

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#### JUNE

30	Rev. Arthur E. Norton.....	2004
	Msgr. Thomas P. Mooney .....	1956
	Msgr. John E. Tomis .....	1986

#### JULY

1	Rev. Anthony J. Intagliata.....	1990
2	Rev. Alfred J. Carmody.....	1958
5	Msgr. John J. Hayes.....	1964
6	Msgr. Philip N. Salmone.....	1967
8	Rev. James J. Kane .....	1956
9	Rev. Sean F. Flynn.....	1978
10	Rev. Edward F. Doyle.....	1981
	Deacon Stephen Sebestyen .....	2011
12	Rev. Edwin Coyne .....	2013
13	Msgr. James P. Devine.....	1972
	Rev. A. Fred Constantino.....	1980
17	Msgr. Walter R. Conroy.....	1997
	Fr. Robert Terentieff.....	2011
19	Msgr. Bartholomew J. Laurello .....	2004
20	Rev. John M. Conlisk.....	1990
	Rev. Kevin P. Fitzpatrick .....	2008
	Rev. Chester Kicia, O.F.M. ....	2003
	Msgr. John J. Wigh.....	1995
21	Rev. David H. Krahel.....	2008
22	Msgr. Nicholas P. Coleman, P.A.....	1963
24	Fr. Paul Lalic .....	2011
25	Rev. Hubert P. Carrig.....	1978
26	Msgr. Francis M. Wladasz .....	1959

June 2014

# Schools

## SCIENCE FROM PAGE 26

schools.

Winning projects came from schools throughout the diocese: Ten winning projects in their grade level, three of them finalists, from St. Joseph School,

Assumption School, Fairfield; four winners, one finalist, at St. Thomas Aquinas School, Fairfield; and two winners, one finalist, from Greenwich Catholic School.

At the high school level, Immaculate in Danbury had a winner in freshman Martha Haddad's Physical Science project "Effective Energy Storage Technology for Electric Power." Martha is a repeat winner, having been honored at last year's Science Fair as well.

In addition to the diocesan schools, Fairfield Prep can claim five winners, including one finalist. The Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich took home an amazing 11 winners, one of the largest school successes in the state.

Congratulations

go to the young scientists for their interest, dedication and determination; to their teachers for the excellent preparation they received in the classroom; and to their parents for their encouragement, patience—and their toleration of the countless hours and demanding activity required to achieve a winning project.

In all, the State Science Fair awarded over \$173,000 in cash and prizes. ■



GROWING FOOD for inner cities gave seventh grader Kristen Robertson from St. Mark School in Stratford the first place Life Science trophy.

Danbury; ten, including one finalist—with a first place to Catherine Herrick—from St. Rose of Lima, Newtown; ten from St. Mary School, Bethel; nine, with two project finalists, from St. Gregory the Great School, Danbury; five winners, two finalists—including Kristen Robertson's first place—from St. Mark School, Stratford; four winning projects, two finalists, from Our Lady of the

## SHEPHERDS FROM PAGE 24

potential, if a young person is just given a helping hand. Zaid wants to pursue a career in medicine and we will soon be exploring colleges in Boston. He has his own dreams, imagination and curiosities and is driven to succeed."

Shepherds celebrated eighteen Class of 2014 graduates who earned diplomas from Kolbe Cathedral in Bridgeport and Notre Dame of West Haven. One hundred percent of this year's graduates—most of whom are pioneers as the first in their families to earn a high school diploma—had options for a brighter future, with one entering the

military and the others earning college acceptances.

Sponsors/Mentors for this year's graduates include Noreen Anzalone; Diane and Brendan Fisk; Nancy Forvil; John Hardman; Daniel McAuliffe, Jr.; John McClutchy, Jr.; Richard and Beth Paul; Barnet Phillips IV; Jeanne Sikaitis; Keith Singletary; Martha Turner and the William H. Pitt Foundation.

(Shepherds is looking for Sponsors/Mentors for incoming Freshmen. For more information, call 203.367.4273, email info@shepherdsinc.com or visit the website: www.ShepherdsInc.com.) ■

## FOUR ACES FROM PAGE 28

best all-around players, and pointed to his goal to attend an Ivy League college as an example of the drive within the junior to be the best he can be.

"We want our athletes to be good students and citizens along with being gifted on the field," said Mauritz. "We believe in being a good teammate and that sportsmanship is as important as wins and losses. We want to win, but to do so with high standards. Kevin is a player who meets that criteria."

Trinity Catholic's Randy Polonia quickly established himself as the Crusaders' ace as a freshman and even won their game on the last day of the season which propelled the team into the state tournament. He was their starting shortstop and best hitter when not taking care

of his pitching duties.

Polonia continued his fine play during his sophomore campaign, but the Trinity team around him was handcuffed by inexperience and injury. That prevented his pitching record from showing how well he did perform. The junior rebounded this season for a 6-1 record while batting .500. The Crusader team has rebounded as well to win thirteen games overall and advanced to the CIAC Class S tournament. Ironically, Polonia was injured before the playoffs started and has been relegated to cheering his team on, but they would not have gotten to the post season without him.

Polonia was named the FCIAC player of the year, which speaks volumes about the other team's opinions of this young player.

Stimson amassed an 11-1 record this year. He came close to

a perfect game against Bunnell and a no-hitter against Sacred Heart.

There were many good players on the Lancers squad but Stimson was a big reason they won the SWC title. Coach Bill Mazzucco pointed out that he has been blessed with having an All-State catcher in Anthony Searles last year and Matt Lasky as his battery-mate this season. The coach said they seemed to always be on the same page, which was a big help to the young pitcher.

"Scouts are starting to come around," said Mazzucco. "I have never had a pitcher of his caliber be so dominant as a sophomore."

It was a great year for baseball at Catholic high schools, and it always helps to have four aces. ■



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## Guest Column



## At last, the secret to a happy marriage

## SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

Three of our daughters got married in ten months, so I consider myself an expert on the topic of holy matrimony—at least on the topic of paying for weddings.

Before I got involved in this business of gowns, receptions and deejays, I did a lot of Internet research and couldn't believe the father of the bride still has to pick up the tab for his daughter's wedding in the post-feminist era when women are CEOs of Fortune 500 companies. There's no justice. Even worse, when I suggested having a garden wedding or a group ceremony, I was met with hissing and icy stares, so in the end, I kissed my retirement savings goodbye.

Actually, I felt privileged to be father of the brides, which got me thinking about marriage in America. We live in a strange

and sad era, when marriage is constantly under attack. The divorce rate is increasing for Baby Boomers, and there's a growing chorus of evolutionary biologists who suggest that having the same partner for life isn't realistic. In our consumer society, fidelity has an expiration date.

To add to the craziness, celebrities like Gwyneth Paltrow, who divorced her rock star husband in what they called a "conscious uncoupling," are looked upon as enlightened role models. The uncoupling shouldn't come as a surprise, however, because the entertainment industry generally condones "open marriage" and adulterous relationships, aka cheating.

Adding to the salacious headlines, actress Tori Spelling and her husband exploited their problems with adultery and addiction by airing them on reality TV with a psy-

chotherapist. And let's not forget the late legendary Mickey Rooney, who had eight wives, or Elizabeth Taylor, who had seven husbands.

For the average couple struggling to make things work one day at a time, marriage is never easy. I recently read a book by Christian writer Gary Thomas titled, "Sacred Marriage: What if God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More Than to Make Us Happy?" That's a radical concept in our narcissistic society, which deceives us into believing "getting" is more important than "giving" and marriage should be a constant source of pleasure.

When the romantic thrill starts to ebb, Thomas says, "Many couples will break up their relationship and try to recreate the passionate romance with someone else. Other couples will descend into a sort of marital guerrilla warfare, a passive-aggressive power play as each partner blames the other for personal dissatisfaction or lack of excitement. Some couples decide to simply 'get along.' Still others may opt to pursue a deeper meaning, a spiritual truth hidden in the enforced intimacy of the marital situation."

And that's where Christ comes in. The most profound vision of the Sacrament of Holy

Matrimony I've ever seen is the "Exhortation Before Marriage," which the priest read at my daughters' ceremonies. It offers the best advice to avoid conscious, and unconscious, uncoupling through the unfamiliar practice of self-sacrifice.

I confess I'm not very good at self-sacrifice. Actually, I don't have to confess anything because my wife is always reminding me. She's like that little angel on your shoulder, whispering in your ear. Except she uses a megaphone.

The exhortation tells couples, "You are about to enter upon a union which is most sacred and most serious.

It will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and so intimate, that it will profoundly influence your whole future. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. These elements are mingled in every life, and are to be expected in your own. And so not knowing what is before you, you take each other for better or for worse, for richer

or for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death. ...

Then, the important part: "It is most fitting that you rest the security of your wedded life upon the great principle of self-sacrifice. And whatever sacrifices you may hereafter be required to make to preserve this mutual life, always make them generously. Sacrifice is usually difficult and irksome. Only love can make it easy, and perfect love can make it a joy. We are willing to give in proportion as we

love. And when love is perfect, the sacrifice is complete. ...

"May, then, this love with which you join your hands and hearts today

never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on. And if true love and the unselfish spirit of perfect sacrifice guide your every action, you can expect the greatest measure of earthly happiness that may be allotted to man in this vale of tears. The rest is in the hands of God."

Self-sacrifice is an unfamiliar concept in modern America, yet it's the secret to true love and true happiness. And God is always there to help. ■

"I confess  
I'm not very good  
at self-sacrifice."

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# Column



## Morning

### POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

**H**e who sleeps at dawn is dead  
To more wonders than he knows.  
*(James Herbert Morse "Mornings in August")*

Religious people often have an extraordinary interest in miracles and visions. Do you want to see a vision? Get up tomorrow and watch the sun rise. That's as good as God does. Watch the day begin fresh and rested, renewed by the night. Watch a new day begin, another page in the book of time, another beginning, another chance. Watch the dawn come and feel the peace that can restore you.

I particularly love the pre-

dawn time; the pre-dawn darkness. In that early morning darkness before dawn there's a feeling of intent watchfulness and suspended activity.

There's an indescribable pause as everything waits in silence. This brooding silence is suddenly broken by the first bird who awakens and calls. Other birds awaken and answer. On some mysterious impulse, these small feathered creatures awake, and before eating a morsel of food or following any other pursuit, throw their vitality into song—the Dawn Chorus, a thanksgiving for existence, for the beauty of life.

The birds grow louder. There are no soloists; they become a chorus, a wild medley of voices.

The chorus rises and strengthens.

A thing about dawn is the leisurely coming of light. There is no haste. The day takes its time in rousing. The stars dim slowly, the darkness becomes tenuous. The black night turns to gray. The night comes to an end (where does it go?).

The sky is as yet without real light. Then there are the first feeble rays in an awakening sky. Along the horizon a first pale band of color begins to form, a sliver of salmon color in the east. The faint tinge strengthens and spreads, and the birds grow silent, a strange silence, almost palpable. Even the breeze quiets. There's a perfect, beautiful silence, a solemn hush, a suspense. The light becomes rosy pearl with lacings of apricot.

Then the sun lifts above the horizon, and like a great hallelujah, the bird-chorus begins again, redoubled in volume. It is a great chorus of exaltation and affirmation, a celebration of the new day, indeed, a celebration of the miracle of creation. "The sun proceeds to measure off another day for an approving God" (Emily Dickinson).

When I look at the rising sun, I'm seeing what all my ancestors have seen in the Stone Age and before that. When the sun rises, each of us is summoned to praise God.

I should rise very early more often and not cheat myself of all this, but I do not. Most often I watch the morning brighten against the windows, watch the washed morning light come into the room. How fresh it seems, how pure, that pink and pearly light that comes into the room.

A spiritual guide I know of advises a simple pious practice: when you get up, open a window that faces the east where the sun is coming up, and bow deeply, and hold that posture for awhile.

I would add to this advice, don't flick on the TV or radio and let the world with all its disquieting news rush in upon you. Don't have the stillness of the fragile young morning be shattered with reports about fatal car accidents, tenement fires, portrayals of violence, depravity and dishonor. Don't have the early morning fresh calm shattered by broadcasters telling us what a disordered world this is, fill the room with a

torrent of anxious alarms.

I love early morning light. As the day goes on, the tranquility and softness lessens.

For me, the morning is always good time, till about eleven o'clock, when it begins to feel its age.

It's probably true to say that to wake up is to be given back your life, to be given back the world again. Morning—with its promise of new beginnings. As Joan Baez put it, "every day on earth is another chance to get it right." Every dawn is a new gift.

O God of light, the dawning day  
Gives us new promises of your love.

Each fresh beginning is your gift,  
Like gentle dew from heav'n above.

Renew our strength, remove all fear;

Be with us Lord through this day,  
For all is joy if you are near.

(Liturgy of the Hours, Morning Prayer, Thursday, Week II, Ordinary Time)

MISSION TRIP  
FROM PAGE 29

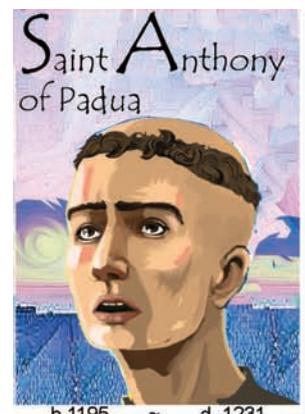
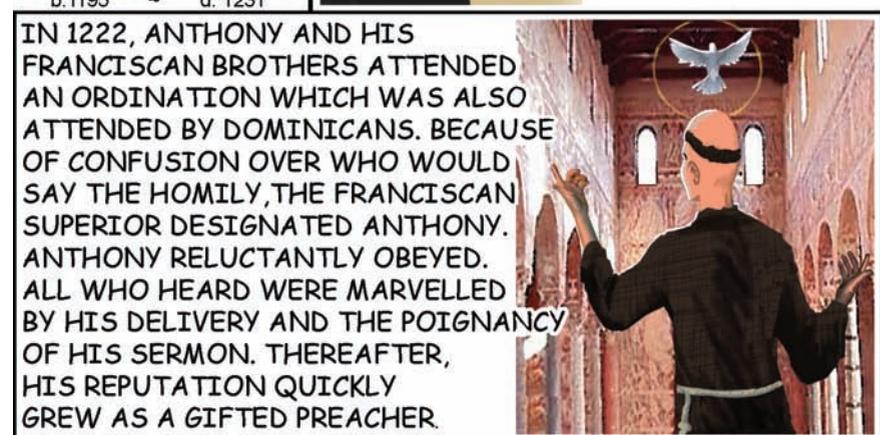
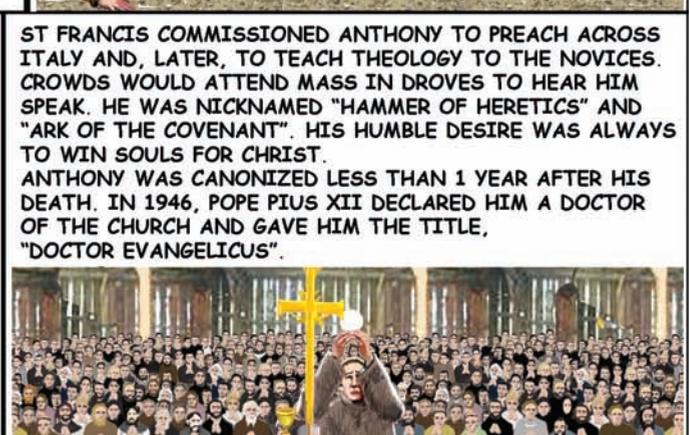
connects us to Christ.

**What did you bring back from this trip?**

Life, in its entirety, became much more precious to me. A reoccurring theme for me on this mission trip was the need to be open in order to more fully embrace life, starting with my own. I learned the importance of being open.

For me, this meant overcoming fear, especially of the unknown. I didn't know anyone going into this trip. I probably came across as a loner. The amazing part is that I felt anything but alone, despite knowing almost no one on the trip. I didn't realize it at that moment, but my decision to go on this trip was the first step I took at making myself open and vulnerable. I was the most myself during this mission trip in Peru. My awareness to this only increased as I began to open my heart up more to God as well.

## SAINTLY LIVES BY ED WALDRON

 <p><b>Saint Anthony of Padua</b> b. 1195 ~ d. 1231</p>	<p>BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 TO 26, FERNANDO MARTINS CARRIED OUT HIS RELIGIOUS LIFE A MONASTERY IN COIMBRA, PORTUGAL. FIVE FRANCISCANS WHO HAD BEEN STAYING IN THE TOWN WERE MARTYRED IN MOROCCO WHILE SPREADING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. THEIR RELICS WERE RANSOMED AND RETURNED TO COIMBRA. FERNANDO WAS SO MOVED BY THEIR HEROIC AND SELFLESS ACTS, THAT AT THE AGE OF 26, HE LEFT THE AUGUSTINIANS AND JOINED THE FRANCISCANS WITH THE INTENTION OF GLORIFYING GOD IN THE SAME WAY.</p>	<p>HE TOOK THE NAME ANTHONY IN HONOR OF ST. ANTHONY OF EGYPT. HIS WISH TO EVANGELIZE TO THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA WAS GRANTED, BUT HE BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL BEFORE THE SHIP LANDED. HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL. DURING THE VOYAGE, A FIERCE STORM FORCED THE SHIP TO LAND IN SICILY. ANTHONY THEN TRAVELED TO ASSISI TO ATTEND THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF FRANCISCANS TO MEET ST. FRANCIS HIMSELF.</p> 
<p>IN 1222, ANTHONY AND HIS FRANCISCAN BROTHERS ATTENDED AN ORDINATION WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY DOMINICANS. BECAUSE OF CONFUSION OVER WHO WOULD SAY THE HOMILY, THE FRANCISCAN SUPERIOR DESIGNATED ANTHONY. ANTHONY RELUCTANTLY OBEYED. ALL WHO HEARD WERE MARVELLED BY HIS DELIVERY AND THE POIGNANCY OF HIS SERMON. THEREAFTER, HIS REPUTATION QUICKLY GREW AS A GIFTED PREACHER.</p> 		<p>ST FRANCIS COMMISSIONED ANTHONY TO PREACH ACROSS ITALY AND, LATER, TO TEACH THEOLOGY TO THE NOVICES. CROWDS WOULD ATTEND MASS IN DROVES TO HEAR HIM SPEAK. HE WAS NICKNAMED "HAMMER OF HERETICS" AND "ARK OF THE COVENANT". HIS HUMBLE DESIRE WAS ALWAYS TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST. ANTHONY WAS CANONIZED LESS THAN 1 YEAR AFTER HIS DEATH. IN 1946, POPE PIUS XII DECLARED HIM A DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIM THE TITLE, "DOCTOR EVANGELICUS".</p> 

## Bits &amp; Pieces

**SUMMER CONCERT**

**SERIES** is held at St. Ann Field, 481 Brewster St., Black Rock, Bridgeport, Tues. nights from 6-8 pm through **August 19**. If it rains Tues., concert will be on Wed. at the same time. Bring a picnic! Bring a Frisbee! Bring some wine! Bring your family and friends! Minimum donation: \$5/person; children under 12 are free. Please "Like" our Facebook page to see the list of bands. For more info, call 203.368.1607.

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

will host a Latin Mass and reception at St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, on Sun., **June 29**, at 2:30 pm. You do not need to be a member of this parish or young adult group to attend. All welcome; bring a friend. For more info, email raytar.theresa@gmail.com.

**DAY TRIP TO NYC**, organized by St. Stephen Parish, Trumbull, will take place on Fri., **July 18**. Part tour, part theater: See spectacular performances and classic New York sights from the comfort of a technologically advanced motorcoach. Bus departs St. Stephen at 9:30 am and returns at approximately 6 pm. Cost: \$95/person includes round-trip transportation and ride ticket. Reservations and payment needed by Mon., **June 30**. For more info, visit [www.experiencetheride.com](http://www.experiencetheride.com).

For reservations, call St. Stephen's: 203.268.6217 or Maria LaVelle: 203.459.1021.

**TEEN SUMMER BIBLE STUDY** open to all high school youth begins Mon., **June 30**, at 7 pm at St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan (in the youth room) and continues for five Mondays; concludes with a group service project. "The Living Gospel" is led by young adults; includes dinner. All welcome! Bring a friend. Sign up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084dafad2caafb6-summer](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084dafad2caafb6-summer).

**AETNA GOLF CLASSIC & LOBSTER FEST** to benefit Catholic Charities will be held Mon., **June 30**, at the Shorehaven Golf Club, Norwalk, with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. Don't golf? Join the post-golf festivities. Cocktail hour at 5 pm with Honorary Event Chairman Bishop Caggiano, full New England Lobster Bake, live auction, prizes or raffle. First auction item: a private dinner for 10 with Bishop Caggiano. Event cost: \$125/p. For info or tickets go to [www.ccfairfield.org](http://www.ccfairfield.org).

**NOCTURNAL ADORATION** before the Blessed Sacrament is held the first Fri. of every month (**July 4**) at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish from 8 pm-12 midnight, beginning with

Benediction. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after Benediction during the 8 pm hour. For more info, call the parish: 203.324.2910.

**CURSILLO ULTREYAS** are held around the diocese: Mon., **July 7**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, at 7 pm; Thurs., **July 17**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, at 7:30 pm; and Mon., **July 21**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, at 7:30 pm. On Sun., **August 10**, they will gather for Bridgeport Bluefish game at Harbor Yard. For more info, contact Jeanette: [jkovacs@snet.net](mailto:jkovacs@snet.net).

**ADULT DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT** sponsored by the Cardinal Shehan Center on Wed., **July 16**, from 5:30-8:30 pm at the INsports Centers, 29 Trefoil Dr., Trumbull. Treat your employees to a night out! T-shirts and pizza provided. Team entry fee: \$650; up to nine men and women per team. Reservations needed by Mon., **July 7**. For more info or for reservations, contact Lorraine Gibbons: 203.336.4468 or [lgibbons@shehancenter.org](mailto:lgibbons@shehancenter.org).

**APPALACHIAN CRAFT FAIR** will be held at Holy Trinity Parish, at the corner Routes 37 & 39, Sherman, the weekend of **July 11-13**. Traditional hand woven baskets and stools, hand quilted bed quilts, table runners and placemats, dolls, wooden utensils and toys, stained glass, hand thrown pottery, jewelry and more. Fri., **July 11**, 12 noon-6 pm; Sat., **July 12**, 10 am-6 pm; Sun., **July 13**, 12 noon-5 pm. For more info, email [appcraftfair@gmail.com](mailto:appcraftfair@gmail.com).

**TAG SALE** will take place at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Bridgeport, on two weekends in July: Sat., **July 12** and **19**, from 9 am-4 pm and Sun., **July 13** and **20**, from 11 am-2 pm. For more info, call 203.372.3740.

**HOLY SPIRIT FRATERNITY**, Secular Franciscan Order will meet at St. Emery Church on Sat., **July 12**, at 9:30 am. Msgr. Ernest Esposito will celebrate a Mass in church followed with a social and meeting in the Church Hall. "Come and See" if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order. For more info, call 203.255.8801.

**GOSPEL OF LIFE SOCIETY** meets the second Sat. of the month (**July 12**) at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, at 10

am after the 9 am Pro-Life Mass. For more info, contact Eileen Bianchini: 203.847.5727 or [stmarygols@aol.com](mailto:stmarygols@aol.com).

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be held at St. Jude Parish, Monroe, the week of **July 14-18**, from 9 am-12 noon. This year's theme is "Son Treasure Island." For more info and to sign up, call Donna: 203.459.4852.

**SUMMER BOOK CLUB** will be held five Tues., **July 15-August 12**, from 10-11 am at St. James Parish, Stratford. The summer selection is "Anam Cara," a book of Celtic Wisdom by John O'Donahue. Cost: \$15; includes book. For more info or register, call the parish: 203.375.5887.

**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL** will be observed by the Lay Carmelites at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, on Wed., **July 16**. Procession begins outside at 6:30; Mass at 7 pm. Reception follows; all are invited. For more info, call 203.929.5355.

**WEEK OF DIRECTED PRAYER:** Take an opportunity to make a directed retreat, **July 19-26**, without leaving home or workplace. Group prayer is combined with individual meetings with an experienced spiritual director. For more info, contact Betsy Redgate at St. James Parish Center: 203.375.5887 or [bredgate.stjamesparish@gmail.com](mailto:bredgate.stjamesparish@gmail.com).

**FAMILY RETREAT** by Star of the Sea Parish, Stamford, aims to bring families closer to God and to one another, plus having fun in an ocean setting. Parents, come with your children to an enjoyable family retreat by the seashore! Retreat will be held at St. Edmund's Retreat Center, Enders Island, Mystic, (Sun.-Fri.) August 3-8. For more info, contact Deacon John & Peggy Scarfi: 845.621.7000, [jscarfi@verizon.net](mailto:jscarfi@verizon.net) or [www.endersisland.com](http://www.endersisland.com).

**NIGHT GAME AT YANKEE STADIUM** (7:05 pm) against the Cleveland Indians Fri., **August 8**, will benefit St. Stephen Parish, Trumbull. Ticket value is \$55; your cost: \$45. Price includes ticket only; transportation is on your own. Tickets limited; act quickly. Full payment needed to reserve seats. For more info, call the parish: 203.268.6217 or Rich LaVelle: 203.459.1021.

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES AND FATIMA** with Msgr. John Sabia of St. Jude

Parish, Monroe, will take place **Sept. 4-16**. Trip includes Lisbon, Fatima, Salamanca, Burgos, Lourdes, and Paris. Cost: \$5,299 includes airfare, hotels, transportation and guides, breakfast and dinner. For more info and for reservations, go to [www.206tours.com/tour40/](http://www.206tours.com/tour40/).

**SACRED SITES, IRISH NIGHTS:** A St. James Pilgrimage to Ireland will combine liturgy and daily prayer services with visits to sacred shrines and popular sites, **Sept. 10-19**. For a brochure with complete itinerary and cost, call St. James Parish, Stratford: 203.375.5887

**STAMFORD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**, Class of 1964, will be holding its 50th reunion on Sat., **Sept. 20**, at the Italian Center, Stamford, and are seeking classmates. For more info, visit [www.schsclof1964.com](http://www.schsclof1964.com). On this website you can update your contact info. Or contact Joan Alves Olson: 203.921.5548.

**MULTI-SCHOOL REUNION** for students who attended School Sisters of Notre Dame schools in Long Island, Brooklyn, Queens and New York City (many now live in Fairfield County), will take place Sun., **Sept. 14**, at the Garden City Hotel, 45 Seventh Street, Garden City, Long Island, NY 11530. Early Registration: \$85, after Fri., **August 1**: \$100. For more info call 800.993.7763 or email Sr. Leonora at [reunion@amssnd.org](mailto:reunion@amssnd.org).

**PEREGRINACIÓN** a Fátima, Lourdes y Santiago de Compostela (Spanish-language pilgrimage) con el Padre Rolando Torres tomará lugar el **4-14 de noviembre**. Precio: \$2834/persona desde New York. Incluye pasaje aéreo, hoteles, desayuno, siete cenas, y guías turísticos. Para más información, llama al Padre Torres: 203.327.7250 o email [rolando-malak@gmail.com](mailto:rolando-malak@gmail.com).

**BINGO** is held every Thurs. at St. Emery Parish, Fairfield. Doors open at 4 pm; games start at 6:30 pm. Game sheets and tickets: \$30. Additional tickets sold separately. Food (hot dogs, sandwiches, etc.) will be served. For more info, call Tom St. Hillaire: 203.556.5480.

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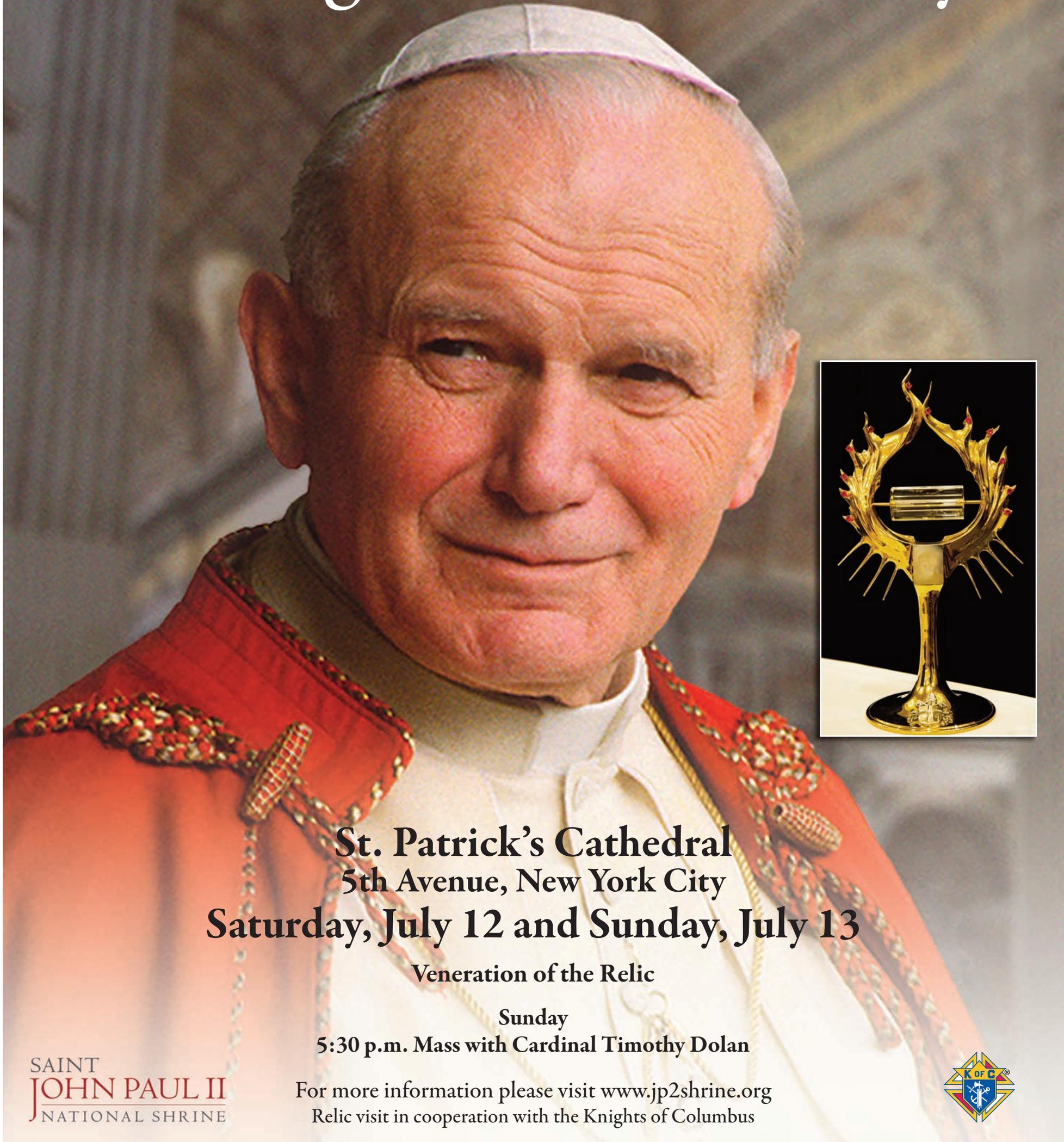
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