

FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 2013 | VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2 | LENTEN ISSUE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



5 *Breakfast of Champions celebrates our students*



17 *26 Acts of Kindness at Notre Dame HS, Fairfield*

Please visit us on:



at www.facebook.com/FairfieldCountyCatholics

at www.twitter.com/dobevents_dobyouth

Latest news:
bridgeportdiocese.com



Frank E. Metrusky, CFP®
President
and Financial Advisor

945 Beaver Dam Road
Stratford, CT 06614

203.386.8977

Securities and Advisory Services offered through National Planning Corporation (NPC), Member FINRA/SIPC, and a Registered Investment Advisor. Catholic Way investments and NPC are separate and unrelated companies.

CATHOLICWAY INVESTMENTS, LLC

Actively Connecting Faith and Finance



REGISTER NOW!

Sunday, March 3, 2013

FIFTH ANNUAL EDUCATORS' COMMUNION BREAKFAST

9 a.m. Mass - Chapel of the Holy Spirit
Sacred Heart University | 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT

TOPIC: Education and the Art of Loving

****Chapel art tour beginning at 8:30 a.m.****

FEATURED SPEAKER:
Michael J. James, Ph.D.

Breakfast immediately following.

Fellow
Boston College
Roche Center for Catholic Education



CENTESIMUS ANNUS PRO PONTIFICE



Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

ISABELLE FARRINGTON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Limited seating. Spouses and friends welcome. Call 203-396-8097 or go to www.sacredheart.edu/CAPP2013.

March for Life

600,000 March for Life in nation's capitol

Buses from the Diocese of Bridgeport joined a record crowd of marchers calling for legal protection for the unborn during the annual March for Life on January 25.

The harsh weather and overcast day did nothing to diminish the commitment and energy of the participants, many of them young people. "We are the Pro-Life Generation" said one banner carried by youth, and it summarized the hopes for the largest movement of social reform in the U.S. since the civil rights era.



ON THE COVER

MARCH FOR LIFE—St. Joseph High School seniors Mary Morrissey and Megan Kacenski were among the 1,000 people from parishes throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport who travelled to Washington DC to join the March for Life. This year's March marked the 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade. In that time, an estimated 55 million abortions have been performed in the U.S. All five Catholic high schools in the diocese sent a delegation as did many parishes. **ABOVE THE MAST: YOUTH FOR LIFE**—a young marcher shows that the pro-life movement is getting younger, bringing new vitality in the effort to safeguard life and protect every child.

CONTENTS

- 6 **MAGNET STATUS**
St. Vincent's Medical Center
- 7 **SPIRITUAL SOUNDTRACK**
Composer Dan Schutte
- 13 **MATT HENNESSEY**
White Lies and Spiders
- 15 **LENTEN RECOMMENDATION**
Bishops encourage Confession
- 18 **LATE NITE CATECHISM**
Laughs & Learning
- 20 **NOTRE DAME GIRLS**
Having a great season
- 24 **BLESSED SEBASTIÁN DE APARICIO**
A new column by Fr. Greg Markey



Launching the Annual Appeal

Faith and Charity come together in 2013

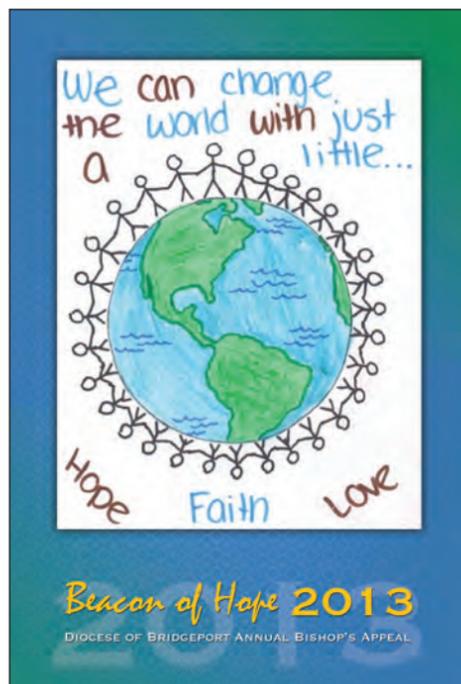
BRIDGEPORT—"We can change the world with just a little faith" is the powerful message on the brochure that kicks off the 2013 Diocese of Bridgeport Annual Bishop's Appeal. It was written by a young parishioner of St. Mark Parish in Stratford.

Kathleen Politica submitted the poster last year as part of a diocesan contest that encouraged children to celebrate the work of the Church. "I wanted to show people that if one person can help someone, then maybe others will hear about it and help someone else. One person can cause great change. I hope that my poster shows that many people can help by supporting the ministries of the Annual Bishop's Appeal," says Kathleen.

"Faith and good works come together each year in the Annual Appeal," said Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator. "They are at the core of our work as a diocese and our commitment to each other."

Pope Benedict XVI echoed those words in his recent Lenten statement. He said that faith and charity can never be separated nor opposed to each other, just as faith by itself isn't genuine without charity.

"Faith is knowing the truth and adhering to it; charity is 'walking' in the truth," the Pope said in his



KATHLEEN POLITICA was the 2012 Annual Bishop's Appeal Poster Contest participant from St. Marks Parish, Stratford.

annual message. "Faith is genuine only if crowned by charity."

The "Beacon of Hope" theme will once again guide the 2013 Annual Bishop's Appeal, that will be launched in parishes throughout the diocese on the weekend of February 26-27.

Funds raised are the major source of support for diocesan ministries and social programs

that benefit families and individuals throughout Fairfield County. This year's goal is \$12 million.

Msgr. Doyle has encouraged everyone to donate early in order to help the diocese save on printing and postage costs.

Jeff Machi, chief development officer of the diocese, said parishioners in the 82 parishes across the diocese will begin to receive Appeal materials, including the new Beacon of Hope brochure that focuses on vocations, Catholic Charities and education.

"Having the resources and readiness to respond to needs across the diocese is an important ongoing goal," adds Machi. "From the

tragedy in Newtown to the day-to-day challenges of serving the poor and helping our children, we've seen people turn to faith communities when their lives are in crisis. The Appeal gives the resources to respond both in the short and long term."

Machi points out that many of the programs and services provided by the diocese are available

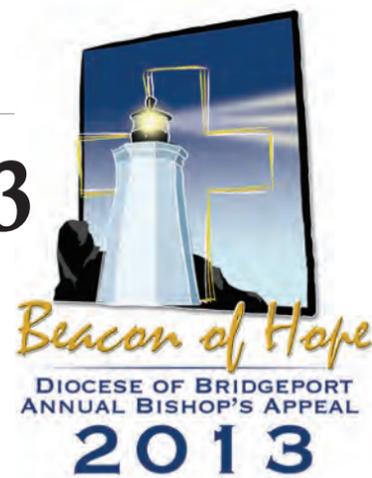
nowhere else. Their faith-based response makes them unique and powerful when people are in crisis.

Last year more than 1.3 million meals were served through Catholic Charities and food pantries throughout the diocese, including the major centers such as Merton Center in Bridgeport, New Covenant in Stamford and Morning Glory program based at Dorothy Day House in Danbury.

At a time when many individuals and families are under stress due to job loss or other problems, Catholic Charities has provided 15,000 counseling sessions related to its marriage and family therapy, medications management and other programs for at-risk children and families.

Gifts to the Appeal also make the presence of the diocese strongly felt in its outreach to the elderly. Last year, 22,000 visits to nursing homes residents and hospital patients were made by diocesan chaplains who provided spiritual care to the sick and their families.

Likewise, the Appeal helped support 48 retired priests, including 17 now in residence at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence in Stamford. Many of these priests were beloved pastors who continue to help out on weekends in parishes across the diocese.



Last year, the 38 Catholic schools throughout the diocese educated over 10,000 children in pre-K through high school through its faith-based approach and emphasis on academic excellence.

Through the Annual Appeal and gifts of individual donors, the diocese also was able to provide 1,323 financial scholarships, which made it possible for inner-city and low-income families to send their children to Catholic schools.

The Appeal also made it possible for 36 men who are discerning the priesthood to continue their studies at St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford as well as at major seminaries.

Checks may be made payable to the Annual Bishop's Appeal, and a credit card gift may be made online or by pledge card. All gifts will be acknowledged by the diocese and are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

(For more information go to www.2013ABA.com, or to make your gift early, please pledge by emailing 2013ABA@diobpt.org.) ■

White Mass to honor health professionals

BRIDGEPORT—The 20th Annual White Mass to honor health care professionals will be celebrated in St. Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport, on Sunday, March 10.

The 8:30 am Mass honors physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals and volunteers across the diocese. The White Mass will be celebrated by Msgr. Jerald Doyle, diocesan administrator. Brunch will follow immediately at Tashua Knolls, Trumbull.

Dr. John Haas, president of the National Catholic Center for Bioethics, will be the featured speaker. The morning includes the annual presentation of the Father Rufin Compassionate Care Award. Fr. Rufin Kuveikis, who died in 2008, was the

chaplain at Norwalk Hospital. Parishes and healthcare organizations throughout Fairfield County have been asked to submit nominations for the award, which recognizes an outstanding, pro-life Catholic healthcare professional.

Dr. John Haas received his Ph.D. in moral theology from the Catholic University of America and his S.T.L. in moral theology from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. He also has a Master of Divinity degree and has studied at the University of Munich and the University of Chicago Divinity School. Before assuming the presidency of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, Dr. Haas was the John Cardinal Krol Professor of Moral Theology at St. Charles

Borromeo Seminary of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Dr. Haas has been a regular contributor to *Our Sunday Visitor*, *The National Catholic Register* and the *Legatus Magazine*. He has lectured extensively in the United States and abroad. He has testified before state and federal judicial and legislative committees on bioethical topics, including physician-assisted suicide and human cloning. He also served as a consultant to the Department of Justice on Hispanic and Family Issues during the first Reagan Administration.

Dr. Haas serves as a member of the Medical Moral Commission of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and as a consultant to the Committee for Pro-Life Activities of the United



States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). For a number of years Dr. Haas produced and hosted a national television program known as "The St. Charles Forum" which was carried on the Catholic network EWTN. He is a

Knight of Malta and is the Order of Malta Philadelphia area chair.

Dr. Haas and his wife Martha have nine children. They reside in Philadelphia.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center was established in 1972 to promote and safeguard the dignity of the human person in health care and the life sciences. The center's staff consults regularly on life science issues and medical issues with the Vatican, the U.S. bishops, public policy-makers, hospitals and international organizations of all faiths.

(All healthcare workers and their guests are invited to attend the White Mass. Brunch tickets: \$35. For more information and tickets, contact Jean Talamelli: 203.416.1358 or jtalamelli@diobpt.org) ■

National Catholic Schools Week

Celebrating excellence in Catholic Schools

BRIDGEPORT—"May the Lord bless us as we strive to bring fourth in our young people a sense of loyalty, faith, and character," said Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator, in opening the Breakfast of Champions. It is held at the end of Catholic Schools Week each year to recognize students who have shown excellence in academics and exemplify the Gospel values fostered through their Catholic education.

Both Msgr. Doyle and Dr. Margaret Dames, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport, honored the parents who have made a financial sacrifice to ensure a faith-filled, quality education for their children.

The ability of the students, their energy, and the variety of their interests combine to give a fascinating portrait of the life in diocesan schools.

"Abby Wolpiuk is a great student but she's here because of her phenomenal number of ser-

vice hours," says Beth Hamilton, principal of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull.

In addition to her school activities, Abby assisted at a horse farm this past summer. "Her favorite horse is blind and deaf, and Abby would take her out and groom her every day," her mom, Mary, relates.

Jessica Almeida is an altar server at St. Joseph Parish in Danbury, and enjoys volunteering a local nursing home. Science is her favorite subject. She's been fascinated recently by microcellular discoveries in biology. Nothing could catch her attention faster than the teeming microscopic world in a drop of pond water.

"We're thrilled and delighted to honor Amy at the Breakfast of Champions," says her pastor, Fr. Samuel Scott. "At the same time, we're celebrating our status as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2012."

Owen Francis is St. Jude



School in Monroe's St. Thomas Aquinas Scholar. He's active in sports, and math is his favorite subject. "Owen is not only a scholar and an athlete, he gives his all whether on the court or in the classroom," says St. Jude's principal, Patricia Griffin. "He's one of the eighth-graders I rely on whenever I need an extra hand."

While St. Joseph's in Danbury was chosen as a Blue Ribbon

School for 2012, St. Jude's has been nominated for Blue Ribbon status this year. In order to be eligible to be nominated as a Blue Ribbon School, students' 2012 standardized test scores must be among the top 15% in the nation for reading and math. "The academic achievement just gets your foot in the door," Griffin says. "Then they want to know what makes St. Jude a special place."

It's students like Owen, with their energy and enthusiasm, who answer that part of the equation. Over 40% of diocesan schools have achieved National Blue Ribbon status. Their nationally recognized curriculum mapping process exceeds Connecticut state standards, and their values and faith, taught at home, are re-enforced in school.

"I like to do numbers—variables and integers and negative numbers," says Travis Sanders of St. Ambrose School in Bridgeport. Travis has started a school newspaper, too. "We cover things like Catholic Schools Week, our team games, poems the students write and thank you notes to our teachers."

"I was surprised when he was named a St. Thomas Aquinas medalist—but surprised in a good way," says his mom, Dinah.

"He's helpful, and attentive, and he likes to give directions."

At St. Ambrose, Travis was one of the eighth graders who decided that they didn't want a student council, because election to that position was seen as a popularity contest. Instead, they have formed an Activity Council instead, planning events like a recent reading contest.

In addition to the St. Thomas Aquinas Medals, the diocese recognizes high school scholar-athletes with a St. Sebastian



5th Annual Educators Communion Breakfast

FAIRFIELD—The Fifth Annual Communion Breakfast for Fairfield County Educators will take place at Sacred Heart University on March 3, beginning at 9 am with Mass in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Breakfast will follow in the University Commons. A tour of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit will be offered at 8:30 am.

Keynote speaker Dr. Michael J. James, PhD., of the Boston College Roche Center for Catholic Education will discuss, "Education and the Art of Loving."

Prior to his appointment at Boston College, Dr. James was vice president for research and professional development

with the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Washington, DC, and a senior officer and dean of student affairs and enrollment management at Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD. He is the most recent recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Scholarship Award bestowed by the national Jesuit Association of Student Personnel



Administrators. He is the lead author of "Education's Highest Aim: Teaching and Learning through a Spirituality of Communion."

CAPP's Educator Leadership Award recipient for 2013 will be Donna Spigarolo of Bridgeport because of her career of passionate excellence as a classroom teacher and for her active com-

munity involvement. "Donna has exemplified and demonstrated for us how to apply the principles of Catholic Social Teaching," says Bill Fox president of the Fairfield County Chapter of CAPP.

The breakfast is sponsored by the Fairfield County Chapter of CAPP (Centisimus Annus Pro Pontifice) and the Isabelle Farrington College of Education at SHU. CAPP was founded in 1993 to encourage business people, academics and other professionals to study and promote Catholic social teaching. It is named for Pope John Paul's encyclical of the same name that marked the 100th anniversary of the landmark papal document on social responsibility, *De Rerum Novarum*.

(Tickets: \$35/ person; \$300 for a table of 10. Seating limited, early registration is encouraged. To register, call Sheila Moseley: 203.396.8097 or visit www.sacred-heart.educapp2013.)

Award. To be eligible, individuals must have shown leadership as the captain of an athletic team. Additionally, the team must have shown athletic success, winning top honors in their division or league.

This year, three scholar-athletes were honored, all from Immaculate High School in Danbury. Maggie Christie is captain of the Women's Cross Country team. Lindsay Jossick and Sierra Stein are co-captains of Women's Soccer.

"Immaculate has won nine out of the last ten Class S Women's Soccer championships," says Principal Joe Carmen. "They're not just athletes. What they do on the field, that discipline and commitment, carries over into the classroom and community service."

February 2013

National Catholic Schools Week

At the Breakfast of Champions



More than 200 students and their parents, representing 35 schools throughout the diocese, turned out for the yearly awards breakfast at the Catholic Center. Thirty-five students were presented the St. Thomas Aquinas Medal for academic excellence and the practice of virtue. In addition, three students received the St. Sebastian Medal for their achievement as scholar-athletes.

(PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

"We're ambassadors for our school," adds Maggie, amplifying Principal Carmen's remarks. All three seniors agree that the most enduring "take away" of their years at Immaculate will be the friendships they've made during these past four years.

"Your academics are second to none," said Dr. Dames in her closing remarks before conferring the medals. "With recognition comes responsibility—responsibility to yourself, your family, your friends, and your faith."

Friendships, newspapers, blind horses, math variables, altar servers, micro-organisms—the Champions honored at the end of Catholic Schools Week represent the high standards that Catholic schools offer. Congratulations to them, their families, their teachers, and all who work together to help them, as Dr. Dames says, "achieve great things. They have made their parents proud, served their country, and most importantly, honored God by growing in their faith."



5TH GRADE RECIPIENTS

Victoria Morgan
St. Cecilia School
Justin Silver
Our Lady Star of the Sea School
Dyre Angel Vizcarra
Holy Spirit School

8TH GRADE RECIPIENTS

Giselle Acevedo—*St. Peter School*
Jessica Almeida
St. Joseph School
Alexandra Augustzin
St. James School
Gabriela Baghdady
St. Lawrence School
Isaac Bjerklie—*St. Ann School*
Isabella Capanna
St. Joseph School
Stephen Caponetti
Trinity Catholic Middle School
Jillian Cass
Assumption Catholic School
Ryan Cimmino
St. Thomas Aquinas School
John Coulter
All Saints Catholic School
Nicole Di Mauro
St. Gregory the Great School
Owen Francis—*St. Jude School*
Katherine Gerstner
St. Aloysius School
Olivia Graziano
St. Theresa School
Matthew Harmonay
Greenwich Catholic School
Kiana Laude—*St. Andrew School*
Christopher Lopez
St. Raphael School
Danielle Marcone
St. Mary School
Cynthia Moyano
St. Augustine Cathedral School
Maria Ringes
St. Rose of Lima School
Frederick Rio—*St. Mary School*
Matthew Rubsam
Our Lady of Fatima School
Travis Sanders
St. Ambrose School
Alexandra Sciallo—*St. Mark School*
Grace Scully—*St. Joseph School*
Ryein Troiano—*St. Peter-Sacred Heart International*
Abigail Wolpiuk
St. Catherine of Siena School

12TH GRADE RECIPIENTS

Marisa Carpanzano
Trinity Catholic High School
Andre Escaleira, Jr.
Kolbe Cathedral High School
Allison Kallberg
Immaculate High School
Michael Lenard
Notre Dame Catholic High School
Emily Rauser
St. Joseph High School

ST. SEBASTIAN AWARD

Maggie Christe—*Immaculate High School, Cross Country*
Lindsay Jossick—*Immaculate High School, Women's Soccer*
Sierra Stein—*Immaculate High School, Women's Soccer*

Local News

St. Vincent's Medical Center is Nursing Magnet

BRIDGEPORT—St. Vincent's Medical Center is the only hospital in Fairfield County and one of only three hospitals in Connecticut to achieve Magnet recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). The ANCC Magnet Recognition Program is the highest national honor for nursing excellence, the gold standard for nursing practice, and recognizes healthcare organizations that demonstrate excellence in nursing services, professionalism, teamwork and superiority in patient care. With this achievement, St. Vincent's Medical Center joins a select group of 395 healthcare organizations out of nearly 6,000 in the country.

The Magnet designation also encompasses St. Vincent's Medical Center's Westport Campus, an inpatient psychiatric hospital providing behavioral health and addiction services to children, adolescents and adults.

"Magnet recognition provides our community with the ultimate benchmark to measure the quality of patient care," says Dale Danowski, MBA, BSN, RN, senior vice president, chief operating officer/chief nursing officer. "Achieving Magnet recognition



ENTHUSIASM FILLED THE AIR when the staff of St. Vincent's Medical Center received the phone call announcing that they had gotten the prestigious Nursing Magnet designation.

reinforces the culture of excellence that is a cornerstone of how we serve our community. It's also the tangible evidence of our nurses' commitment to providing the very best care to our patients, of which we are extremely proud."

To achieve Magnet recognition, St. Vincent's underwent a rigorous multiyear application process that demanded widespread participation from

leadership and staff. The process included thousands of pages of evidence regarding patient care and outcomes and a thorough on-site review.

"The Magnet recognition reflects our dedication to delivering high quality, safe care to our patients and their families in our community and beyond. Our nurses have an incredible sense of pride and their passion is

reflected in our mission to deliver the best care to every patient," says Deborah L. Owens, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Magnet Program director. "We have an amazing nursing staff that has set the bar for excellence high. Patients and

their families can be assured that St. Vincent's nurses are among the best in the United States."

The Magnet Recognition Program advances three goals: promoting quality of care, identifying excellence in the delivery of nursing services to patients, and disseminating nursing care best practices. Magnet recognition has been shown to provide specific benefits to hospitals and their communities, such as improved patient care, safety and satisfaction.

The ANCC Magnet recognition is another demonstration of how St. Vincent's created a culture of high reliability regarding the safety of patients and staff. It recently was named one of only four state hospitals out of 29 to receive an "A" Hospital Safety Score from the Leapfrog Group, and also received John D. Thompson Award from the Connecticut Hospital Association for its safety program. St. Vincent's has also been named one of the top three hospitals in the state for safety by Consumer Reports.



ST. JOSEPH'S MANOR
Rehabilitation & Nursing Center

 **SUNHEALTHCARE**
Caring is the Key in Life

"I have to compliment the staff at St. Joseph's Manor. I entered as a temporary patient and remained for a few weeks to gain weight and strength for an operation, which was a success. My first interactions with staff started out pleasantly with the very first hello and conversation with the phone operator, and closed with a final goodbye of joy. The head nurses at the stations are in full command at all times and the aides cooperate to their full capacity. Since then, I have become a permanent resident and am treated with dignity and respect at all times."

6448 Main Street • Trumbull, CT • 06611

Telephone: 203-268-6204 • www.sunhealthcare.com

Accepting Medicare, Medicaid, Commercial Insurances and Private Pay.

St. V's College
"Smashing" day

BRIDGEPORT—Wielding a hammer, St. Vincent's College President/CEO, Dr. Martha Shouldis welcomed attendees to what she described as a "smashing" day for the college and the community as participants each took a turn at smashing the existing wall to mark the beginning of construction for the campus expansion in the newly acquired building at 2660 Main St., just two blocks from the existing college.

This facility adds new teaching, learning and gathering spaces for the students and faculty. The day was a celebration of yet

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Local News

“Here I Am Lord” composer reflects on music at Mass

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Dan Schutte has composed the soundtrack for generations of churchgoers, but few people at Mass know his name or are aware that they're singing his songs.

Standards such as “Here I Am Lord,” “The Table of Plenty,” and “City of God,” have been sung for decades in Catholic Churches across the country and around the world, making him one of most influential and successful Catholic liturgical composers.

When he joins with two younger Christian songwriters, Steven Angrisano and Curtis Stephan, on February 15 for the “Age to Age” concert at Fairfield University, it will be a great opportunity for a Fairfield County audience to meet the man whose songs they know by heart, while also enjoying the music of three generations of Catholic song writers.

Schutte's songs are among the most requested by pastoral musicians for Catholic liturgy, and Christian recording artists including Amy Grant and John Michael Talbot have covered his work. The 65-year-old composer says that earliest songs came in response to Vatican II's call for updating the liturgy and a return to the vernacular from the Latin Mass. He and other young students in the Jesuit community began writing new songs and playing their music at Mass at St. Louis University.

“When we started writing them, we had no idea they would have any longevity,” said Schutte in a recent phone conversation with *Fairfield County Catholic*.

“It's one of those mysteries of grace. We didn't set out to write music that would change the Church and have an impact on the faith journey of people for so many years. We were just college kids getting together who wrote these little tunes.”

However, visitors soon heard of the new music and started to come to St. Louis to hear the music of the St. Louis Jesuits. “The people who came to Mass took copies of the songs all over



COMPOSER Dan Schutte in concert.

the country,” he recalls. “We even had Maryknoll missionaries who brought them to Zimbabwe. It all became so much bigger than we ever planned. What a wonderful miracle it really was. I believe it was the experience of the Holy Spirit working through ordinary people to do amazing things.”

Perhaps what's remarkable about Schutte work is that, like many secular artists who have written anthems for a generation, he produced songs as a young man that have been sung continually for 40 years.

“You Are Near” was written in 1971 when he was 24 years old. In 1981, he recorded “Here I Am Lord,” “City of God” and “Only This I Want,” three of his most powerful songs. The “St. Louis Jesuit Mass” (1973), co-authored during his collaborative years, was the most used Mass settings during the 70s and 80s.

His 1996 composition of “Mass of God's Promise” revised in 2010, continues to have wide use, and his “Mass of Christ the Savior,” released in 2012 after approval by the U.S. bishops, has quickly become one of the most widely used Mass settings throughout the English speaking world.

Schutte, who has two masters degrees and a slew of honorary doctorates, had little formal musical education, most of which came after he wrote some of his best known and most beautiful songs. While at St. Louis University, he did a year of study

in music theory, harmony and counterpoint, and later he was grateful for the mentorship of Fr. Kevin Waters, S.J., at Seattle University.

As a young man in Wisconsin, he played clarinet and saxophone in his elementary and high school bands, and he was drawn to the emerging folk and rock music. Early influences were Peter, Paul and Mary; Simon and Garfunkel; and Bob Dylan. He also loved Gregorian chant, having learned it in fifth grade as part of class participation in the parish music program.

Schutte welcomes the rediscovery of traditional Church music and feels that contemporary and traditional can sit side by side as part of the rich and complex musical expression of faith around the world.

“The Vatican Council changed everything in its attempt to renew the way we sing and pray at the Lord's Supper. Over the past 40 years, we've moved forward with an expanded vision and many more musical forms. As I travel across the country, I experience great diversity in the music.”

Schutte says that some people prefer to immerse themselves in Gregorian chant and traditional Latin hymns, but many others pray and worship best with contemporary spiritual music. He says music is a bridge between generations of faithful and is particularly important as churches

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Catholic concert set for Quick Center

FAIRFIELD—Fairfield University's Center for Catholic Studies has partnered with St. Anthony of Padua Parish to present three Catholic music icons in a special concert. Three of Catholic music's most celebrated composers and musicians— Steve Angrisano, Curtis Stephan, and Dan Schutte—will perform at Fairfield University's Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola on February 15 at 7:30 pm for a concert event entitled, “Age to Age: Generations of Faith.” The performance will cross generations and display a wide variety of musical styles.

The special concert marks the first time that the Center for Catholic Studies will partner with a parish on an event.

First launched in Dallas, Texas, last year, the “Age to Age” tour has been well received by audiences nationwide. Leaving labels of age and music—contemporary and liturgical—behind, the tour aims to unite Catholics across generations to praise God and express a shared faith. All three guitarists, men of deep faith, share a mutual respect and admiration for their craft.

Dan Schutte is one of today's best known, most prolific and influential composers of Catholic music for the liturgy. Many of his most celebrated pieces, including “Here I Am, Lord,” “City of God” and “Sing a New Song,” come from his years of collaboration with the St. Louis Jesuits.

Steve Angrisano is, undoubtedly, one of the most effective and versatile ministry leaders in the Church today. Those who are young (and young at heart) embrace the passionate message of faith, hope and love woven throughout his music and storytelling. He's known to engage audiences with a unique blend of humor, song, and story.

As the music director for St. Ann's parish in Coppell, Texas, Curtis Stephan maintains a music ministry that can be characterized as one of service. A lifelong musician, he received his bachelor's degree in music and his master's degree in Jazz studies from the University of North Texas. He specializes in both liturgical and youth-oriented events.

(Tickets for the concert are \$10, and can be purchased at the Quick Center for the Arts box office by calling 203.254.4010, or toll-free at 877.ARTS.396 (877.278.7396). For directions to the Fairfield campus, visit www.fairfield.edu.)



ST. VINCENT'S SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES



With a sense of **love, joy, and excitement**, we strive to provide the best possible educational, medical, therapeutic & recreational services to children and adults with complex disabilities and/or medical conditions.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

- Birth-to-3 early intervention
- Private school with individualized therapies for children ages 3-21
- Adult day recreational programs
- Residential group homes for children & adults



95 Merritt Blvd. • Trumbull, CT • 203-375-6400 • www.StVincentSpecialNeeds.org

World and National News

Mourners pay tribute NY Mayor Edward Koch

Thousands lined the streets in Manhattan on February 4, braving bitter winds to honor Edward I. Koch, the three-term Mayor of New York City. Koch, who died at 88 on February 1, was celebrated at his funeral as a transformational figure in the city's history and a quintessential New Yorker.

"He restored the arc of our city's history," Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg eulogized Koch at his funeral. "He reminded us why we loved New York, and he inspired us to fight for it."

Former President Bill Clinton cut short a trip to Japan to return to New York to speak at the



ALWAYS EXUBERANT, Mayor Ed Koch was surprised on his 60th birthday with a party by New York's religious leaders.

funeral. He was joined by former mayors Rudy Giuliani and David Dinkins; New York's two senators, Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. Gillibrand; Governor Andrew Cuomo and former Governor George E. Pataki.

Koch was born in Crotona Park East in the Bronx on December 12, 1924. He was elected as the city's 105th mayor, serving from January 1, 1978, to December 31, 1989.

He is buried at Trinity Church Cemetery in northern Manhattan. He chose his own tombstone, engraved with the words spoken by journalist Daniel Pearl just before he was killed by Islamic extremists in 2002: "My father is

Jewish, my mother is Jewish, I am Jewish."

He also wrote his own epitaph. "He was fiercely proud of his Jewish faith," the inscription reads. "He fiercely defended the City of New York, and he fiercely loved its people. Above all, he loved his country, the United States of America, in whose armed forces he served in World War II."

Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League, knew Koch for over 20 years. "Ed was not only a man of conviction, he was the number-one person in the Jewish community that Catholics could count on to speak out against anti-Catholicism," Donohue recalls. "He hated anti-Catholicism as much as he did anti-Semitism, or any other kind of bigotry. His relationship with the late John Cardinal O'Connor was special, and their mutual affection was palpable.

"Ed Koch will be missed. There was no one like him."

State announces task force on gun violence prevention

HARTFORD—In January, Democratic and Republican legislative leaders joined to announce the creation of a special bipartisan task force on gun violence prevention and children's safety.

The task force, formed in the wake of the Newtown tragedy, will conduct a review of current law and make recommendations on a range of potential legislation to prevent gun violence, enhance school security and ensure the availability of mental health services in Connecticut.

"I have had the privilege of representing Newtown in the state Senate for the past 14 years, and the tragic events that occurred

there on December 14 require a response from our government and our society at large. I am pleased that this task force is set up to work across party lines to make legislative recommendations based on facts and evidence in the areas of mental illness, school safety and gun control," said state Senate Republican Leader John McKinney (R-Fairfield).

"It is our sincere hope that we can come together and reach consensus on legislation that will safeguard our children and society as a whole while at the same time honor our constitutional rights," House Republican Leader Larry Cafero (R-Norwalk) said. "Our response must be reasoned and well-crafted if we are to be successful in our common goals."

"The evil of gun violence has touched too many Connecticut families," said Senate Majority Leader Martin M. Looney (D-New Haven). "It is our goal to work in a bipartisan way and rise above politics to put in place common sense policies to reduce incidents of violence, increase access to mental health services and improve school security."

The task force, which includes Democratic committee chairs and Republican ranking members, will provide recommendations to Senate and House leadership with the goal of producing a bipartisan emergency certified bill in late February.

HHS "Accommodation" offers limited reprieve

WASHINGTON—On February 1, the Obama administration announced the latest modification to its 2012 proposed "accommodation" for religious institutions that object to the federal HHS contraception mandate.

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



Maintaining your independence and helping you enjoy life is our only goal at Carmel Ridge and Teresian Towers. Located on the grounds of St. Joseph's Manor, our unique retirement community provides the support and security you may need to live life to its fullest, including 24-hour medical and security services, nursing staff, shopping transportation, and optional meal plan. Day-to-day living is enhanced by an on-site chapel, library, recreation hall, crafts room, swimming pool, and nearby golfing.

We would like to help you make the next years the finest of your life. To receive more information or to schedule a visit, call 1-800-852-3866 in Connecticut or 203-261-2229 from out of state. Units from \$58,000. Inquire about our Rental Program starting from \$995 per month.

Units from \$58,000. Inquire about our Rental Program starting from \$995 per month.

Teresian Towers/Carmel Ridge Estates

6454 Main Street • Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

A non-denominational facility owned by the Diocese of Bridgeport. Professionally managed by Winn Residential.

COURTNEY HONDA

8 Time Honda Presidents Award Winner



HONDA

Your Hometown Honda Dealership

Where Customer Satisfaction is Priority #1

203-877-2888

• Sales • Service • Parts

Present this ad to Sales Manager for Exclusive Pricing.

767 Bridgeport Avenue • Milford, CT 06460

www.courtneyhonda.com

World and National News

The announcement prompted a flurry of news reports asserting a breakthrough in the yearlong impasse between the administration and religious employers that oppose the mandate on moral grounds. But the latest HHS mandate proposal still excludes Christian-owned businesses, as well as Catholic hospitals and universities. The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which is defending plaintiffs in legal challenges to the HHS mandate, said the modifications would not help most of their clients.

After legal experts reviewed the government's latest proposal, they could identify only a modest improvement: Catholic dioceses will likely be exempted from the mandated contraceptive and abortion coverage. Catholic hospitals, social agencies and universities will not.

"We are extremely disappointed with today's announcement. HHS waited nearly a year and then gave us a proposed rule that still burdens religious liberty," said Kyle Duncan, general counsel for the Becket Fund. She called the proposed rule "a remarkable and surprising omission," given that it was prompted in part by the DC Circuit Court's order in the Wheaton College case. Wheaton is a Christian liberal arts college protesting the mandate on religious grounds

U.S. bishops call for just immigration legislation

WASHINGTON, DC— Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, welcomed principles set forth by a group of eight U.S. Senators as a blueprint for reform of our nation's immigration system. "I welcome the introduction of a bipartisan framework to help guide Congress on immigration reform," Archbishop Gomez said on January 28. "It is an important first step in the process and sets a bipartisan tone."

The framework released by the "Group of Eight" working group would include a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented in the nation. It also would reduce family backlogs in the immigration system, which requires family members to wait years to reunite with their loved ones.

"It is vital that the framework includes a path to citizenship, so that undocumented immigrants can come out of the shadows and into the light and have a chance to become Americans," Archbishop Gomez said. "It gives hope to millions of our fellow human beings."

He pledged the support of the USCCB in pushing sound immigration legislation forward and



working with Congress to create an immigration system which respects basic human rights and dignity while also ensuring the integrity of our borders. "A reformed system can protect human dignity and the homeland at the same time," he concluded.

(More information can be found at www.justiceforimmigrants.org.)

Blessing of horses on St. Anthony's feast day

VATICAN CITY—A special Mass for farmers and their families took place in St. Peter's Basilica on January 17, the feast of St. Anthony (c. 251-356), the patriarch of monks and patron saint of animals. Angelo Cardinal Comastri, the basilica's arch-

priest, celebrated the Mass, which was followed by the blessing of a procession of horses in the Via della Conciliazione.

The Italian Association of Livestock Farmers (AIA) held its traditional exhibition of farm animals, "A Farm under Heaven," in front of St. Peter's Square. The exhibit included cows, goats, sheep and chickens. Just as in past years, pet owners were invited to bring their cats and dogs for a free check-up from veterinarians provided by the association.

The tradition of celebrating St. Anthony Abbot's feast day, deeply rooted in the farming community, is widespread in all of the Italian agricultural communities. In the words of the president of AIA, Nino Andena, "It is a moment of celebration that we want to share with others in order to testify to the active role of farmers and ranchers within society."



- ▶ *Now, because* you and your loved ones make the decisions, not others.
- ▶ *Now, because* you are under normal emotional circumstances.
- ▶ *Now, because* you can purchase memorial property out of current income.
- ▶ *Now, because* cemeteries are not exempt from escalating costs.
- ▶ *Now, because* at a time of need, cemetery property must be paid for in full before it may be used.
- ▶ *Now, because* you will have a full selection to choose from, including community mausoleums, niches and burial plots.
- ▶ *Now, because* purchasing a burial plot in advance offers you the opportunity to pay over one year. We offer two years **interest free**, when you purchase space in our community mausoleum. The above offer is not available for those who purchase at a time of need.
- ▶ *Now, because* the purchase of memorial property is an inevitable task.

You can make the decision now, based on one of the above reasons, or, you can wait until you HAVE to decide. Sometime in the distant future you will be thankful you have taken care of this important matter now. For details call your local cemetery!

Catholic Cemeteries Diocese of Bridgeport
238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606 • (203) 372-4301

CEMETERY OFFICES

BRIDGEPORT-STRATFORD

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

DANBURY

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

DARIEN

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

GREENWICH

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

NEWTOWN

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

NORWALK

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

STAMFORD

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

TRUMBULL

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

WESTPORT

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

- Newspapers
- Publications
- Shoppers
- Catalogs
- Magazines
- Directories
- Coupon Books
- College Course Catalogs
- Business & Financial Periodicals
- Free Standing Inserts
- Advertising Supplements

We are the proud printers of the
Fairfield County Catholic for the past 20 years.



Trumbull
PRINTING



205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull CT 06611
203.261.2548
www.trumbullprinting.com
Call us for a free quote.

Local News

Women's group covers an array of interests

By PAT HENNESSY

"By choosing an organic product, you're voting with your dollar," Patti Popp from Sport Hill Farm, an organic farm in Easton, told the women's group at Christ the King Parish in Trumbull.

Formed slightly over a year ago, the group seeks to present a variety of speakers and activities at their monthly meetings, responding to the range of interests of their members. To open the Year of Faith this past fall they heard from Dr. Joan Kelly, speaking on "The Catholic Laity, Called and Gifted." They've explored the history of Advent and shared their own traditions and memories in "Christmas Around the World," complete with samples of ethnic cooking.

Sometimes the meetings are purely for fun, like the upcoming Valentine's Bingo in February. "Some women's groups are purely social," says Dottie Moyer, who co-chairs the group with Pat Silk. "We're trying to ensure that this has more substance to it. It's educational, socializing and informational."

At their January meeting,

Popp, a member of Notre Dame Parish in Easton, spoke on "The Importance of Seasonal Eating for a Healthier You." She encouraged the women to become more aware of the foods they buy, explained the nature of organic farming and seasonal produce, and discussed genetically modified foods.

Using both organically grown and heirloom squashes, she showed the women how they could modify menus in tune with each growing season. She gave them an easy recipe for squash soup and a quick way to prepare kale—one that even kids would like.

In addition to the monthly meetings, women at Christ the King have the opportunity to join smaller groups focused on a specific activity. "They're on their own; they choose how often and when they want to meet," Silk explains.

A knitting group joined with women from Stern Village community for the elderly to make hats and shawls for the children at St. George Parish in Bridgeport. They were presented on the Feast of the Epiphany, a major feast among Hispanic

Catholics. They also knit prayer shawls for families who have suffered a bereavement and lap robes for the sick or elderly.

A walking club hasn't taken off yet, but a lively book club chooses fiction and non-fiction



ORGANIC FARMER Patti Popp, shown above with a young camper during Summer Farm Camp at Sport Hill Farm, spoke to women at Christ the King parish about the importance of healthy eating. The women's group brings in a variety of speakers in response to members' interests.

to share and discuss. The newly-formed Mahjong group has drawn a lot of fans. "They are happy campers; they love it," Silk says of the fast growing group.

On the more serious side, women interested in community service have begun visits to the sick and shut-ins, a ministry that has been expanding.

Upcoming meetings will include an informational session with the Trumbull EMS and possibly a demonstration from Cyrus, a German Shepherd with the Trumbull Police K-9 Unit. They would love to hear from teens who went on a recent mission trip to Haiti, and learn of conditions in that struggling

country. A day retreat is also on the group's wish list.

"Women are interested, they like to learn, they want to know more about their faith—and sometimes they just like to have fun together," Silk concludes.

(Anyone interested in joining the women's group at Christ the King can call the parish: 203. 268.8695.) ■

Benefit Planning Services, LLC



Insurance Made Simple...

...For you, your family, your business

2 Great Insurance Brokers in 1 convenient location

James P. Murphy & Associates



Auto & Home, Business, Contractors
Professional Liability Insurance

3 Belden Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06852
(203) 840-8877 or 800-378-7526

Civil Rights pioneer speaks

FAIRFIELD—Fairfield University's annual commemoration of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., held the last week in January, featured a series of campus-wide events designed to invigorate and inspire. The 2013 MLK, Jr. Convocation, the culmination of the celebration, featured Diane Nash, a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement.

The theme for the 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. observance, "The time Is Always Right To Do What Is Right," is based on a quote by Dr. King.

Nash's involvement in the nonviolent movement began in 1959, while she was a student at Fisk University. In 1960, she became the chair of the student sit-in movement in Nashville, TN, the first southern city to desegregate its lunch counters, as well as one of the founding students of the Student Non-violent Coordinating

Committee. In 1961, she coordinated the Freedom Ride from Birmingham, Alabama, to Jackson, Mississippi, a story that was documented in the recent PBS American Experience film "Freedom Riders." Her many arrests for her civil rights activities culminated in being imprisoned for 30 days in 1961, while she was pregnant with her first child.

Undeterred, she went on to join a national committee, to which she was appointed by President John F. Kennedy, that promoted passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. She later became active in the peace movement that worked to end the Vietnam War and became an instructor in the philosophy and strategy of non-violence as developed by Mohandas Gandhi.



DIANE NASH

This year's Martin Luther King Jr. Vision Awards, given to individuals who exemplify the virtues of Dr. King, were presented to Sharon Pedrosa '13; Wylie Blake, campus minister for service; and David Brown, a faculty member in Applied Ethics.

The Memorial March, held January 29, started at the Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola. In the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, the Memorial March guided participants around campus to various physical locations where acts of hatred and/or demonstrations for justice have taken place throughout Fairfield's history from the 1960s to present day. ■

February 2013

Protecting Life

Emerging clarity on life issues

By DEACON PAUL KURMAY

There are some important issues in life which take a long time to be resolved—or even discussed, for that matter. Look what it took for our state and nation to take a long, hard look at gun control legislation. Only the massacre of twenty innocent six year olds, any one of whom could have been our own child or grandchild. But at least that debate is happening, regardless of how it may all turn out. The same can be said of the national deficit “debate,” which, of course, has yet to begin.

There is another issue, though, which also begs for discussion and serious debate. It is abortion. There is probably not a single word in the American vocabulary which is more divisive or which causes more derision than abortion. To a certain extent, that is understandable. The subject represents the clash of two gigantic and fundamental human forces, both rooted deeply in America’s political, social and constitutional psyche: the right to life and the right to control one’s own body.

As a married man with two grown daughters (both of whom are mothers), I think I can appreciate the sanctity of a woman’s control over her own body, including her reproductive rights. I can well appreciate any woman being resentful of what has certainly been a patriarchal society’s telling her what she can and cannot do in that regard. As a man I am quick to admit that I cannot possibly understand completely what a woman experiences in pregnancy, nor the fears and joys sometimes associated with it.

And so, as both a father and an ordained deacon of the Roman Catholic Church, the only posture which I can possibly assume in approaching this subject is one of humility and deference, because my personal experiences alone are grossly inadequate in resolving this life and death issue.

There needs to be a national debate about when human life begins, about when a group of male and female cells actually become a human person, deserving of constitutional, legal and moral protection. It is too facile for each side to declare that the



answer is obvious—human life begins either at birth or at conception—and then proceed to label those who disagree with them as morons, thereby ending all meaningful discussion.

The Founding Fathers were very clear about the importance of human life when they declared that each of us was endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, including the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. There you have it. The right to life was considered not a human invention but a divine gift. It was not created by society but was given to society to be respected and nourished. It was considered inalienable, not subject to tampering by any human body, not by the Congress, the Supreme Court or the president of the United States.

The idea of aborting a human fetus was so repugnant to the mind set of our Founding Fathers (and Mothers) that it needed no explicit rationalization or articulation. It was already embedded in the Judeo-Christian principles which were the life-blood of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and Bill of Rights. It is unthinkable that these unique political documents could ever have been advanced in the absence of that Judeo-Christian heritage.

I will leave it to Jewish and non-Jewish scholars to address the beginning of human life within the framework of Jewish Scripture, and will limit my comments to a few basic references to Christian Scripture. The defining Scriptural reference is taken from John’s Gospel, in which he boldly proclaims that in Jesus Christ, the “Word became flesh

and dwelt among us.” There is virtually no Christian Biblical scholar of note who would dare argue that the Word became flesh only when Jesus was born of Mary. On the contrary, Luke’s Gospel makes it as clear as can be that the moment that Mary gave her consent to Gabriel’s invitation to become the mother of the Savior that God became man in Mary’s womb. It is the six month old baby in Elizabeth’s womb, John the Baptist, who “leaps for joy” when Mary visits Elizabeth, and it is Elizabeth who asks Mary why she, the mother of “my Lord,” should come to her, even though “her Lord” was only a few days old in Mary’s womb.

It is inconceivable that any serious Christian believer would argue that the Son of God only took on a human nature at the moment of his birth. And so, one must ask where did that notion that human life begins at birth come from? Most American courts, reflecting the societal values of the day, simply assumed that life began at the moment of birth but never really tested that assumption scientifically or morally; that is, until various state leg-



islatures began to enact criminal laws which found that the murder of a pregnant woman constituted two deaths, not just one. Those laws, to the best of my knowledge, have never been held unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, but stand in stark contrast to the Court’s reasoning in *Roe v. Wade*, decided 40 years ago.

When President Obama was asked a few years ago when human life began, he said that such a determination was beyond his pay scale. I was deeply disappointed by that evasion. It is not worthy of his intellectual acumen. And it is not a question for only biblical scholars to decide. It is a question that every one of us has to decide at some point in our lives. But to assume that life begins at birth is a horrible intellectual and theological cop-out, with virtually no historic basis.

It is amazing that our society has created a “right” before it has answered that foundational question deliberately. The *Roe* majority quite explicitly chose not to decide it and left the matter to Congress, which has continued to side-step the issue to this day.

How could the Supreme Court and we as a society simply assume that life begins at birth, in the face of overwhelming evidence, both scientific and theological, to the contrary—and then proceed to snuff out the lives of millions of unborn persons without a second thought?

More and more premature babies are successfully coming into the world at birth weights considered science fiction 40 years ago. The scientific trend towards earlier and earlier viability is a wake up call that the

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 18





Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY



S · H · A · R · E

SHARE (Sacred Heart Adult Religious Education) for the Diocese of Bridgeport is a four-year certificate program created through a partnership between Sacred Heart University and the Diocese of Bridgeport. This theology program for adults will help Catholics understand their faith and empower them to put it into action. SHARE has a no-test format. Students can take one or more classes, or complete the entire four-year certificate program from SHU and the Diocese.

Spring 2013

SHARE

for the

Diocese of Bridgeport

courses

Prayer and Evangelization: (from the Greek word “euangelion” meaning “good news”). Evangelists are very ordinary people! All Christians are called to witness to the “Good News” of Jesus Christ. Baptized Christians realize that via Baptism and Confirmation they have been assigned to the apostolate (spreading the “Good News”) by the Lord Himself! This course will focus on the contemplative (prayer) and active (mission) dimensions of the spirit of Evangelization. As Saint Francis of Assisi said in the 13th century “preach the Gospel with your whole heart, your whole soul and with your whole strength, if necessary use

words!” Use this course as a Lenten spiritual opportunity.

- 4-week course: Tuesday, March 5, 12, 19, 26 (inclement weather makeup date: April 9)
- Time: 7pm to 9pm
- Location: Sacred Heart University, 12 Omega Drive, Stamford
- Instructor: Dr. Joan Kelly
- Cost: \$140

Christian Anthropology: The Search for Communion with God: This course will examine the study of humanity from a Christian-Biblical perspective. Christian Anthropology deals with who we are and how we relate to God. It also helps us to understand ourselves from God’s perspective. When we delve into this subject, we get a clearer understanding of our fallen nature,

and this leads to a sense of wonder at the love of Jesus Christ who saw our helpless state and went to the cross to redeem us. When we accept that sacrifice, we are transformed by God who creates in us a new person. It is this new person who can relate to God, as His adored children.

- 4-week course: Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24 (inclement weather makeup date: May 1)
- Time: 7pm to 9pm
- Location: Sacred Heart University, 12 Omega Drive, Stamford
- Instructor: Dr. Lois Gandt
- Cost: \$140

To register: www.sacredheart.edu/share.
For more information, contact Gina Donnarummo, Director of Adult Formation: 203.416.1446 / SHARE@diobpt.org.

Visit us on the web for more information

www.sacredheart.edu/share



EDITORIAL

Do it

For the past month, students at Notre Dame High School have been practicing a total of 26 Acts of Kindness. Although this particular set is in response to the tragedy in Newtown, some of the teens intend to continue the observance during Lent. "Maybe my act of kindness can overcome some evil in the world," one teen said.

It's something to think about. When we give up some good thing we like during Lent, we hope our small sacrifice will help us grow closer to the Lord. That gesture does, indeed, help our hearts grow in love and faith and we become better, stronger Catholics through the sacrifice. The teens are suggesting something different, though. Maybe, through a smile or an act of kindness, we can replace evil with love. Not a "random" act of kindness; something with a personal sacrifice attached. A phone call to a less-than-favorite relative. A smile and a wave to a surly neighbor who will never smile back. A cute "thinking of you" card to a friend we haven't thought of in years. Kindness, released into the world. And along with it, a sacrificial helping of what the Church calls "dying to self," because you can't expect that any of these people are going to respond back with kindness to you. No reciprocity; no quid pro quo.

So just do it: this Lent, cast your kindness upon the world. Maybe, in some way we can never see, our sacrificial kindness will overcome evil. And maybe we will never, ever, have to see the evil we have vanquished.

Appeal Launch

Catholics throughout the diocese will notice a change in the 2013 Bishop's Annual Appeal. You will be receiving fewer solicitations as part of the effort to save on mailing and printing costs. The success of this approach depends on donors giving early.

Diocesan Administrator Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle has reminded us that the absence of a bishop is no reason at all to hold back; the work of the diocese goes on every day through so many programs and ministries. The best way to prepare for a new bishop is to keep the good work going: in our schools, charities, parishes and other settings.

From the tragedy in Newtown to the day-to-day needs in our diocese, we have seen the importance of readiness and the tremendous healing that Church can bring in times of crisis. Please give generously.

Forgiveness

In parishes throughout the diocese, we regularly offer up our prayer intentions for those who are imprisoned. For most of us, those intentions may seem far off, but this month they hit home in a very painful way.

News of the arrest of Msgr. Kevin Wallin, former pastor of St. Augustine Cathedral Parish, on drug charges was shocking and left many people, including those who knew him best, dismayed. How could it have happened?

Surely, this is not the man we knew—the gifted and energetic priest, who joyfully and ably led two parishes and assisted the diocese on many important projects. And yet in some way we must accept that he is the same man now facing very serious charges and allegations.

Coming to terms with the darkness in others and in ourselves may be the most difficult thing we do as people and as Christians, but the example of the cross leads us to this place of contradictions. None of us is as good as we would like to be and we all fall short of the call to personal holiness.

When a priest falls, it wounds the entire Church. Yet in our Church we have so much to celebrate, including the witness of our priests and religious. As a family of faith, we are sorry for those who have been hurt by Msgr. Wallin's actions, but we also remember that he did much good work in his ministry. We ask for prayers that Msgr. Wallin reconciles his life and finds God's mercy in his ordeal. ■

EDITOR'S CHOICE

I was moved to write

Please let me express to how very touching the article about Newtown/Sandy Hook was in the *Fairfield County Catholic*. This sad story from the beginning has been so hard to watch and listen to and read about, yet I couldn't not watch or listen or read all of the articles. This one in the *FFC* was written beautifully, and the letter from the mother, Catherine Hubbard, was as well.

I usually read the *FFC* from cover to cover each time it reaches my door. This one moved me to write. Msgr. Weiss is a very special man. And I believe he is one of the only people who could have handled this tragedy with grace and poise. God bless all of Newtown/Sandy Hook, all clergy serving the people, the families and friends. The victims already have God's blessings.

One more thing. I especially love to read the stories from the young man from New Canaan (Matt Hennessey) who writes the articles about his family.

Pat Fischer
Easton



MEMORIAL WREATH—Parishioners of St. Maurice Parish in Stamford fashioned this memorial wreath to celebrate the life of James Mittioli and the other children killed in the Sandy Hook shootings. His grandparents are members at St. Maurice and were very touched by the wreath, which features the pictures of all the children. "Our prayers will continue for the victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School," said Richard E. Gabriele, who is a St. Maurice parishioner. The wreath was on display in Stamford Government Center is available to parishes that might wish to display it as a memorial.

Jenny Hubbard's
Open Letter an
inspiration to us all

Jenny Hubbard must be an incredible person. In the midst of her unimaginable suffering, she has shared with us all the powerful gift of her faith and love. Her beautiful, grace-filled words are an inspiration and a challenge for us all to choose God and to choose love. Her prayer for a return to faith in the world is my prayer and the prayer of many in this Year of Faith. I have posted a link to her letter on my Facebook page and I hope other readers will do the same or more to spread her message of faith, hope and love. The Hubbards, the other 25 families of the Newtown Angels, Saint Rose of Lima parish, Sandy Hook school, and all of Newtown have been and will continue to be in our constant thoughts and prayers.

Joe Tristine
Monroe

Reporting the Good

After the Newtown tragedy, I was going to write to the media to express sincerest gratitude to Msgr. Bob Weiss, Father Ignacio Ortigas and Father Luke Suarez, who were ministering to the families and to the residents 24/7, as well as the dozens of other Catholic priests who were there, not only assisting them, but there as a shoulder for their own brother priests, helping them

carry the cross as they prepared for funeral after funeral of those little angels.

Where was the story on all of these priests? I know most people will say this is their job. And, yes, it is. I know these priests would not want any spotlight on them because this was not about them but about these lost little souls and their families and that community.

However, if you are going to

bash my church when someone falls, and you seem to take glory in that, can you at least be "fair and balanced"?

I suggest you go to Newtown and see how they are moving forward. Interview those wonderful priests. You can call Msgr. Weiss "Msgr. Mend"—I already have your headline.

Clarissa Cincotta
Trumbull

FAIRFIELD COUNTY
CATHOLICOffice of
Communications
Diocese of Bridgeport

238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892
telephone | 203.416.1461
fax | 203.374.2044
email | fcc@diobpt.org

web | www.bridgeportdiocese.com
www.facebook.com/FairfieldCountyCatholics
www.twitter.com/@DOBEvents
@DOBYouth

USPS no.: 12-117. Periodical
postage paid at Bridgeport, CT 06601,
and additional mailing offices.

Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, JCD
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

Brian A. Wallace
Graphic Designer bwallace@diobpt.org

Jill Monroe
Office Manager/Admin jmonroe@diobpt.org

Sonia Burns
Spanish Editor* soniarnburns@yahoo.com

Madeline Ghilardi
Copy Editor*
*Consultants

Circulation

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

To add or change an address, call 203.416.1461, or email: fcc@diobpt.org

Annual Subscription Price

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

Postmaster

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

© Copyright 2013, Diocese of Bridgeport

Editorial



America's Strongest Opponent of Slavery

A WOMAN'S VIEW

BY ANTOINETTE BOSCO

Antoinette Bosco is a member of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield.

I believe that one of the best movies to come out towards the end of the year was *Lincoln*. It was nominated for seven Golden Globe Awards and twelve Academy Awards, but I say this is because, finally, some honest attention was given to one of the most remarkable men in our history, Thaddeus Stevens.

In the film, Thaddeus Stevens was played by Tommy Lee Jones. He was the man Lincoln called on to help him pass the 13th amendment, which put an end to

slavery in the United States.

I was first "introduced" to Thaddeus Stevens, America's strongest advocate of freedom for slaves, by Sr. Theophane, my high school history teacher, back in the early 1940s. She was way ahead of her time because she cared back then for equality for all and tried to pass this belief on to her students. I don't know how generally successful she was, but I thank God for all I learned from her—especially about our great statesman, Thaddeus Stevens. I think of

him every year come August 11. He died that day in 1868.

A few years ago I had the good fortune of discovering a new book, *Impeached—The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy*, by David Stewart (Simon & Schuster, 2009). The author presented a detailed, amazing account of the 1868 battle between Congress and the murdered President Abraham Lincoln's successor, southerner Andrew Johnson, seen by many at that time as racist and incompetent.

As the author tells us, "The fiery but mortally ill Congressman Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania led the impeachment drive, abetted behind the scenes by the military hero and President-in-Waiting General Ulysses Grant."

Reading this book, I was appalled to learn how President Johnson, a Southerner, seemed to have had one real goal in

mind, arguing for, in the author's words, "immediate withdrawal of Federal troops and the return of complete power to the Southern states." He attacked Negro Suffrage as forcing Southerners to "degrade themselves by subjection to the Negro race." The American republic, he declared, was "the glory of white men."

Along with this growing furor, the KuKluxKlan was growing at astonishing rates across the South, whipping black people in the night and burning homes and courthouses.

Thaddeus Stevens could take no more. Early in his career as a young lawyer, he became known for his vigorous opposition to slavery. It was understandable that he was appalled by Johnson's squandering of Lincoln's "political legacy of equality and fairness" when he "helped force the freed slaves into a brutal form of agricultural peonage across the South." Stevens, now old and

ill, led the impeachment move against Johnson, and even though he failed, and now was a dying man, he presented new articles of impeachment, which were ignored by the House. The author informs us, "The final count was 35 guilty, 19 not guilty. Andrew Johnson had been acquitted by a single vote, that of Edmund Ross."

As this great statesman lay dying, there was to be one last great moment in his life, as reported by author Stuart:

"On his final evening, he was attended by an aide, a nephew, his sister Loretta, and his long-time housekeeper Lydia Smith. Two black clergymen prayed with him and left. Late that night, two Sisters of Charity from a nearby Catholic hospital visited. With the consent of Stevens' nephew, they baptized the dying man. In Steven's final moments, his nephew held his hand while Mrs. Smith knelt at the foot of his bed.

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



He weaves a tangled web

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

We tell our kids that it's not okay to lie. Broadly, this is true. But every adult understands that sometimes we have to bend a little so as not to break.

Clara wanted to know, "What does 'a little white lie' mean?"

"You know how mommy asks daddy if her outfit matches, and daddy says it looks fine?" I say, trailing off as I realize this might not be the most prudent example I could come up with to explain the concept of a white lie. I hem and haw for a few minutes before giving up and changing the subject.

I should have maybe tried a little harder to give eight-year-old Clara a satisfactory answer. A few nights later, God decided to

teach me a little lesson.

"Dad! Come quick! There's a spider!"

The call came shortly after bed time. Witnesses on the scene provided a description: eight legs and a spinneret—last seen entering the dark space between the wall and the dresser.

Stand back, kids. Daddy's on the job.

He was small. It wasn't going to be an easy job. The smaller they are the harder it is to deal with them definitively. It's counterintuitive, I know, but big spiders make a crunch; it'sy bitsy spiders, not so much.

The spiders come inside when the air turns chill. Dealing with them—and the hysteria they provoke—is my responsibility.

I don't mind being the go-to guy. I like it. When everyone runs away, I run in. As the Bloodhound Gang used to say, whenever there's trouble, I'm there on the double.

Problem is, I'm not as quick as I used to be. These spiders are getting nimbler every year.

The gap between wall and dresser was narrow. I'd only have one shot. Although I doubted I'd be able to squish him in one take, for the sake of the kids, I didn't let on. I made my move. I missed. The spider skittered away into the darkness.

"Did you get him Daddy?"

Deep breath. Grumble. "No, um, I think he fell down back there."

"Can you see him? Where is he? Will he come back? Oh, Daddy, please get him."

"I think he probably crawled through a crack in the wall and went back outside."

Silence. They don't buy it. Another deep breath. Better think of something quick, Mr. Bloodhound Gang.

"Yeah, I bet he was so scared to see my big hand swiping at him that he ran off. He learned his lesson all right. He knows

what's waiting for him if he comes back here. You won't see him again. I promise."

So lame. Why didn't I just say that I'd gotten him? The place is probably crawling with spiders that we can't see. What difference does one more make?

They climbed back into their beds but I knew they wouldn't sleep. Their eyes were trained on that space between the wall and the dresser. I slipped out the door and started down the stairs. All was quiet, for about four minutes.

"Dad! He's back! I can see him. He's on the ceiling." Sigh. My head slumps to my chest. Why can't it ever be easy?

Then I remember: I'm the go-to guy.

I vow that no matter what happens, this time I will tell the children that I killed the spider. I do not relish the prospect of telling this little white lie, but my evening, and the peace of mind of all in this house, depends upon it. I enter the room, mount a wobbly stool, and with one confident motion stab at the ceiling with my tissue.

What happens next is not clear. In fact, I'm pretty sure the spider has fallen into the open collar of

my shirt. No matter, I came here to do one thing and one thing only—to convince the children that the spider is dead and that they can sleep in peace. I dismount the stool with a flourish.

"Did you get him this time?"

"Yup. Got him this time." I brandish the crumpled tissue, being sure to keep my hand moving. "See? Absolutely got him for sure." I think I feel a strand of spider silk settling across my face. I casually wave it away.

"So everybody get nice and tucked in because there are no spiders in this room anymore. Nope. I got that one right here in my hand and he's not going to bother anyone in this room tonight. So sleep tight everyone. See you in the morning!"

So, there's your little white lie. A textbook example. It doesn't exactly feel good to tell it, but the greater good is served.

Life is complicated. That's what I'll tell Clara when she gets a little older. You should always tell the truth. But God gives mommies and daddies the job of figuring out how to put a little peace and quiet into the world. Sometimes that takes a little white lie. ■

Lent

CONVIVIO invites teens to examine friendships

By PAT HENNESSY

"The youth have questions, but they also have answers. Convivio gives them the opportunity to talk about the things they see in society and share how they deal with that," says Sr. Monica Zuñiga, coordinator of the High School Apostles, a diocesan youth leadership group.

Convivio, an annual worldwide high school congress led by youth for youth, will be held in this diocese March 8-10 at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. In 2010, the Diocese of Bridgeport hosted the first Convivio Congress held in the United States.

"At that time, I wasn't very involved in my faith," recalls Megan Glynn. Over her years at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull, Glynn, then a senior, had experienced a growth in interest in the Catholic faith and volunteered as a peer leader at the first Convivio.

"I saw these kids coming in, these hundreds of kids, and my whole experience of faith changed," she recalls. "I saw a hunger for God. I never saw anything like that before. I was helping them grow in faith and I was growing myself at the same time."

Convivio started in 1977 with a group of young people who were united by a desire to change the world. They gathered together in a Faith Congress, and the idea caught fire. The current format, a weekend Congress, is designed for young people to get to know others in Christ through discussions, talks, games and skits. Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation give teens the tools to grow stron-



ger in their faith.

Megan, now a junior at the University of Connecticut (UCONN), will be a group leader again this year. "Before Convivio, the group leaders take part in formation to grow in our own understanding of the theme, and a training session for this specific Congress so that we know what's happening during the weekend step by step."

Convivio's theme this year is "I Have Called You Friends." Word of the Convivio experience has spread, and this year's Youth Congress will be larger than ever. In addition to nearby groups, delegations will come from as far away as Texas and Colorado.

"Surface friendships fall apart so frequently in high school," says Megan, reflecting on the theme. "There's always some drama—friends talking about friends. That's something I've experienced. It's not real friendship."

Social media like Facebook and Twitter, she observes, are simply neutral devices. They can

deepen friendship, or contribute to a shallow illusion in place of the real thing. "It depends on how you use it. I have a friend who's going to college in Boston and friends going to school in other states. Facebook helps us keep in contact. But we try to see each other during school breaks. If all you're doing is posting on Facebook and Twitter, you're not really connecting to people."

Because Megan and Convivio's other peer leaders are the same age as the groups they head, they share the same culture.

She knows, more deeply than an adult can, the impact of social media. "If it's important to have a lot of friends on Facebook, if I want everyone to see how many friends I have—then maybe my friendships aren't real. Looking at that can hit kids kind of hard."

Training before the Congress gives group leaders a chance to explore their own reactions to the theme and look at them through the eyes of faith. "We have to present kids with solutions—how do I change my life to apply what I've learned? We ask them to

look at Jesus, to see him as the model of a true friend. How can I deepen my friendship with God? How can I use that to learn to be a friend myself?"

Post-Convivio activities can help teens continue on that path of exploration, both growing in faith and learning to put their faith into action. "When you're telling people about your faith, you're growing in faith at the same time," says Megan. "You're deepening your friendship with God."

Leading Convivio groups has made her feel comfortable about living her faith, even in an environment where religious faith is rarely expressed. "Even if only a hundred people show up for Mass, on a campus of over 16,000, I know that everyone out there has a hunger for God—even if they're hiding it. I've seen that for myself at every Convivio."

(CONVIVIO High School Congress will be held the weekend of March 8-10 at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield. Cost: \$50, includes dinner Friday and Saturday, and lunch Saturday and Sunday. For more information, contact Sr. Florencia: youthministry@diobpt.org or 203.416.1449, or visit www.convivio.org/connecticut.)

Look beyond appearances

BRIDGEPORT—Snow and freezing rain did not stop 50 DREs, catechists, RCIA coordinators, team members, and youth ministers from gathering on January 16 for the most recent Catechetical Leaders of the Diocese of Bridgeport (CLDB) gathering at the Catholic Center. The theme of the gathering, "Faith Invites Us to Look Beyond Appearances to See the Real Presence," was presented by Fr. Peter Lynch, parochial vicar at St. Catherine of Siena, Trumbull.

Fr. Lynch's presentation was based on Scripture, detailing the presence of the Eucharistic sacrifice beginning with Cain and Abel and going through the Bible to Pentecost. At the end of his presentation, he talked to the religious educators about two Eucharistic

miracles: Lanciano, in Italy, and Santarem, in Portugal.

He explained to the gathering that Catholics celebrate the Eucharist, the Lord's Day, on

participate in the Resurrection anew. The moment of the Last Supper and Calvary still is with us every time we celebrate Mass.



THE EUCHARIST SPANS HEAVEN AND EARTH in this painting in the Vatican by Italian Renaissance artist Raphael.

Sunday because it is the new day of creation. Because in the Eucharist we have a living sacrifice, through the Mass we can

"It's about laying ourselves on the altar, pouring our concerns into that cup, uniting ourselves truly and spiritually," Fr. Lynch explained. He went on to say, "In order for us to be saved, God needed to become human and fully divine. He was conceived in his mother's womb, took on flesh, so we could accept him. We are incorporated into

Christ...we are accepted into him. Acceptance on our part is necessary for us to be who we are meant to be in Christ." ■

PROTECT her FUTURE
SECURE your INCOME

Do both with a
CHARITABLE
GIFT ANNUITY
from CRS.

CONTACT CRS TODAY:

🌐 crs.org/annuities
☎ 1-888-277-7575, ext. 7324
✉ plannedgiving@crs.org

CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

The official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States.

Lent

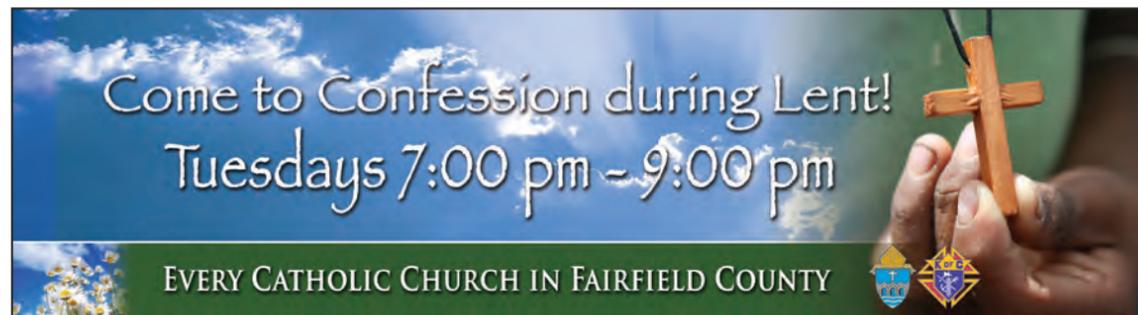
Bishops encourage Confession

WASHINGTON—The U.S. bishops have released a statement encouraging Catholics to make going to Confession a significant part of their spiritual lives and to use this Lent as an opportunity to do so. “God’s

“Pope Benedict XVI and Timothy Cardinal Dolan have both stressed the importance of Confession in strengthening our witness during the Year of Faith,” said Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, WI, chair of the

has produced resources that will help engage Catholics and welcome them in their journey back to the sacrament.”

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 13 this year. Easter



Gift of Forgiveness: The Pastoral Exhortation on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation” was approved by the full body of bishops during their annual Fall General Assembly in Baltimore this past November.

Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). “The bishops have made this document available for easy distribution at the parish level this Lent, and the USCCB

Sunday is March 30.

(The full text of the statement and the links to resources for individuals and diocesan and parish staff on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation are available online at: www.usccb.org/confession.)

ST. V'S COLLEGE FROM PAGE 6

another chapter in the history of St. Vincent's College.

Among those present was State Senator Andres Ayala. “This is a great opportunity not only for St. Vincent's but the Bridgeport community. The expansion of St. Vincent's College will bring an additional 200 to 400 students over the next few years. This is exciting, as we know that 48% of the current students are from Bridgeport. I am happy to have played a part of this expansion project which will bring more jobs to the local area.”



Others in attendance included Tom McCarthy, president of the Bridgeport City Council representing Mayor Bill Finch; Stuart Marcus, MD, FACS, president of St. Vincent's Medical Center; Virginia Fortin, benefactor; Marianne Laska, college board chair; the board of trustees and members of the St. Vincent's community.

“As a nurse, I am thankful for the education I received from St. Vincent's and the opportunities I had to serve patients as a staff nurse at the Medical Center and am grateful for the opportunities this expansion will provide to students in the future,” said Laska.

The 2660 Main Street campus is scheduled to open for the fall semester.

Preparing Leaders in the Vision of Jesuit Education

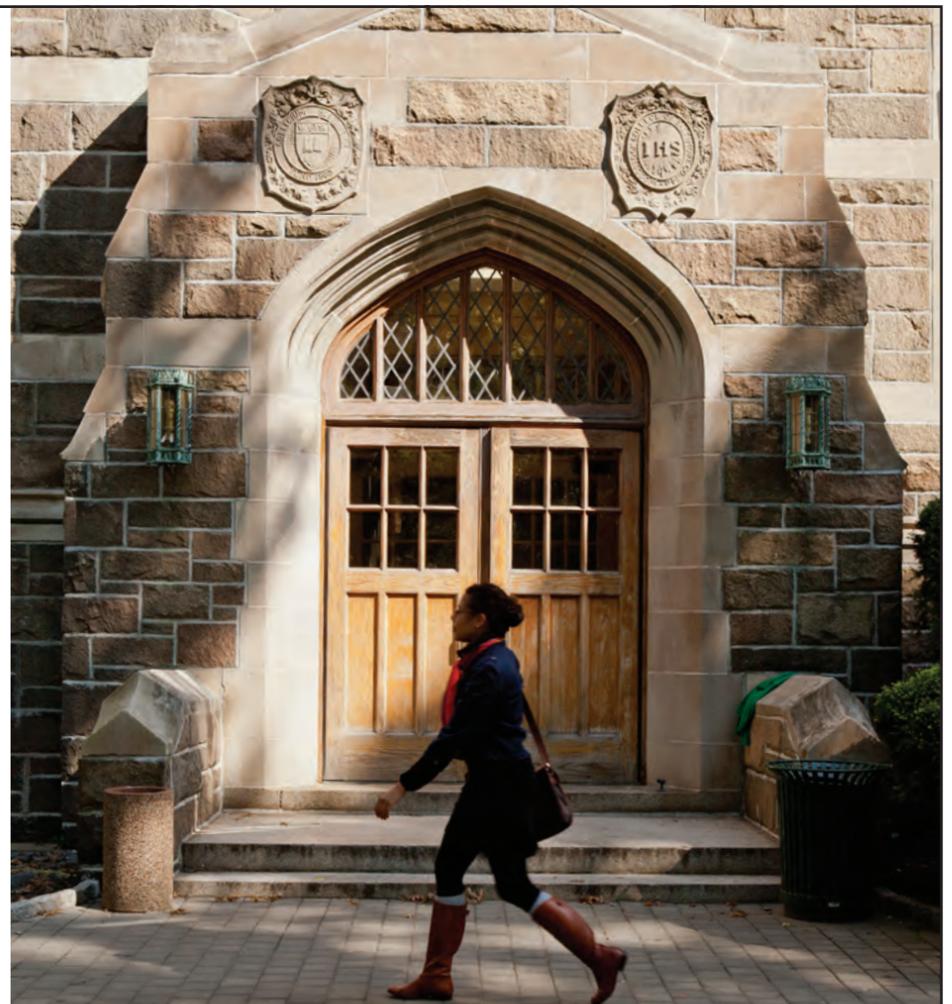
Fordham's Doctor of Ministry program combines theory and pastoral practice to prepare students for a variety of career paths, with concentrations in:

- Pastoral Ministry
- Latino Studies
- Spiritual Direction

We also offer the following master's and doctoral programs:

- M.A. in Religious Education:
Concentrations: Adult and Family, Peace and Justice, Youth Ministry, Latino Studies, Spirituality and Spiritual Direction
- M.A. in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Care:
With licensure eligibility for mental health counseling
- M.A. in Pastoral Care
- Ph.D. in Religious Education

www.fordham.edu/gre | 718-817-4800



FORDHAM
THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Graduate School of Religion
and Religious Education

Lent

Sr. Florencia Silva
makes final vows

TRUMBULL—Her face aglow with joy, Sr. Florencia Silva made her final profession of vows as a member of the Marian Community of Reconciliation in Lima, Peru, on November 21. The director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Bridgeport had followed the call to join the community, popularly called the “fraternas,” in 2003.

“It was not what I had planned and definitely not what I wanted to do with my life—and not what my family had thought of either,” she told a gathering of friends at a celebration held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull, in December after her return. “I had everything I wanted and did exactly what I wanted.”

But the Lord won her over

with his love and led her to a surprising path. Since she joined the fraternas, the young woman from Peru has spent seven of the past nine years in this diocese, where she was one of the original founders of the community in Connecticut.

She spent the first six years as part of the campus ministry team at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull. “I remember telling my first classes over and over again that I knew I was a pretty terrible teacher but I also knew that the Lord wanted me there and therefore that I was the right person for them, exactly who they needed to grow closer to God, and that they were exactly who I needed to grow in my own holiness,” she told the gathering at St. Catherine’s.



SURROUNDED BY HER SISTERS (Fraternas) in the Marian Community of Reconciliation, Sr. Florencia Silva, center, was honored at a celebration held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull. The director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Sr. Florencia made her final profession of vows in Lima, Peru, in November. (l-r) Sisters Julie Rodgers, Daniela Neuenschwander, Florencia Silva, Gabriella Davila and Monica Zuniga. (PHOTO BY MOLLY GLYNN)

The past couple of years as director of youth ministry has brought its own share of blessings, she says. “I have been blessed to work at the Office for Pastoral Services with a group of people who genuinely and sincerely seek to respond with generosity to what the Lord asks of them every day. To work with a team like that is a rare privilege for which I am most

thankful.”

All those years ago, Sr. Florencia was so absolutely certain of her vocation that she would have happily made a perpetual profession the first day she joined the community. “I am thankful that I had to wait, because now I can say ‘yes’ to God for all the days of my life with a much better understanding of what this means. Making my

perpetual promise has been a very strong experience of seeing how God fulfills his promises and how he really gives us a hundredfold here on earth and life everlasting, always exceeding all of my expectations.

“I can thank the Lord in no other way but with the total gift of myself: my time, my love, my talents and gifts: all that I am and that I have.”



Holy Family’s Youth Ministry serves thousands of kids every year.

Restore the Passion



Restore the Passion is a \$3.5 million capital campaign of Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center which will provide a foundation for the next 60 years of ministry:

1. Repair & renovate the dining room
2. Upgrade the physical plant and energy systems
3. Grow the endowment to fund scholarships for all who cannot afford retreats

Please help us preserve and strengthen this spiritual resource:

www.HolyFamilyRetreat.org/RTP



HOLY FAMILY
PASSIONIST
RETREAT CENTER

PASTOR & PARISH SUPPORT FROM HOLY FAMILY

- Confirmation preparation
- Retreats for music ministers
- Retreats for deacons
- Retreats for parish councils, parish staff & ministry teams
- Retreats for parish school students and teachers
- Retreats for men, women & college students
- Retreats for those in recovery
- Retreat scholarships

“Holy Family retreats strengthen the faith community in our parishes. And when people are facing difficult times, it is good to know that Holy Family is there to help, regardless of a parishioner’s financial circumstance.”



Fr. Stephen Sledesky, Pastor, St. Bridget Church & St. Bartholomew Church, Manchester, CT

Serving the People & Parishes of the Archdiocese of Bridgeport

Retreats • Youth Ministry • Parish & Pastor Support • Mass Cards • Bookstore • Facility Rental

Lent

“Show love and kindness to the world”

By PAT HENNESSY

Some days are really easy: “Hold a door for someone.” Others are more labor intensive: “Thank a Teacher.” Every day is different, yet collectively they add up to 26 Acts of Kindness, the response students at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield have chosen in the face of the tragedy at Sandy Hook School in Newtown.

“We were all in school when it happened,” recalls Michael King, a senior at Notre Dame this year. Aside from the shock, his first reaction was a heightened awareness that every day is special, to be appreciated as a gift from God. Then he, and the entire Notre Dame community, faced the question: How can we respond to a tragedy of this magnitude?

While the idea of performing 26 Acts of Kindness had gotten attention on Facebook and Twitter, the specific acts the Notre Dame community chose reflect the school’s distinctive character. They include donations of sports equipment for local youth leagues, books for a teen center and toiletries for a homeless shelter. On one day, students are asked to introduce themselves to someone new; on another, “let someone go in front of you in line.” Students wrote letters to soldiers far from home, thanked a teacher—and even observed Read a Book Day (“be good to your brain, too”).

“At Notre Dame, we build character, faith, and intellect,” says Principal Chris Cipriani. “Teachers talked about this response in class and collected ideas from students, each other, the staff and our parents. But a lot of this our kids do every day, without even realizing how kind and good they are being.”

On reflection, students agree with that assessment. “We all do our part to help out others,” says junior Michael DeGennaro.

“The 26 Acts of Kindness helps us as a school become closer in school and outside of school—closer to the community,” adds his classmate, Sean Cronan. “It helped us connect with people in need. But we’re already like this. If somebody drops their books in the hallway,



CONCENTRATION SHOWS on the face of Notre Dame Freshman Medgine Estiverne of Fairfield as she composes a thank you message to a soldier as one of the school’s 26 Acts of Kindness. The acts, large and small, were chosen as Notre Dame’s response to the tragedy in Newtown.

someone always helps them out.”

“Their education isn’t just an academic exercise,” observes Notre Dame’s chaplain, Fr. Peter Cipriani. “It’s not just head knowledge, it’s heart knowledge. When a situation like this occurs we feel so helpless. But when we’re encouraged to respond, we realize—my goodness is more powerful than that evil.”

The teens daily actions brought with them some unexpected results. “My dad is a firefighter—he’s a first responder,” says sophomore Jeanna Emanuel. “I never really thought about it, never thought about thanking him for what he does.” For “Thank a First Responder Day,” Jeanna wrote a note to her father. “He had tears in his eyes when he read it.”

As students saw the immediate effect of their actions in the school, they began to look at their entire effort from a fresh perspective. “At lunch, I sat with kids I didn’t really know, and I talked to people I don’t usually talk to,” says Michael King, recalling his “Be a Friend Who Listens Day” experience.

“Adam Lanza (the Newtown shooter), he was an outcast. If we continue to act kindly, serve God, serve others—and be kind to ourselves, too—maybe we can prevent this from happening another time.”

“Although this act was horrific, our acts of kindness counter-act it,” adds sophomore Morgan Sweeney. “I think what we do

can inspire other people to take things into their own

hands in a positive way.”

Morgan intends to begin that positive conversion herself in the weeks ahead. “Lent is usually time of giving up something you want. But now I’m seeing these as examples of what I can do during Lent. Instead of giving up candy, I can give to a food pantry. Or I can give up my time to volunteer somewhere.”

Fr. Cipriani expects that other students, too, will follow Morgan’s lead. “We’re called to be imitators of Christ, trying to

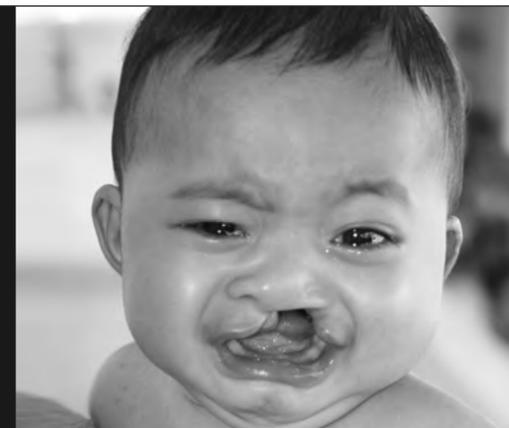
reach for the potential that each of us has in our hearts. When we’re pro-active, when we do something, we fill the void caused by evil.”

The Notre Dame community is considering making these deliberate acts of kindness an annual event, a way of remembering the lives lost so tragically.

“When tragedies happen, I can find God in the aftermath,” says Sean Conan. “We need to reach out and show all our love and kindness to the world.” ■

4 Thank a Soldier <i>Write a thank you letter to a US soldier. ND will mail these letters.</i>	5 Be Positive Day! <i>No complaints today!</i>	6 Collection Donate a canned food for a local shelter	7 Let Someone Go In Front of You in Line Today	8 Encourage Someone Today <i>A little support can make a huge difference</i>
11 Thank the ND Support Staff <i>Thank a secretary, safe worker, coach, custodian</i>	12 Read a Book Day <i>Be good to your brain! It needs exercise too.</i>	13 Share a Compliment with Someone Today	14 Collection Donate Used Sports Equipment for local youth leagues	15
19 	20	21	22	

His parents can't help him. They pray for someone like you.



Free cleft surgery which takes as little as 45 minutes and costs as little as \$250, can give desperate children not just a new smile – but a new life.

Your support can provide free treatment for poor children with clefts.

\$250 Surgery. \$125 Half surgery. \$ 50 Medications. \$ _____

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____ Zip _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Telephone _____ eMail _____

Credit Card # _____ Expires _____

Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover Signature _____

My check is enclosed. N13021F87NQAZF2

Smile Train, P.O. Box 96210, Washington, DC 20090-6210

“...one of the most productive charities — dollar for deed — in the world.”
— The New York Times



Join our mobile community today! Receive mobile updates about our programs, success stories and ways to help by texting MOBILE to 877877*.

Donate online: www.smiletrain.org or call: 1-800-932-9541



Smile Train is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit recognized by the IRS, and all donations to Smile Train are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. © 2013 Smile Train.

*Msg&Data Rates May Apply.

Reply STOP to opt-out. Reply HELP or contact 1.800.932.9541 for help. We'll txt you up to 3x/mo.

Lent

“Late Nite Catechism”
keeps audience laughing

WILTON—“How many of you think animals go to heaven?” playwright/“Sister” Maripat Donovan asks the audience.

Donnovan, who was educated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame at the Academy of Our Lady in Chicago, originated the role of “Sister” in the production “Late Nite Catechism” and has toured internationally to rave reviews. *The New York Times* has called Donovan’s plays “uproarious interactive theater.”

Donnovan will be bringing her latest play, “Will my Bunny go to Heaven?” for a benefit performance for the School Sisters of Notre Dame to be held at Villa Notre Dame in Wilton on March 3. The performance will be part of the Sisters’ 180th anniversary.

The celebration will begin with an 11 am Mass, followed by a fun-filled afternoon of lunch, auction and a laugh-out-loud interactive performance. In “Sister’s Easter Catechism,” the audience members are attending an adult catechism class at St. Bruno’s. With her black robe and starched wimple, Donnovan is clearly no soft-touch modern nun. Raise your hand before you answer, stand up when you’re spoken

to—and keep those hands out of your pockets!

The semi-scripted production rockets back and forth from Sister to the audience. What is the meaning of Lent? What’s the

Donovan is proud to provide entertainment that is funny and, at the same time, respectful of the Catholic faith. The production is a fundraising benefit for School Sisters of Notre Dame educational minis-



difference between a mortal and a venial sin? Is answering a cell phone in church a mortal sin? (THINK before you answer that!) Along the way, Sister unearths the origins of Easter bunnies, Easter eggs, Easter bonnets, Easter baskets, and of course those yummy Easter Peeps.

tries and for their retired Sisters.

(Tickets to “Late Nite Catechism” can be ordered for \$65 online at www.amssnd.org, or for \$75 at door. Villa Notre Dame is located at 345 Belden Hill Rd., Wilton. For more information, contact Joy Nazzaro: 203.762.4113 or jnazzaro@amssnd.org.)

COMPOSER FROM PAGE 7

all over the world struggle to engage young people. Many young Catholics have been drawn to contemporary Christian music, largely produced by artists from other denominations.

Recording artists like TobyMac and Casting Crowns fill large concert halls and have broken into the Billboard secular charts. Only recently have young Catholic artists such as Steve Angrisano and Curtis Stephan tapped into this movement by bringing a unique Catholic expression to the music.

Schutte says one difference between his music and that of younger Catholic songwriters is that his work was written expressly to be sung in Church during Mass. “My music very much grew out of the experience of communal worship. I wasn’t writing for concerts or the performance venue,” Schutte says. “I was writing for people to sing these songs to worship,” says Schutte.

“In some ways when you write for worship, you must put certain limits or parameters around it so that it fits into the situation and into the capabilities of the parish choir. People in the pew need to be able to sing along. My music is very melodic because people connect with good melodies. That’s a big thing for me.”

Only recently has he gone out on tour, where he is performing the new *Age to Age, Generations of Faith* CD (OCP Publications) in collaboration with Angrisano and Stephan. He loves working with the younger artists and enjoys the high energy and rhythmic quality of their music.

Throughout a 40-year career, Schutte has continued to publish and perform spiritual music that people love to hear. “I’m very happy that people recognize “Here I Am Lord” and continue to sing it. That affirms the music more than anything for me—the way people sitting in the pews on a Sunday morning have taken to it. It’s very heartening as I continue the uphill battle of composing.”

LIFE ISSUES FROM PAGE 11

definition of human life has been left unaddressed far too long. If a 20 or 25 week old fetus can live

and eventually thrive outside of its mother’s womb, by what logic or moral code can we treat it as of no greater value than a benign tumor? If, however, society should declare that fetus to be a living, human person, what legal and constitutional rights must necessarily follow? Surely and most fundamentally, the right to exist. If our constitutional system of government means anything, it must at least mean that.

The other day the nation celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a champion of civil rights for all people. It should not come as a surprise to anyone that, according to his niece, Dr. Alveda King, Dr. Martin Luther King was adamantly pro-life and, had he lived, would have been at the forefront of efforts to preserve, not limit, human life in the womb.

As with all civil rights issues, honest and open discussion is imperative. It is time now for the nation to have that discussion about the beginning of human life. What could be more urgent or fundamental?

Saint James Parish

† LENT 2013 †

“Come back to the Lord with all your heart. Leave the past in ashes and turn to God with tears and fasting, for He is slow to anger and ready to forgive.” Joel 2:13

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 13

Ashes will be distributed during Eucharist
7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

DAILY EUCHARIST

8:00 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat.
5:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays: 7:00-9:00 p.m. – February 19, 26,
March 5, 12, 26

Thursday: February 28 – 4:45 p.m.
Every Saturday: 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

A Day for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday: March 19 – 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Fr. Tom and other clergy will be available
for Confession and healing prayer.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE
FOR ADULTS, YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Tuesday, February 19, 7:00 p.m. in the Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

All parishioners are invited to participate
in personal stations at anytime.

Stations of the Cross & Benediction:

Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in the Church
on February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 29.

There will be reserved parking
“The Living Stations of the Cross”:
with the children of St. James School,
Friday, March 22, 12:30 and 6:30 p.m.

PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Eucharistic Adoration in the Parish Center

Practice the art of solitude and silence

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Fri.: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. – Divine Mercy Chaplet
Friday: 3:00 p.m. – Recitation of the Divine
Mercy Chaplet

Rosary Prayer Gathering

Mon.-Fri.: 5:00 p.m. in Parish Center Chapel
Saturday: 7:30 a.m. in the Church

FOR MEN

Beloved Son’s Gatherings

Sat.: February 16 and March 16 at 6:00 a.m.
Thursday: March 7 at 7:00 p.m.

FOR WOMEN

Lenten Retreat - Saturday, March 2

Breaking Bread - March 2 – 8:30 a.m.

LIFT-Ladies in Faith Together - March 8 – 6:30 p.m.

FOR TEENS

Youth/Teen Holy Hour & Fellowship Gatherings

Every Mon. from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Chapel

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

• Praying with Ignatius of Loyola

A six week retreat beginning February 13, combining study,
prayer, and group sharing once a week. There are two ses-
sions available: Wednesday – 1:00-2:00 p.m. or 7:00 – 8:00
p.m.

FAITH STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

• Faith for Today – Tuesday evenings 7:30-8:30 p.m.,
April 2-May 7 – A program for adults who have not received
the sacrament of Confirmation. The sacrament will be
administered at St. James on May 15.

Lent

What is the meaning of Lent?

By **JULIA DECKER**

Lent is a time when Christians prepare for the miraculous Resurrection of Christ. We recall the suffering that our Savior went through to ensure that we would have eternal life, salvation. Jesus was stripped of his clothes and was completely humiliated in front of the crowd that was berating him and cheering against him, but he never gave up. He only asked God once if it was at all possible for him to be relieved of his impending suffering and death. His suffering finally ended when he was nailed to the cross.

Not only Jesus but Mary, his mother, suffered. Mary watched her child be whipped, beat up, and fall down but she never showed despair. During Lent, we reflect on the suffering and we can demonstrate how this affects our lives through our words, thoughts, prayers, and actions.

When I think of Lent, I think of a time to pay closer attention to what Jesus did and how this affects our lives every day. I think of the suffering he went through so that we can have eternal life with him in heaven forever. Lent always reminds me of Jesus' love for me, so much that he would carry the cross on his shoulder for miles despite its heaviness. The crown of thorns crushing into Jesus' head also reminds me of his love and selflessness for oth-

ers. He inspires me to be selfless and show authentic love to others especially in Lent.

For teens, life can be very challenging at times. One challenge all teens face is balancing our time. While technology provides us with many tools, it can also provide us with many distractions. Another challenge that teens face is peer pressure which can prevent us from living a peaceful life with Jesus. During Lent, teens can look at these challenges and find ways to overcome them and live a life more pleasing to God. We need to trust in the Lord that he has our lives in his hands and that he has a purpose for everything that happens in our lives.

Over the past fifteen years, my parents have taught us that we should give up something during Lent, whether it is desserts, TV or even a bad habit as a sacrifice, like Jesus sacrificed his life for us. When that sacrifice becomes difficult we were taught to say a prayer to help us be able to make our sacrifice.

Over the past couple of years, I have learned that in addition to sacrifice it is important to focus on being especially kind to someone or focus on my friendship with Jesus through prayer and Scripture. It's about making the

==== *A WOMAN'S VIEW* =====
FROM PAGE 13 =====

"On the next day, citizens of Lancaster who lived in Washington carried his casket to the nearby Capitol, where his body lay in state overnight surrounded by dignitaries and a detachment of Negro soldiers..." His headstone is an amazing testament to the principles he lived for:

"I repose in this quiet and secluded spot,
Not from any natural preference for solitude,
But finding other Cemeteries limited as to Race
By Charter rules
I have chosen this that I might illustrate in my death

The principles which I advocated through a long life:
EQUALITY OF MAN
BEFORE HIS CREATOR"

We must be ever grateful to God for the good people in history who have worked for fairness and justice for all, like Thaddeus Stevens!

commitment at the beginning of Lent and keeping it throughout the forty days. If you fall down like Jesus did, it is important to get back up like Jesus did, ready to continue the journey. In addition to making personal commitments, on Fridays the Church requires us to abstain from eating meat, so this means my family will probably have a small, meatless, less decadent meal on Fridays.

When I was in grammar school at St. Mary's in Bethel, each class would take a turn each week to read the Stations of the Cross for the rest of the school. This really helped me understand what exactly Jesus did and the pain he went through to save us. I would try to imagine what I would do if I was in his position or if I was in the position of his mother, Mary, or even the position of Simon who helped him carry his cross or Veronica who wiped Jesus' face.

Now I am at Immaculate High School in Danbury and we do

Living Stations. Students reenact the stations including carrying the cross and the Crucifixion. For me, one of the most powerful stations is when the heavy cross has fallen on Jesus. The entire student body witnesses this scene, dramatized through a silhouette presentation. As students are portraying the Stations, other students read the Stations. The angelic concert choir sings beautiful songs for us to hear. It is truly a beautiful experience that Immaculate provides.

This experience reminds us of the real meaning of Lent, especially in our busy everyday lives. It gives us an opportunity to focus on our personal Lenten promises. The changes we make in our lives during Lent as acknowledgement of the importance of the Resurrection



would be even more meaningful if we carried them into our everyday lives after Easter.

No matter what stage we are in our lives, Lent is an opportunity to prepare our mind and body for the Resurrection. With this year being the "Year of the Faith" we can make this our best Lent ever!

(Julia Decker is a sophomore at Immaculate High School in Danbury.)



**Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY**

Sacred Heart University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit on April 7-10, by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 240 institutions in the six-state New England Region.

Sacred Heart University has been accredited by the Commission since 1969 and was last reviewed in 2003. Its accreditation by the New England Association encompasses the entire institution.

For the past year and a half, Sacred Heart University has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission's Standards for Accreditation. An evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the commission a continuing status for the institution. Following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:

Public Comment on Sacred Heart University
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
3 Burlington Woods #100
Burlington, MA 01803
E-mail: cihe@neasc.org

Public Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. The Commission cannot settle disputes between individuals and institutions, whether those involve faculty, students, administrations, or members of other groups. Comments will not be treated as confidential and must include name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments.

Public Comments must be received by March 7. The commission cannot guarantee that comments received after that date will be considered.

Weddings, Funeral Services, Events, Parties
pthomaslandry@gmail.com
917.561.9830

P. Thomas Landry
BAGPIPE SERVICES

Sports

For Notre Dame quintet, this may be the year

By DON HARRISON

Some of the names you may recall: Ellen Grosso, Patrina Blow, Allison Martinsky (Cain), Latoya Brookins, Cindy Snyder (Acree), Elaine Agosti.

As young women, they were in the forefront for Notre Dame of Fairfield's preeminence in girls basketball across more than 35 seasons, encompassing numerous conference titles, state tournament appearances and All-State selections. Their names may be found, along with their male counterparts, in the Notre Dame High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

"Notre Dame has a very strong tradition in girls basketball. There is a rich heritage here," says Eric DeMarco, now in his sixth season as the Lancers' head coach.

Only one thing is missing: A state championship.

Could this be the year?

"I've talked about this every year. Survive and advance. Stay focused. When that happens, anything is possible," DeMarco says.

The 2012-13 Lancers offer promise. They entered February with a lustrous 13-2 won-lost record, among the best in the region, and a six-game winning

streak. The 13 victories match last season's win total (vs. 10 losses). The coach attributes his current team's successes to balanced scoring, senior leadership and depth.

"We've been pretty balanced. Four players, Jovan Kingwood, Amber James, Aly Furgiuele and Briana Mann, have been scoring around 10 points a game pretty consistently. We've been scoring by committee.

"We have seven seniors on the team, and we've played nine kids in most games."

Kingwood, a 5-foot-5 senior tri-captain, has good athletic genes. Her father, Tyrone, was an All-State basketball player at Bassick High School in Bridgeport and an outfielder who possessed the skills to reach the Triple-A level in the Baltimore Orioles organization. He's one of DeMarco's assistants.

"We can do a lot this year," says Jovan, who transferred from Trinity Catholic prior to her junior season. "The coach tried to put that into our heads."

Another senior tri-captain, Furgiuele, who commutes to Notre Dame from Norwalk, says she was aware that the current group of Lancers had potential for greatness.

"Even in the off-season, when we played together on an AAU team, we knew we were going to be good this season," points out Furgiuele, who, at 5-11, is the

concussions, the team managed to win a road game at Masuk of Monroe, 59-53, on January 15.

The other senior tri-captain, McKenzie Stone, is a diminutive



NOTRE DAME'S LANCERS tri-captains, Jovan Kingwood and Aly Furgiuele, shown here, and McKenzie Stone, have led their team to a 13-2 won-lost record so far this season, among the best in the region.

tallest player on the squad.

Notre Dame opened the season with seven straight victories, punctuated by a sweep of Bolton and Mansfield, MA, to win its Appalachia Christmas Tournament for the first time.

After successive losses to Kolbe-Cathedral and Luralton Hall, the Lancers rebounded to start a second winning streak. Even when Kingwood and two of her teammates were out with

5-1; she provides leadership and the defensive spark. "I feel like I'm one of the stronger players on defense. Scrappy," she says.

Stone describes DeMarco as "a very nice guy," but admits that he can be "very tough on us. He knows how good we can be."

DeMarco spends a major portion of his day teaching social studies at Seymour High School before making the 20- to 25-min-

ute ride to Notre Dame. "Not being in the building during the day," he admits, presents some minor problems, but he schedules practices so that he can fulfill his teaching obligations.

Is a Class M state title in the offing?

"To make a tournament run, you need everything to fall into place," the coach says. "You need a little bit of luck, too." ■



School Sisters of Notre Dame Present

SISTER'S EASTER CATECHISM:

WILL MY BUNNY GO TO HEAVEN?



Sunday, March 3, 2013 • Mass 11 a.m.
Lunch & Auction 12 noon • Followed by performance
345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, CT
\$65 advance • \$75 at door

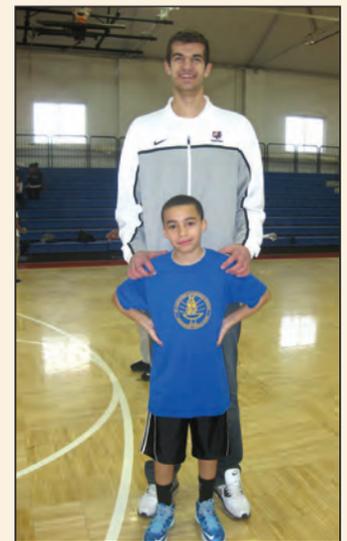
BRAND
NEW
SHOW

For tickets and info: www.amssnd.org 203.761.9732

Stags at Shehan

BRIDGEPORT—The Cardinal Shehan Center welcomed home the Fairfield University Men's Basketball Team on January 8. The Stags had spent the past five games away, and despite being busy and tired, came to spend some time at the Shehan Center with the youth of Bridgeport. The team fit right in with the Shehan Center's After School Program! The boys and girls played basketball, danced, and did arts and crafts with the Division I Athletes. While the Stags were able to unwind after a grueling few weeks, Shehan Center members were able to meet and learn from college athletes that attend a University right in their own community.

The Shehan Center would like to thank the Fairfield University Men's Basketball Team for taking the time to get to know the kids and would like to wish them the best of luck with the rest of their season. ■



THE PROMISE of height to come: young Stacey Davis measures his potential against 7-ft. Josp Mikulic of Croatia.

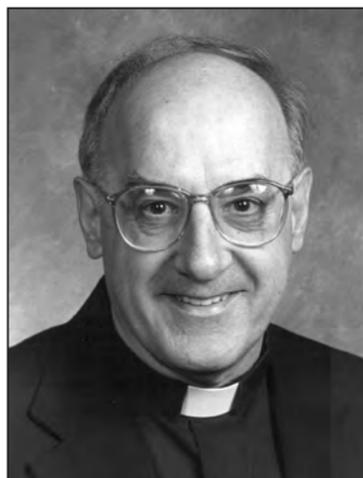
Obituaries

Fr. Joseph Joaquin, former pastor of Sacred Heart

DANBURY—Fr. M. Joseph Joaquin, age 80, died on January 14. “Joe had two qualities that blended well together,” says Fr. Gregg Mecca, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Danbury. “He still had that monkish quality, that love of quiet time, that harks back to his years as an Xaverian Brother. He enjoyed his books and the study of languages. At the same time, he was always at ease with people. He was a great storyteller with a sly wit.”

Born April 29, 1932, in Lawrence, MA, he received his BA from St. John’s University in Queens, NY, an MA from Assumption College in Worcester, MA, and he completed his seminary studies at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell.

A late vocation, he taught for nine years in the Ipswich, MA, public school system. Following that he taught for eighteen years with the Xaverian Brothers in Maryland, New York and Massachusetts before responding to a call to the priesthood. Fr. Joaquin was ordained on



October 3, 1981, in St. Augustine Cathedral by Bishop Walter W. Curtis.

His first assignment was as parochial vicar in St. Anthony Parish, Bridgeport, after which he served St. Augustine Cathedral and St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull. He was also assistant chaplain at the Maryheart Evangelical Center in Meriden, celebrating weekend Masses at Holy Angels Parish there.

In 1991, he became pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Georgetown

where he ministered for over sixteen years. Fr. Joaquin retired in 2008. Despite poor health, he was able to assist priests at St. Peter’s in Danbury, where he resided.

Fr. Joaquin, Fr. Mecca recalls, refused to let ill health discourage him. “Joe’s tag, whenever he finished a conversation, was ‘keep smiling.’ That was his personal philosophy. He was always smiling. He had a heart akin to the Lord’s own heart. I think he brought people to Christ because he was, himself, always joyful in the Lord. He said what he believed, and he believed so earnestly in the goodness of God.”

A parish vigil Mass was celebrated for Fr. Joaquin at Sacred Heart Church on January 17. Fr. David Leopold, Sacred Heart’s pastor, was the principal celebrant and delivered the homily. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following day in St. Peter Church. Fr. Mecca was the celebrant and homilist.

The interment took place in St. Mary Cemetery, Lawrence, MA. ■

Frank Esposito, 83, Mayor of Norwalk

NORWALK—The City of Norwalk mourned the passing of Frank J. Esposito, seven term Mayor of Norwalk, who died on January 9 after a



long battle with cancer. Mayor Esposito was 83.

Mayor Esposito, a Korean War veteran, grew up in Norwalk. He and his wife of 62 years, Louise, were active members of St. Matthew Parish, supporters of their local church and the Diocese of Bridgeport. They had traveled to Rome with their pastor, Msgr. Walter Orłowski, for the consistory elevating Archbishop Edward Egan, former Bishop of Bridgeport, to the College of Cardinals.

Mayor Esposito was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Ann Club, the Sons of Italy (Pietro Micca Lodge), the V.F.W., American Legion, and Republican Town Committee.

“People loved him,” says cur-

rent Mayor Richard Moccia. “I never knew a man who embraced the job of mayor more than Frank.”

A former businessman, Mayor Esposito served four terms in the Connecticut General Assembly, serving as assistant majority leader and minority leader. He became Mayor of the City of Norwalk in 1987 and was re-elected seven times, retiring in 2001.

In a special honor, Mayor Esposito was brought into St. Matthew Church for a wake service on January 13. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for him on January 14. Msgr. Orłowski was the celebrant.

Burial followed at St. John Cemetery, in Norwalk. ■

Ann Marie Tarinelli, 75, fed the homeless



BRIDGEPORT—Ann Marie Tarinelli, who volunteered countless hours to help feed and clothe the homeless under the John St. Bridge in Bridgeport, died on January 11 at St. Vincent’s Medical Center. She was 75.

Tarinelli, a long-time Trumbull resident and a member of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull, grew up in Bridgeport. She developed and ran a non-profit organization called the Hidden Treasure Bistro. Through that, she not only distributed toiletries, adult and children’s clothing, coats and blankets, she cooked meals herself and served them to the homeless under the Route 25 overpass.

She was recently honored by the Town of Trumbull, which designated Ann Marie Tarinelli Day in honor of her service to the poor. She was also recognized by the Diocese of Bridgeport for her volunteerism.

Bill Hoey, vice president of mission and ethics at St. Vincent’s, told the *CT Post* that Tarinelli was an inspiration to nearly everyone she met, particularly those she fed and clothed on a weekly basis. He had met Tarinelli when he was director of Catholic Charities Bridgeport office. The Thomas Merton Center for Hospitality, home to one of Catholic Charities soup kitchens, provided Tarinelli with assistance in her ministry.

Hoey said he was always amazed by Tarinelli’s dedication. “I’m not sure what those folks are going to do,” he said. “Who steps into that role? It’s like finding another Mother Teresa.”

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Tarinelli at St. Theresa’s on January 17. Fr. Brian Gannon, pastor of St. Theresa’s, was the principal celebrant. Burial followed in St. Michael’s Cemetery in Bridgeport. ■

ProximoTravel

Your Catholic Tour Company

Trips to Scotland, France, Ireland, Shrines of Europe and much more.. ranging from \$3,599—\$4,699 for 2013.

Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE w/Airfare from anywhere in the continental USA

Italy Wide/Switzerland: Apr. 6-18, Apr. 13-25 ...

Italy Regular: Apr. 6-14, Apr. 13-21, Apr. 20-28 ...

Holy Land: Apr. 1-11, Apr. 8-18, Apr. 15-25 ...

Holy Land/Italy: Apr. 1-14, Apr. 8-21, Apr. 15-28 ...

Italy South: Apr. 27-May 9, May 4-16, May 11-23 ...

814-479-4165

www.proximotravel.com

email: anthony@proximotravel.com

855-842-8001

Carmela A. Dupuis
Executive Director

Obituaries

Sr. Martha Marie Healy, 84

Sr. Martha Marie Healy, the founder of Our Lady of Fatima School in Wilton and a teacher, school principal and pastoral minister for more than 50 years in the greater New York area, died of complications from a fall on December 31 at Our Lady of Consolation Nursing & Rehabilitative Care Center on Long Island. She was 84 years old



Sr. Martha earned a bachelor's degree from Manhattan College and a master's in administration from Fairfield University.

After teaching in Brooklyn, NY, she opened Our Lady of Fatima School in Wilton in 1961, and stayed as principal for eight years. She taught at schools in the greater New York area before she answered the call

to pastoral ministry in 1976. Sr. Martha ministered to the sick, homebound and hospitalized, and coordinated parish outreach programs. Since 1992 she has served as a volunteer in parish ministry.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sr. Martha on January 5 at St. Brigid Church in Westbury, NY. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bethel.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sr. Martha on January 5 at St. Brigid Church in Westbury, NY. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bethel.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sr. Martha on January 5 at St. Brigid Church in Westbury, NY. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bethel.

Sr. Mary deRicci



Sr. M. deRicci Baker, IHM, of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary died on January 6 at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton, PA.

Rita Baker was born on February 9, 1922, in Altoona, PA. She entered the IHM Congregation on September 8, 1941 and was given the religious name of Sr. Mary deRicci. She made her final profession of vows on August 2, 1947. She received her bachelor of science degree in education from Marywood College in Scranton.

Sr. deRicci served as a teacher at schools in Pennsylvania before coming to St. Ambrose Elementary School in Bridgeport, where she taught from 1958-61. She later taught at schools in Brooklyn, NY, and Baltimore, MD, and was a principal in Holidaysburg, PA. She was librarian at Cathedral High School in New York, NY, from 1989-90.

Following her teaching career she served in hospital, parish, and congregation positions. From 2000 until the time of her death, Sr. deRicci served as a prayer minister at Cathedral Convent, Marian Convent, and Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sr. deRicci on January 11 at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton. Interment followed at St. Catherine's Cemetery in Moscow, PA.

FUNERAL GUIDE

NEIL F. HARDING
Director/Owner

Harding

FUNERAL HOME

203/227-3458
FAX 203/227-1420

210 POST ROAD EAST
WESTPORT, CT 06881

COLLINS FUNERAL HOME

92 EAST AVENUE • NORWALK
866-0747

WILLIAM A. SKIDD WILLIAM G. LAHEY, JR.
WILLIAM R. KELLEY WILLIAM P. SKIDD
ANDREW D. SKIDD

Family owned for four generations

PRE-NEED FUNERAL PLANNING



MATTHEW K. MURPHY,
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

267 GREENWICH AVENUE
GREENWICH, CT 06830
203-869-0315

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

FEBRUARY 10—MARCH 16

FEBRUARY

10	Rev. William R. Nagle.....	1979
	Rev. John R. Polinski.....	2001
12	Rev. John J. Filip.....	1984
13	Deacon Matthew Ashe.....	2008
	Deacon Rodney Varney.....	1988
17	Rev. George M. Karcinski.....	2006
20	Msgr. Andrew J. Hajus.....	1988
22	Msgr. George B. Curtiss.....	1982
23	Msgr. Miroslav J. Myschshyn.....	1980
24	Rev. Joseph E. Russo.....	1998
	Rev. Walter J. Seekamp.....	2012
26	Msgr. Henry E. Flanagan.....	1966

MARCH

1	Rev. Leonard M. Conlon.....	1976
5	Msgr. John J. Pitonak.....	1990
8	Rev. Boleslaus Rarus.....	2005
10	Rev. Raymond H. Stephenson.....	1990
12	Rev. Leo Suwinski.....	2005
13	Deacon Joseph L. Cross.....	2003
14	Rev. Vincent P. Cleary.....	1989
15	Msgr. Francis J. Sugrue.....	1977
	Msgr. Edward G. Zibell.....	1978
	Rev. William J. Galya.....	1994



"Quiet Dignity Without Extravagance"
Affordable Direct Cremation
Title XIX Welcome
County Cremation Service

- ✦ Family owned for three generations
- ✦ Handling every detail
- ✦ Call for free informative brochure
- ✦ In home arrangements
- ✦ 203-254-1414 or 800-542-0218
- ✦ Memorial service facility

February 2013

Nuestra Voz

Entregarle mi vida al Señor

POR LA FRATERNA
FLORENCIA SILVA

Cada uno de nosotros tiene un camino diferente a través del cual el Señor nos llama a acercarnos a Él. Para mí, este camino de responder a mi vocación no ha sido fácil. No era lo que yo había pensado y definitivamente no era lo que quería hacer con mi vida (ni lo que mi familia quería). Pero poco a poco, el Señor me mostró que su plan era un plan de amor para mí y que nada me iba a hacer más feliz que responder a su llamado. Y Él me conquistó con su amor. No fue fácil porque tuve que renunciar a mucho y morir a mí misma: mis planes, mis deseos y gustos. Estoy muy agradecida por todo lo que el Señor me ha dado y todo lo que ha permitido en mi vida.

Han pasado ocho años desde que entré a vivir en comunidad y hoy puedo decirle "sí" a Dios por todos los días de mi vida con una comprensión mucho más clara y profunda de lo que esto significa. Hacer mi promesa perpetua ha sido una experiencia muy fuerte de ver cómo Dios cumple sus promesas y cómo Él realmente nos da el ciento por uno aquí en la tierra y la vida eterna, siempre superando todas mis expectativas.

Estoy muy agradecida al Señor por tantas bendiciones: por haberme llamado a entregarle mi vida, por haberme acompañado a lo largo del camino. Me sobrecoge mirar hacia atrás y ver sólo eso: la gracia del Señor, su presencia, su paciencia, su cuidado amoroso, su perseverancia, su cariño, el cariño del corazón humano del Señor.

Muchas veces, a lo largo del camino, estas bendiciones han estado escondidas en momentos de sufrimiento—de cruces como la del Señor—pero que vistos con los ojos del Señor, son bendiciones escondidas en sufrimientos donde el Señor estuvo presente y está también hoy. Otras muchas de sus gracias han sido más bien "pequeñas", silentes, en lo secreto de mi corazón: inspiraciones sutiles, certezas profundas e inexplicables, iluminaciones en momentos de oscuridad; un camino recorrido en la intimidad del corazón del que sólo el Señor es testigo.

Muchas veces, este amor del Señor se ha manifestado a

través de personas que han sido instrumentos del amor del Señor y a las que les debo mucho y con quienes estaré siempre muy agradecida. En primer lugar mis papás y mi familia que me han enseñado, con su ejemplo, como es el amor incondicional del Señor, un amor generoso que entrega y se entrega sin esperar nada a cambio y sin buscar ningún reconocimiento.

Siete de los nueve años que tengo siendo Fraterna los he pasado aquí en Connecticut y es aquí donde he aprendido a vivir mi vida como Fraterna. Hoy soy la persona que soy gracias a lo que el Señor ha hecho en mi vida y a mi amistad con tantas personas. Hay tantas bendiciones que el Señor me ha dado durante mi tiempo aquí que sería imposible nombrarlos a todos, pero sólo quiero mencionar algunos.

He tenido la suerte de trabajar en la Oficina de Servicios Pastorales con un grupo de personas que tratan de responder con generosidad a lo que el Señor les pide. Trabajar con un grupo de gente así es un privilegio poco común. Ha sido una gran alegría trabajar para el Arzobispo William Lori y he aprendido mucho de su testimonio de amor al rebaño que el Señor le encomienda, un amor que no escatima nada, que siempre está dispuesto a dar de sí mismo hasta la última gota.

Otra gran bendición en mi vida ha sido el grupo de oración para señoras que he dirigido en este tiempo. Ha sido hermoso ver lo mucho que aman a sus familias y cómo están dispuestas siempre a sacrificarse por sus esposos e hijos, incluso cuando es el camino más difícil y exigente y lo más importante, ver su profunda fe y su deseo de transmitir la fe a sus familias, porque saben que es la cosa más importante que les pueden dar.

Seis de estos años los pasé en St. Joseph High School. ¡No sé que habría hecho sin la ayuda de tantos profesores y padres de familia, algunos de los cuales han sido y son hasta hoy grandes amigos! O del Padre Joseph Marcello, quien me enseñó mucho y que ha sido un testimonio de amor incondicional al Señor y a nuestra vocación de entregarle nuestras vidas a Él. Ha sido realmente un gran amigo



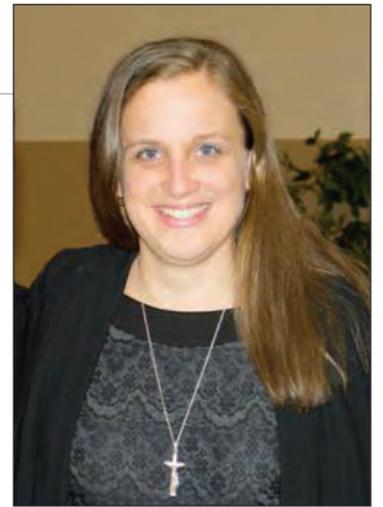
JÓVENES PREPARAN UNA FIESTA en la Parroquia de St. Catherine, Trumbull, para La Fraterna Florencia Silva, directora de la Oficina de Jóvenes de la Diócesis de Bridgeport. Ella realizó sus compromisos de Plena Disponibilidad Apostólica en la Fraternidad Mariana de la Reconciliación el 21 de Noviembre en Lima, Perú. (FOTOS POR MOLLY GLYNN)

TEENS PREPARE a celebration for Sr. Florencia Silva, director of Youth Ministry, who took her final vows in Lima, Peru, in November. (Story in English on page 16.)

durante este tiempo y no tengo palabras para agradecerle.

Pero en cierto modo, nadie me ha ayudado a más de los 2,100 alumnos que tuve en mis seis años en "St. Joe's" y tengo que decir, que siempre tendrán un lugar muy especial en mi corazón. Son ellos los que me enseñaron lo que significa amar sin medida, lo que significa vivir mi maternidad espiritual.

Estoy especialmente agradecida por mi comunidad, por todas las Fraternas en todo el mundo que me han apoyado y me han acompañado a lo largo de estos años, en los buenos momentos y en las dificultades. Es en la comunidad donde se aprende a vivir el amor y a crecer en santidad, para mejor servir y ayudar a los que el Señor pone en nuestras vidas, y estoy muy agradecida al Señor



por cada uno de ellas.

Como pueden ver, tengo mucho que agradecer! Y hoy, no puedo dar gracias al Señor de ninguna otra manera sino con el don total de mí misma: de mi tiempo, mi amor, mis talentos y dones: todo lo que soy y lo que tengo.

Nuestras Constituciones dicen que el Señor nos invita a brindar, responsable y libremente, nuestra humanidad a Dios para que a través de cada una Él haga llegar a las personas su palabra y su amor.

Hoy le pido al Señor que me dé la gracia para responder con generosidad a esto que Él me pide y para que pueda ser muy, muy fiel a mis promesas por todos los días que el Señor me conceda en este mundo.

(La Fraterna Florencia Silva, MCR, realizó sus compromisos de Plena Disponibilidad Apostólica a Perpetuidad en la Fraternidad Mariana de la Reconciliación). ■

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

"The Mother Church of Norwalk" | 669 West Ave., Norwalk | Est. 1848 | www.stmarynorwalk.net | 203.866.5546

Pastor: Fr. Greg J. Markey
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Richard G. Cipolla
In Residence: Fr. Paul N. Check, Director of Courage

Deacon Stephan Genovese
Choirmaster: David J. Hughes

Confessions: Monday-Friday: 11:30-12noon; Wednesday: 6:30-6:50pm; Saturday 3:00-4:30pm
Sunday Masses: 8:00am, 9:30am Extraordinary Form Solemn High Mass, 11:30am Ordinary Form High Mass, 1:15pm in Spanish

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

February 10: **Quinquagesima Sunday:** Plainsong Mass for a Mean (Sheppard); *Ecce Ascendimus Jerosolymam* (Guerrero); *Quid vis ut faciam* (Cardoso); organ works of Karg-Elert and Duruflé; with the Student Schola

Wednesday, February 13, 5:30 p.m.: **Ash Wednesday:** *Missa Inter vestibulum* (Guerrero); *Emendemus in melius* (Byrd); *In jejuniis et fletu* (Tallis); *Ne irascaris Domine* (Byrd)

February 17: **First Sunday of Lent:** *Missa sine nomine à 4* (Palestrina); *Ductus est Jesus* (Brito); *Parce Domine* (Obrecht)

February 24: **Second Sunday of Lent:** *Missa tertii toni* (Porta); *Meditabor* (Lassus); *Heu mihi Domine* (Palestrina);

March 3: **Third Sunday of Lent:** *Missa Media vita* (Gombert); *Media vita* (plainsong); *Ad te levavi / Miserere nostri* (Palestrina)

Friday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.: **Recital by Elizabeth & Charles Weaver, soprano & lute:** *Sacred Song 1500-1650:* Music of Josquin, Ockeghem, Cara, Tromboncino, Guerrero, Morales, Clemens, Compère, Brumel; more information at stmarynorwalk.net/recitals.



SAINT MARY'S BOOKSTORE 203.854.9013

Offering a wide selection of books, crucifixes, rosaries, sacramentals from Italy and the Holy Land, First Communion and Confirmation gifts, and more.

HOURS: Saturday 10am-4pm | Sunday 9-9:30am, 11am-2pm | Monday, Wednesday and Friday 12:45-2pm
Tuesday 11-11:30am and 12:45-2pm | Thursday 12:45-2pm and 3:30-5:30pm

Located in Parish Center building behind Saint Mary Church | VISA/MC ACCEPTED

Column

Blessed Sebastián de Aparicio – February 25



GUEST COLUMNIST

BY FR. GREG MARKEY

*Fr. Markey is pastor
of Saint Mary Parish in Norwalk.*

Puebla is one of the greatest Catholic cities in all of Mexico. There are so many churches in the city of Puebla that it is said one could visit a new church 365 days a year. Many of them are centuries-old architectural masterpieces and tell the story of a people whose faith enveloped their entire culture. On the outskirts of the city is the Church of San Francisco, which possesses the most unique relic in the entire city: the incorrupt body of Blessed Sebastian de Aparicio.

Sebastian was born in 1502 in Gudiña, Spain, to poor parents. He grew up on farms, tending sheep and acting as a servant to those with influence. The habits he learned from his parents, love of God and how to farm suc-

cessfully, proved to be gifts that would help him for the rest of his long and varied life.

During his childhood the bubonic plague infested his region, and at age 12 Sebastian came down with the dreaded disease. The government authorities took drastic measures against those who contracted the plague, so his parents hid him in the woods under a canopy of branches.

Years later, as a Franciscan, Sebastian told the amazing story of how he was saved. "Hungry wolves tour through the region and a female wolf penetrated where I was hiding. She sniffed me, and licked me, and then abandoned my hiding place. I then began to get better." God was showing that he still had plans for this boy.

As a young man Sebastian was assailed by temptations, so he decided that the safest way to defeat the enemy was to flee and go to America. In 1533, he arrived in Vera Cruz and settled in the newly established city of Puebla de Los Angeles. Here his knowledge began to bear fruit. Sebastian taught the native people how to use a plow for their farms; he showed them how to domesticate horses and oxen to do hard labor; he showed them how to build wagons for transporting their goods.

His greatest influence, however, came with the building of roads. Sebastian is famous for having built the first roads from Vera Cruz to Puebla, and from Puebla to Mexico City. He came to be known as the "El Gallego" (the Spanish region of his origin) and he grew in wealth and influence. Sebastian, however, never lost his faith. In fact, he continued to live very simply, sleeping on the ground and eating the poorest foods. His charity extended to all, giving much of his wealth to those in need, and lending money without asking anything in return.

In 1552, Sebastian retired his road building business, bought a small plot of land, and for twenty years farmed and tended cattle. Now settled down, there was much pressure on him to marry. He was 60 years old when he married a young lady and they mutually agreed to never consummate the union. She died at a young age and Sebastian then married a second time with the



THE INCORRUPT BODY of Blessed Sebastián de Aparicio rests in the Church of San Francisco in Puebla, Mexico.

same arrangement. His second wife also died, leaving him a widower at the age of 70.

After the death of his second wife, Sebastian became so ill that he nearly died. It made a deep impression on him about what is most important in life. As an old man, and in this broken condition, he felt the mysterious call to follow St. Francis of Assisi as a Franciscan. He entered the novitiate far older than his fellow friars, but his youthful fervor grew so much that he excelled in humility and obedience.

Sebastian spent the last 26 years of his life as a Franciscan brother whose primary responsibility was to beg. He was a model friar and people declared that wherever Brother Sebastian went, the angels accompanied him. Even the animals followed his orders. Just by the slightest command of his lips, horses, oxen and mules would obey his words. The integrity of his life spoke of simplicity and the cross, which won many souls to Christ.

Unable to swallow at the end

of his life, his final suffering was compounded by the fact that he could no longer receive Holy Communion. When the friars decided to bring the Blessed Sacrament to his cell, he was so overcome with joy that he had his body placed on the bare ground where he adored the Lord in his final breath.

Blessed Sebastian died on February 25, 1600, at the age of 98 in the Church of San Francisco in Puebla. When they exhumed his body six months later, they found that his body had not decomposed. Two years later when they exhumed his body, again, it still remained incorrupt. Pope Pius VI beatified him in 1789 and today his incorrupt body can be seen at the Church of San Francisco.

The Archdiocese of Puebla in Mexico is today actively praying to Blessed Sebastian de Aparicio for the needed miracle for his canonization. May the Lord continue to hear the prayers of this noble son of St. Francis for the healing and salvation of souls. ■

HONDA

By **Curtiss*Ryan**

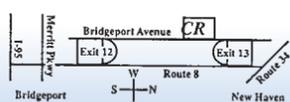
www.curtissryan.com



ONE OF CT'S LARGEST VOLUME HONDA DEALERS

CT'S FIRST ESTABLISHED HONDA DEALER • APRIL 1973

- Open All Day Saturday for Service & Parts
- Senior Citizen Discount



333 Bridgeport Ave • Shelton
M-Th 9am-9pm • Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-5pm

CALL CURTISS RYAN AT

1-800-523-4190
203-929-1484

NEW & USED VEHICLES • SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • BODY SHOP

POSITION AVAILABLE

Director of the Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents

An exciting and rewarding opportunity exists for a full-time director, with an office in Hartford, Connecticut, who will be responsible for maintaining a comprehensive statewide parental alliance and legislative advocacy for Catholic schools in Connecticut.

Qualified candidates must be thoroughly acquainted with and capable of articulating the Catholic school vision and be able to develop and disseminate legislative alerts in consultation with the Connecticut Catholic Conference. In addition, the director will advocate and lobby on behalf of the bishops, superintendents, and Catholic school parents in regard to matters pertaining to Catholic school education.

A Bachelor's Degree in political science or a related field is required. The selected individual will be required to register as a lobbyist with the state of Connecticut. A proven track record in administrative skills, including but not limited to, interpersonal relations, budget preparation and management, strategic planning, working in collaboration with a Board of Trustees, as well as excellent verbal communication and writing skills, is required.

A thorough knowledge and respect for the Roman Catholic Church and its teachings, as well as respect and support of Catholic school education.

Interested applicants should submit a resume and a letter of interest, including salary requirements, by email to kkean@aohct.org

Column



With all our heart

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

A number of the ancient philosophers did not really believe in the gods of Greek and Roman mythology. They were able to figure out that this world, so filled with intelligibility and beauty, called for some single transhuman power. For example, Aristotle arrived at the conclusion that there was one God who made all things. He described this God as the Prime Mover and realized that this Mover had to be self-actualizing, eternal and immaterial.

Then Aristotle struggled with the question whether this Prime Mover was personal. He concluded that it was. Then there was the question, what was this person's attitude to human beings? Aristotle concluded that this God was indifferent to us. As Aristotle saw it, for God to get involved with us would lessen God.

Many wise men of antiquity thought that God was unconcerned for us. Epicurus wrote: "It is absurd to think that God would concern himself with human affairs. These things would upset his serenity and peace. A first condition of happiness is the absence of worry. Thus God takes no interest in human affairs and is in no need of human worship."

Aristotle stated explicitly that "God is self-sufficient and in no need of the service of others, nor of their affection... God cannot have any need of human friends, nor will he have any" (*Eudemian Ethics, VII, 1244B*).

The Judaeo-Christian Scriptures tell us that God is personal, and, contrary to the Greek philosophers, he is concerned with humanity; indeed, they tell us that God loves humanity, and this love is not only a general love, but it is addressed to each one personally. Then we are told that what God seeks from us is something more than submission and rever-

ence. God wishes to be loved by us. He goes so far as to say he is to be loved above all else. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deut.6:5; cf. Lk.10:27). What a commandment!—just our whole heart, our whole soul, just our whole strength.

Thus, we are told that this infinite act of self-existence, by whom all the rest is, makes human creatures whom he can love and be loved by them. Does God have a need for human love? Kierkegaard said that "It is God's passion to love and to be loved, almost as though it were a weakness."

Then we have to face the question: If God is good and loving,

why is there so much ungood? If love is really at the heart of things, how can things like Auschwitz and Sandy Hook happen? What do such things mean? Why does a good young mother die of cancer in her prime while an old man who can't remember his name or hold his water go on and on in a nursing home? Like everyone else, I find God disturbing and problematic. I don't know what is happening and what it means.

Also, while it sounds judgmental, my experience would have me think that for the majority of Christians God's job is reduced to doing what they ask for in prayer. And they often search for the right formula or practice that will turn the secret lock and release the answer. A writer named J.H. Leuba stated, "God is not known; he is not understood; he is used."

How many of us can say our thoughts are those of the Psalmist? "O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless, and without water."

As for myself, I've been on this earth a long time, and sometimes I feel that I don't even know him, that I've not begun to

understand him, to relate to him. But sometimes I think I do, a bit.

We have a history, he and I. I don't think I've had an emotional connection with God that I would describe as having fallen in love with him. Sometimes I think of what Augustine said: "What am I to him that he wants my love?" (*Confessions*, Book One). I can accept that God might love me, but it is hard to believe that God could like me. It's hard to believe that God could get excited about my company.

But a glance over my life shows me that over the years I've changed my image of God from that of a Scorekeeper and Enforcing Policeman, someone who was looking on approvingly or disapprovingly, to that of someone who kept trying to get my attention. I see him now as something of a relentless hunter. I sense his persistent pursuit. He keeps coming. He is insistent. There is no thought of giving up the chase; he is patient. The interesting question now is not how do I find God, but how does God find me? I've come to think of Christianity as a religion of a God who seeks out people, and

he finds ways to penetrate our defensive deafness.

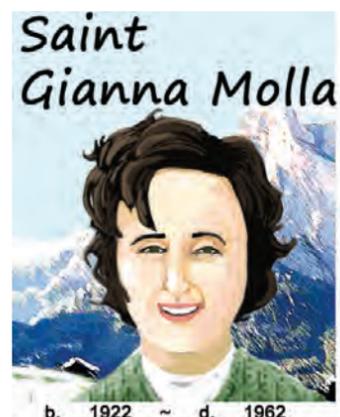
I remember something "hitting" me on a night when I was hurrying home, alone, shivering under a downpour of rain or when I was on a train staring thoughtlessly out on a gray and overcast sky. Suddenly, there was something of a holy sadness, a beautiful yearning for the eternal.

I'm convinced I have experienced the effects of God's love in my life. It often has been thoroughly disguised, but I do sense that so many things were as much Someone else's doing as my own. God's mercy knows many ways. Experience has given me a deepening trust in God, in the certainty of his care. He has given me proof of his love. Graham Greene was right. Gratitude is the way he gets us.

God cannot force us to love him. Love is free, not forced. If it is not free, it is not love. God can only elicit it from us. Hence I've come to think that the precept "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength" is less a command than a promise. Gradually, we may come at last to love him like this. ■

SAINTLY LIVES

BY ED WALDRON



b. 1922 ~ d. 1962

GIANNA WAS AN EXEMPLARY WIFE, MOTHER AND PHYSICIAN. SHE WAS ALSO A DEVOUT CATHOLIC WHO ATTENDED DAILY MASS AND SERVED THE POOR AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY AND CATHOLIC ACTION.



IN 1962, WHILE PREGNANT WITH HER FOURTH CHILD, SHE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A POTENTIALLY FATAL UTERINE TUMOR. THE PHYSICIANS RECOMMENDED THAT AN ABORTION BE PERFORMED IN ORDER TO ENSURE HER LIFE.



GIANNA AND HER HUSBAND REFUSED THE ABORTION AND OPTED FOR A RISKY PROCEDURE THAT WOULD PRESERVE THE LIFE OF THE CHILD. SHE WAS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL ON GOOD FRIDAY AND THE BABY WAS DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING DAY.



GIANNA DIED A MARTYR OF MATERNAL LOVE ONE WEEK LATER. HER DAUGHTER, DR. GIANNA EMANUELA, SPEAKING AT THE 2nd INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE FAMILY, 35 YEARS LATER, PRAYED, "DEAR MOM... MY LIFE SEEKS TO BE THE NATURAL CONTINUATION OF YOUR LIFE, OF YOUR JOY OF LIVING, OF YOUR ENTHUSIASM..."



Bits & Pieces

GALA CONCERT to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, will be held Sun., **Feb. 10**, at 4:30 pm. The New Haven Chorale, University of Hartford's Hartt Chorale and St. Theresa Choirs will perform under the baton of Dr. Carolina Flores. For more information, contact the parish office at 203.261.3676 or visit www.sttheresatrumbull.org

ART SHOW celebrating love and St. Valentine's Day will be held Sun., **Feb. 10**, from 1-4 pm, at the Manice DeForest Lockwood Mansion, on the St. Philip Parish, Norwalk, campus. The free event will feature works from SPAG members and artists from throughout Fairfield County, and champagne and

chocolate tastings by local merchants. For more information, visit www.spagstudios.com.

WOMEN'S GROUP at Christ the King, Trumbull, will meet the second Mon. of the month (**Feb 11; Mar. 11**), at 10 am in the parish hall. All are welcome. For more information, call Pat: 203.261.8020.

PRAYING WITH IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, a six-week retreat sponsored by St. James Parish, Stratford, combines at-home study, prayer and reflection with group sharing on Wed. during Lent from 1-2 pm or 7-8 pm, beginning Wed., **Feb. 13**. Cost: \$10 includes book. For more information or to register, call 203.375.5775.

YEAR OF FAITH: the

Cathedral Parish of St. Augustine & St. Patrick, Bridgeport, is holding Holy Hours on the second Thurs. of the month (**Feb. 14; Mar. 14**) from 7-9 pm. In Feb. the Holy Hour will be held St. Augustine Cathedral; in March it will be held at St. Patrick's. All are welcome. For more information, call 203.368.6777 or 203.335.0106.

LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be presented by Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, campus ministry on Fri., **Feb. 15**, at 7 pm in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. For more information, contact Vinny Ebenau: ebenau@sacredheart.edu.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS are held at locations around the diocese. On Sat., **Feb. 16**, there will be a Day of Reflection at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, from 9 am-12:30 pm. Ultreyas will be held Thurs., **Feb. 21**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, at 7:30 pm; and Mon., **Mar. 4**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, at 7:30 pm. For more information, contact Jeanette: jkovacs@snet.net.

LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY celebration will be hosted by the Knights of Lithuania at St. George Parish, Bridgeport, on Sun., **Feb. 17**, starting with a Mass at 12 noon. For more information, call 203.878.0519.

MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE will be held at St. John Parish, Darien, on Wed., **Feb. 20**, at 7 pm with Fr. Ray Introvigne. Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request. Free will offering. For more information call the Spiritual Renewal Center: 860.887.0702

YEAR OF FAITH: St. Philip Parish, Norwalk, is holding a Vatican II discussion group the third Thurs. of each month (**Feb. 21**) from 7:30-9 pm. The Feb. topic will be the decree on the Vatican II document *Dei Verbum*, on Divine Revelation. For more information, call the parish: 203.847.4549.

MASSES OF HEALING AND HOPE sponsored by the Charismatic Renewal Office will be offered Thurs., **Feb. 21**, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Fr. Larry Carew; and Mon., **Mar. 18**, at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, with Fr. Bob Kwiatkowski. For more information, call 203.268.8253.

"LOVE SPOKEN HERE," a "night out" for marriage enrich-

ment, will be held Fri., **Feb. 22**, from 7-10 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Weston. Cost: \$15/couple. For more information, contact Angela Mantero, diocesan director of Marriage and Family: 203.416.1627 or amantero@diobpt.org.

MARIAN LADIES of St. George Church, Bridgeport, will meet the second and fourth Wed. of the month (**Feb. 27, Mar. 13**). After the 9 am Mass there will be a social, followed by the Rosary and a discussion of "Catholicism." For more information, call Pat: 203.261.8020.

SEMI-SILENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN: "Healing through the Stations of the Cross," directed by Fran Karpiej, OFS, will be held at St. Edmund's, Enders Island, Mystic, the weekend of **Mar. 22-24**. Retreat fills up quickly; registration requested by Fri., **Mar. 1**. To register, contact St. Edmund's: 860.536.0565, ext. 110, or visit www.endersisland.com.

WOMEN'S DAY OF RECOLLECTION: "Approaching God, Trusting Love" will be held at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, K of C building on Sat., **Mar. 2**, from 8 am-5:30 pm. Experience the love of the Trinity in the fellowship of women. Includes lunch and Mass. Suggested donation: \$25. Babysitting available. For more information or to register, call 203.426.2333.

IRISH NIGHT, featuring the Highland Rovers Band, The Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band, Once Removed, and TRAD with Damien Connolly will be held at Lauralton Hall, Milford, on Sat., **Mar. 2**, from 6:45-11 pm. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided. Bring your own beverages, ice and snacks. Cost: \$25; advance reservations necessary. For details contact Kathleen Donahue: 203.877.2786, ext. 114, or kdonahue@lauraltonhall.org

PRAYER BREAKFAST will be hosted by Magnificat Women's Ministry on Sat. **Mar. 9**, from 9:30 am-12:30 pm at Roberto's Restaurant, Monroe. Angela Rizzo will be the guest speaker. Cost: \$25; registration needed by Sat., **Mar. 2**. For more information, call Fran Hood: 203.744.1856 or s.m.hood@sbcglobal.net.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER, sponsored by the Kings of Columbus Council #14360 will be held at St. Matthew Parish, Norwalk, on

Sat., **Mar. 9**, at 7 pm. Irish menu (chicken tenders or macaroni & cheese for kids), cash bar, raffles & prizes. Cost: \$15 adults, \$6 kids under 10. Payment due by Mon., **Mar. 4**; no payments at the door. For more information, call George: 203.856.7101, or Scott: 203.838.2262.

SECULAR FRANCISCANS invite everyone to "A Franciscan Way of the Cross" with Fr. Norm Guilbert at St. Emery Parish, Fairfield, on Sat., **Mar. 9**, at 9 am. A meeting and social will follow this Lenten devotion. For more information, call 203.255.8801.

OVERNIGHT MEN'S RETREAT "Trust in me," sponsored by St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, will be held at the Nazareth Spiritual Life Center, Monroe, Sat., **Mar. 9**, 8 am-Sun., **Mar. 10**, 4:30 pm. Cost: \$150; includes four meals. Scholarships available. For more information or to register, contact Charlie Hattenbach: 914.413.2829 or tteh@aol.com.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY RETREAT: "Seasons of Faith Within the Mystery of God," with Pam Arsenault will be held Thurs., **Mar. 14**, at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, beginning with 9 am Mass. Suggested donation: \$25. For more information or to register, call 203.426.2333 or visit www.strochurch.com.

ANNUAL GALA for Immaculate High School will be held Sat., **Mar. 16**, at 6:30 pm at the Amber Room Colonnade, 1 Stacey Rd., Danbury. Msgr. Robert Weiss, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish, will be honored with the Nancy K. Dolan Leadership Award. Online registration now open; go to www.immaculatehs.org.

LENTEN MISSION: "A personal relationship with Jesus" with Fr. Bill McCarthy of My Father's House, will be held at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, Mon.-Wed., **Mar. 18-20**, at 7 pm. All are welcome. For more information, call the parish office: 203.268.8695.

A TASTE OF GOD'S GRACE, a day retreat for women featuring Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle and Allison Gingras will be held at the Holiday Inn, Danbury/Bethel, from 9 am-4 pm on Sat., **Mar. 23**. For more information or to register, call 508.243.1133 or visit www.reconciledtoyou.com. ■

CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Home PC & Mac Help

Magtype Computer Resources
A division of Magtype LLC

Computer Systems, Networks,
E-mail, Internet, Training & Tutoring

MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC DISCOUNT!

203.377.7908

www.magtypepcr.com

UNITED SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING, INC.

RESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DRAIN CLEANING

MUNICIPAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE • LICENSED & INSURED

377-8704

or
1-800-422-3724

Office: 534 Surf Avenue • Stratford

• CATCH BASIN CLEANING
• HIGH VELOCITY WATER JETTING
• LARGE DIAMETER POWER RODDING

• TV PIPE INSPECTION
• AIR TESTING
• JET RODDING
• VACTOR SERVICE



SINCE 1963



www.triplesclean.com

Oriental & Area Rugs

**2 FOR 1
CLEANING SALE**

Cash & Carry or
Pick Up & Delivery

Call for Details—Ends 3/16/13

Norwalk (203) 847-8000
Stamford (203) 327-7471
Stratford (203) 375-3737

THREE POWERFUL VOICES,
ONE POWERFUL FAITH

Age to Age: Generations of Faith

A concert event with



Steve Angrisano



Dan Schutte



Curtis Stephan

Friday, February 15, 2013 at 7:30pm

Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola, Fairfield University
1073 North Benson Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824

**Tickets available through the Fairfield University
Quick Center Box Office
(203) 254-4010 or www.fairfield.edu/tickets**

\$10 per ticket

Cosponsored by the Center for Catholic Studies at Fairfield University and St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Fairfield.
For more information call the Center for Catholic Studies at (203) 254-4000 ext. 3415



1-877-271-3786 | events@ocp.org | ocp.org/events



TRUST. VINCENT'S

Our "fingers" are on the pulse of cutting edge cardiac technology.

New advancements like minimally invasive robotic heart surgery and a comprehensive atrial fibrillation program allow our hard-working team to give the best care possible. But we are also the area leader in providing safe and compassionate care, and we have the national recognition to prove it.

It's another reason why you can always trust St. Vincent's.

www.stvincents.org

- **2013 HealthGrades Five-Star Award** Recipient for Coronary Interventional Procedures and Valve Surgery
- **"A" Hospital Safety Score** from the Leapfrog Group—one of two CT hospitals to receive this honor
- **Nursing Magnet®** recognition, the highest national honor for nursing excellence

St. Vincent's
Medical Center

