A new HOME for NCH

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A message from Bishop Caggiano

For the past year we’ve been walking a synod journey as it discerned the challenges ahead and a plan for the future. Now we are set to affirm the work of the synod at the Celebration Mass on September 19, at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport. We will come together in prayer to celebrate all we wish to accomplish and ask the Holy Spirit for the grace and strength to move forward.

When we speak of the Celebration Mass, we are talking about the closing of one chapter of the diocesan synod and opening the next with the implementation and seeds we plant to bear fruit. There is a need to celebrate this in a big way. There is no better way than to gather as a diocesan family of believers—people excited about being Catholic, people like you who believe in the future of our Church, and want to show the world the Church is alive and well and has a path to spiritual renewal.

What I really ask is simple: Are you willing to give up part of a Saturday to come together with people from every part of our diocese? Come together to worship the Lord, give him praise and give thanks and celebrate.

“There is enough bad news in the world! This is the time for us to talk about the Good News of Jesus Christ and Our Faith in the Church!”—Come and lend your heart and voice all that you are to this great expression of faith in the Lord and the Church.

I encourage you to participate in this exciting event in the life of the diocese. Please register online now to help us plan for this most joyful day: www.2014synod.org/tickets.

Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano,
Bishop of Bridgeport
Bishop’s Scholarship Fund

$2 million in aid distributed to diocesan families

BRIDGEPORT—The Bishop’s Scholarship Fund (BSF) has awarded over $2 million in scholarship aid to students in Catholic elementary schools throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport, according to Siobhan Lidington, executive director of the fund.

In June, more than 1,800 students received notification of their scholarship amounts. The funds were distributed to families at all income levels throughout the diocese.

“This fund is truly transformational because it supports the decision of all families in our diocese who want a Catholic education for their children,” Lidington said, noting that the diocese will continue taking new applications for aid over the summer.

Over $350,000 was awarded to families with more than one child enrolled in Catholic schools regardless of their income. Over 300 new students received aid, while almost $1 million was given to families who did not qualify for aid in the past.

Students demonstrating the most need were awarded up to 85 percent of the full tuition cost, an increase of $1,000 over past awards.

When the fund was announced in January, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano noted that in addition to inner-city families who could not afford the cost of a Catholic education, many suburban families were also struggling to meet the cost of tuition, particularly if they have more than one child in diocesan schools.

“We want these and all families to know that they can benefit from scholarship aid,” said the bishop. He noted that the fund is designed to award scholarships of varying amounts to as many students as possible who otherwise could not attend or remain enrolled in the diocesan-sponsored Catholic school of their choice because of financial need.

The scholarship fund, which was approved by the Diocesan Consultants in December 2014, substantially creates a new financial model for diocesan assistance to schools.

Lidington said the BSF was initially capped at $1.4 million for its first year, but the diocese received a gift enabling it to distribute $2 million. She said that one hundred percent of all the funds raised are distributed for scholarship aid. The Bishop’s Scholarship Fund is a permanent fund designed to provide tuition assistance on an annual basis for students to attend our diocesan-sponsored schools.

The first year of the funding has been reserved for elementary school students. High school students will also be able to apply for scholarship aid in 2016.

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

Families can apply for scholarships each year for as long as the student attends a diocesan elementary or high school.

The Bishop’s Scholarships will be funded each year through direct donations and a new Scholarship Fund Dinner, along with revenue from the Annual Catholic Appeal, the Faith in the Future Fund, and a redistribution of existing parish educational contributions.

(For more info or to make a donation, contact Siobhan Lidington: 203.416.1403 or slidington@diepct.org)

Bishop Caggiano leads ‘Krakow Kickoff’

WASHINGTON D.C., (CNA/EWTN News)–For those pilgrims thinking about participating in World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland, Bishop Frank Caggiano has a message: It will be worth the sacrifice.

Serving as World Youth Day Liaison for the U.S. bishops, he acknowledged that attending the global gathering in Poland next summer will have a cost—not only in money, but also in time and the hardships of traveling to a foreign country.

However, he told CNA, “it is in the sacrifice that you intimately meet the Lord.” Upon reaching Krakow, the fruits of the sacrifice are seen: “that you’re in solidarity, that there are millions like you who are making the same sacrifice.”

“I think one of the great debilitations of contemporary life for young people, and those of us older, is that we ask ourselves: are we the only ones doing this? Who else out there thinks faith matters?” he remarked.

But when at World Youth Day, “you stand with two and a half million people, young people. Then you have your answer.”

“I invite every Catholic young person, every Catholic young adult, every leader in our Church to come together and embark with me on this great pilgrimage of faith and mercy,” the bishop told those gathered at the shrine.

World Youth Day is an international pilgrimage of young people from around the world, which includes opportunities for catechesis, prayer, sacraments, song, and fellowship. The event culminates with a prayer vigil and Mass with the Pope.

Instituted by St. John Paul II in 1985, the international gatherings are held every 2-3 years and have drawn crowds of up to 5 million. Some 30,000 are expected to attend World Youth Day 2016 from the U.S., and the anticipated overall attendance is 2.5 million. The theme will be “Blessed Are the Merciful.”

Bishop Caggiano sees World Youth Day 2016 as an invitation for all young people to encounter Christ’s transformative mercy. He hopes attendees “have two experiences.”

The first, he said, is “that they themselves will be touched somewhere deep inside of them. That in the part of their heart which is still perhaps secret, in a part of their lives which they may still be embarrassed at what has happened and what they did, where they still wonder whether God can love them, knowing what they know—that part of what will happen is they’ll be touched and realize that God knew it all along and still loves them.”

“And equally important, so what they have gotten, they give away,” he added. “To love and not expect something in return. Only someone who has experienced mercy can give mercy that way.”

The bishop encouraged those still who will attend World Youth Day to start their spiritual preparation now through prayer and service. He suggested that they reflect on Jesus’ Transfiguration, and act as if they were climbing the mountain now with Peter, James and John to see Christ transfigured at the top.

For the three apostles, the Transfiguration of Jesus began the “rest of their life of faith,” he said. In a similar way, by making the pilgrimage and encountering God’s mercy at World Youth Day, young people today can be transformed and begin a new chapter in their life of faith as well.

It is “essential” that bishops travel with pilgrims from their respective dioceses, Bishop Caggiano added.

“The young people, young adults, relate to them as spiritual fathers,” he said. “The bishop is the sign of unity and authentically, the symbol, sacramentally, of the Father’s love for his people.”

See the story on page 5 for registration information on the Diocese of Bridgeport’s preparations for sending a delegation to World Youth Day. There are still some openings available.
World Youth Day

Diocese to take large delegation to Poland

BRIDGEPORT—More than 250 young people and chaperones have registered to take part in the diocesan pilgrimage to World Youth Day next July in Krakow, Poland.

The diocese hopes to take a delegation of 300 to the event and has awarded $200,000 in financial aid to help area youth afford the airfare and lodging costs.

The financial aid was made possible by donors who designated their Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) gift to send young people to World Youth Day.

The number of area youth who have registered for the worldwide event surged this summer when Bishop Caggiano posted a video to his Facebook page discussing the importance of the event and the great opportunity for spiritual growth and formation it offers to young people.

In recognition of the key role that social media has played in getting the word out and building registration for the event, Bishop Caggiano has asked John Grosso of Stamford, the diocese social media leader, to serve as coordinator of diocesan efforts.

Grosso said that registration for the event is temporarily suspended as the diocese reassesses its numbers. Those still interested should put their name on the wait list. Grosso anticipates that, moving forward, more spots will open up.

“The bishop’s commitment and national leadership on this issue have created a great deal of enthusiasm in our diocese,” said Grosso. “There will be a second wave of financial aid awarded at the beginning of August. If you are still interested in attending, stay tuned for more information on our wait list and openings in the coming days.”

The 12-day trip begins on Thursday, July 21, 2016. The trip will include a visit to the German concentration camp Auschwitz. After stopping there, the group is hoping to make a brief visit to Wadowice, the hometown of John Paul II.

On July 27, the group will welcome Pope Francis to Krakow. The diocesan delegation will also attend a candlelight vigil and outdoor Mass with the Pope.

“I can promise you that World Youth Day will be an incredible, life-changing week, and one that you will never forget,” the bishop said in his Facebook post.

Grosso said that while hotel and flight costs are still being negotiated, the diocese is figuring on $3,600 per person for the trip, including all transportation, lodging, WYD registration and meals.

Grosso will work with the diocesan World Youth Day Committee to plan the details of the pilgrimage, future meetings, and pre-WYD formation, which will begin in January 2016.

(For more info and links to registration, visit the Diocese of Bridgeport World Youth Day website: www.bridgeportdiocese.com. Announcements will also be made on twitter (@diobpt_wyd)! John Grosso can be reached at jgrosso@diobpt.org with any and all questions.)
Televised Mass returns to Cablevision

HARTFORD—Viewers who have missed watching the Celebration of the Eucharist daily Television Mass for the past couple of years will be able to see it again every day of the week at 10 am on Cablevision’s Channel 84 serving Fairfield County.

Starting Sunday, July 26, 2015 the popular program returns to Cablevision on the Local Programming Channel, Channel 84, for half an hour Monday through Saturday and on Sunday for an hour that also includes news from the Office of Radio and Television (ORTV) of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

“This is wonderful news for the Diocese of Bridgeport,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

“It will be a tremendous gift to the elderly, sick and infirm who cannot travel to Mass on Sunday,” The bishop said he was deeply grateful to Father John Gatzak, executive director of ORTV for all of his efforts to bring the Mass back to Cablevision. Father Gatzak and the ORTV production team will also produce the live broadcast of the Synod Celebration Mass on Saturday, September 19, (broadcast details will be provided in the next issue of FCC).

“So many people who can’t get to church, whether they’re recovering from an operation or homebound because they don’t drive anymore, tell me how much they appreciate hearing the Good News of Jesus and feel reassured of God’s love for them by watching the Mass each day,” Father Gatzak says.

Now fragile seniors and shut-ins will have the consolation of faith available to them again. The Celebration of the Eucharist has aired every day since 1984, but was not available on Cablevision in recent years.

“We’re very happy to be again reaching our loyal viewers in Fairfield County,” says Father Gatzak, who will include priests from the Diocese of Bridgeport among the celebrants of the televised liturgy. “Bishop Caggiano plans to celebrate Mass on television in the near future.”

The offices and studios of ORTV and WJMJ Radio, a service of the Archdiocese of Hartford, are located at 15 Peach Orchard Road in Prospect.

The Celebration of the Eucharist is still available to those who receive WCCT-TV, channel 20’s over-the-air signal with an external antenna, or get WCCT on Dish TV or Direct TV service or from another local cable provider. It can also be viewed live each day at 10 am or on-demand at anytime at: www.ortv.org by choosing “Television” on the “Programming” menu item.
Feeding the Hungry in Stamford

New Covenant House opens new facility

STAMFORD—New Covenant House of Hospitality (NCH) has opened the doors to its new facility, and guests as well as volunteers are saying that it has the feel of both a restaurant and supermarket serving the poor and hungry.

The new 8,000 square foot facility at 174 Richmond Hill Ave. (diagonally across from its previous Yerwood Center location) has come a long way from its origin as a “soup kitchen” that served its first meal in 1978 in the basement of 66 West Main Street. The facility includes a state-of-the-art kitchen, and welcoming dining area with seating for 72 guests. One of the most significant changes to New Covenant House is the spacious food pantry, which is now in an expanded space. It features six shopping aisles and 2 side-by-side refrigerators/freezers, allowing New Covenant House to provide fresh and frozen foods in addition to dry grocery items.

After much planning and preparation, New Covenant House moved to its new location and into a new era on June 22.

FOOD SHOPPING—The new New Covenant House of Hospitality site allows for a “supermarket” approach to its food pantry service. Individuals and families who register and qualify can now “shop” for fresh produce and other groceries. The 8,000 square foot facility opens the doors on a new era of food services that empowers guests.

Board members and staff have proudly led tours of the new site that will not only improve the quality of nutrition but also provide the space for support services that helps guests to address legal, housing, medical and employment issues.

“The new site is the fulfillment of both a vision and a plan,” said Al Barber, president/CEO of Catholic Charities, which sponsors the NCH. “It represents the hard work, good will and generosity of donors, volunteers and all those who have helped us move forward in our mission of walking alongside the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.”

Barber said the move was made possible by the “Funding the Future” Capital Campaign led by the advisory board, which has raised nearly $1.4 million in its first year. “The new site is the fulfillment of both a vision and a plan,” Barber said. “It’s a dream come true.”

NCH serves lunch and dinner, Monday to Saturday and lunch on Sunday. Additionally, there is a breakfast-to-go program daily.

Funded over 37 years ago, The soup kitchen benefits from the commitment of hundreds of interfaith volunteers, who help to prepare and serve three meals a day.

(Contributions to the capital campaign can be made at: nchstamford.org/capital-campaign, or send a check to: New Covenant House Capital Campaign PO Box 10883, Stamford, CT 06904. For more info, phone 203.964.8228.)
Priest Ordination

Father Carl Dennis McIntosh

By FATHER COLIN MCKENNA

An overcast day could not keep Deacon Carl McIntosh from smiling. As the 11 am ordination Mass drew ever closer, his smile and his spirit provided the light that the clouds tried to conceal.

When Bishop Frank J. Caggiano laid his hands on the head of a kneeling Deacon Carl McIntosh in St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport, priestly ontological change was impressed upon his soul. In that instant, Deacon Carl McIntosh became Father Carl McIntosh.

“We came here this morning to celebrate the gift that Deacon Carl McIntosh is to the Church,” Bishop Caggiano had said at the outset of the ordination Mass. Now the diocese and the universal Church celebrate together the ordination of a newly-minted Catholic priest. Father McIntosh’s ordination also had some historical significance. At 64, he is the oldest man to be ordained a priest this year in the United States.

In his homily, Bishop Caggiano spoke of the outpouring of God’s grace in the Sacrament of Ordination. “Carl, in a few moments, by the imposition of my hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, you will enter into a great mystery. You are going to be configured to Christ, the crucified and Risen Priest. And from this moment unto all eternity, Christ will press upon your very soul the gift of his priesthood.

“It is a mystery that you and I, and every single one of us in this Church ordained to priesthood are neither worthy of nor can be ever fully prepared to live... As you will prostrate yourself in just a few moments here, before the altar, which is Calvary in grace; when you rise from this place you must remember, my brother, what I must remind myself each day: it is Christ I honor, Christ I serve, and Christ whom, through his grace, I will make present in the world through my priestly life.”

Father McIntosh celebrated his first Mass the following morning at St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton.

St. Vincent’s remembers loved ones lost to cancer

BRIDGEPORT—St. Vincent’s SWIM Across the Sound cancer charity will sponsor the 18th Annual Interfaith Memorial Service on Sunday, July 26, at Captain’s Cove Seaport in Bridgeport. The event is open to all members of the community who have lost a loved one to cancer regardless of hospital affiliation.

The service provides an opportunity for families and friends to heal after the loss of loved ones, and to acknowledge the importance and contribution of every life. Highlighting the service is the reading of names of deceased loved ones submitted by participants, followed by the symbolic scattering of sunflowers, representing each person and the glory of life, onto Long Island Sound. The service includes prayer, musical tributes by bagpiper David Curtis, the “Just Voices Chorus,” and Trumbull native Tyler Cervini, inspirational readings by St. Vincent’s leadership and oncology staff, an honor guard from the Knights of Columbus and a symbolic candle-lighting ceremony.

GIFT OF THE PRIESTHOOD—On Saturday, July 27, Bishop Caggiano ordained Carl McIntosh of New York City to the priesthood at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. At 64, Father McIntosh is the oldest man to be ordained in the U.S. Church this year.

A TIME OF JOY—The newly-ordained Father McIntosh with his 93 year old father, Leonard.

SUNFLOWERS SYMBOLIZING LIFE—The Annual St. Vincent’s Swim Across the Sound Memorial Service at Captain’s Cove in Bridgeport is a time for prayer, music, and remembrance symbolized by sunflowers cast upon the water.

LIFE. That will be your mission from this day forward. “You are going to become a minister of the sanctification of God’s people. You will take bread and wine, and through the power of the Risen Lord, that bread and wine will become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Crucified Lord. We will be fed with the Bread of Life.”

Father McIntosh celebrated his first Mass the following morning at St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton.
Communities of Faith

St. Peter Parish says farewell to Msgr. Villamide

By MARIA MUNIZ

Msgr. Aniceto Villamide ended his pastoral mission as pastor of St. Peter Parish on June 30, after 30 years of service in the Diocese of Bridgeport. On June 28, St. Peter’s honored their pastor in a very special way. Starting at 7:30 am, Monsignor was serenaded with the mañanitas sung by his parishioners, followed by a moment of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament where everyone knelt and prayed for their pastor. A special solemn Mass of Thanksgiving was offered, concelebrated by several priests and deacons from this diocese and from Washington, D.C.

The church was filled to capacity with parishioners and friends, including some from as far as Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and New York. They came to pray for this special priest, a unique man, a man of faith, a man of God, and a holy priest. During his homily, Monsignor thanked his parishioners for allowing him to walk with them the journey of faith for the past 30 years. The Apostolic Papal Blessing was presented to Monsignor by his parishioners, and the children of the parish sang a special song to him. After the Mass, a reception took place in the church hall, where Monsignor was received by a mariachi band and hundreds of parishioners and friends shared their love, support and well-wishes to their very special shepherd. A dinner reception took place at Vazzano’s Four Seasons that evening with a program that included dances, poems, songs, presentations, and gifts. This was an extremely emotional day for everyone, especially for Monsignor Villamide.

Monsignor is a true disciple and missionary of Christ. He was born and raised in Spain, as far as Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and New York. He worked with other groups in New York and New England to show people how to love Jesus in a more profound and authentic way. The seed he has sown has produced much fruit. St. Peter’s is a community of strong faith thanks to his hard work, commitment, and dedication. The parish has adults and youth who are well prepared, with the ability to be good leaders in the Church thanks to his leadership. St. Peter’s is the loving community it is today thanks to Monsignor Villamide.

So, we don’t say goodbye, we say “THANK YOU!” Thank you for all the good you have done for these past 30 years. We have been blessed for having you as our spiritual father and as our friend. We know that every stage in life must come to an end, and this is your time. We love you and we will miss you!

The Lord has blessed you with many gifts and talents, and you still have much to give to the Church. We know that God has plans for you in Spain. May God continue to bless you and may our Blessed Mother guide and protect you as you embark this new chapter in your life.

Chilean Catholics honor their patron saint at St. Charles

BRIDGEPORT—Five years ago, five Chilean women felt the need to observe a devotion they had learned at their mother’s knee in their homeland. Grown from their determination, this year at St. Charles Borromeo Church, for the feast in honor of Our Lady of Carmen (La Virgen del Carmen), people came from as far away as Boston, Long Island, and New Jersey to celebrate the patroness of Chile with a Mass with familiar hymns, children in traditional costumes, offerings of flowers, and a celebration afterward overflowing with festivities, folklore and food.

“The Chilean community in this area is small and scattered,” says Valeria Figueuera, one of the women spearheading the feast day Mass. “We don’t have one parish where we are concentrated.”

Figueuera, a parishioner at St. Fius X Parish in Fairfield, is, ironically, a native of Brazil. Her husband, Gabriel, is Chilean and she feels part of his family here.

In a way, her experience exemplifies that of other newcomers to this country. While the wider English-speaking population tends to use the term “Hispanic” as if all Spanish-speakers were of the same background, the actuality is far different. St. Charles already has a statue of La Providencia, Our Lady of Providence, the patroness of Puerto Rico. Puerto Ricans formed the earliest Spanish-speaking group at the parish. The Virgen of Caeacua, patroness of Paraguay, is prominently displayed. A large image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who has a strong following among Mexicans, adorns a side niche. Celebrations on feast days honor Our Lady with the customs of each community and enrich the life of the parish.

The celebration of Our Lady of Carmen is the latest addition to parish life. The statue of Our Lady of Carmen was brought directly from that country by the Consul General in New York, who was present for this year’s celebration. “Our Lady of Carmen is our mother,” says Gloria Reyes. “For us, the chance to celebrate our patron saint is huge.”

Most Chileans are completely bilingual, as comfortable in English as in Spanish. For those who wish it, two Masses are celebrated in Spanish each Sunday at St. Charles. “This is about more than language,” says Father Thomas Simisky, SJ, who celebrated the Mass. Now the president of Fairfield Prep, he was formerly a missionary in Chile. “This is about their culture, their heritage. This is a chance to enjoy together the great patrones of Chile.”

(For more info on the Chilean group at St. Charles, contact Valeria Figueuera: gvf1607@hotmail.com or Mabel Soto: mabel.greenwich@hotmail.com.)
Consecrated Life
Sister Jude Carroll

For our ongoing coverage of the Year of Consecrated Life, the Communications Department has featured young religious and jubilarians, several women and one man. Through them we get a snapshot of the wide variety of skills, interests and background of people who have answered God’s call to religious life. Some entered their order directly after completing school, others, like Sister Jude Carroll, spent time in the business world first, searching before discerning the life that would give them so much joy.

Name: Sister Jude Carroll, CSFN
Hometown: Stamford, Connecticut
Order/Institute/Congregation: Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

Years in Vowed Profession: 34
Ministry, now or formerly: DRE/pastoral associate(retreat and spiritual director

A favorite image or title for Jesus that resonates with me: a true shepherd
Person who influenced my faith life: Too many to name
A Connecticut place I especially like: University of Connecticut, Storrs
If I could have lunch with a saint it would be: St. Bernadette

What “rocks my world” today: Pope Francis and Bishop Caggiano who give us a breath of fresh air in the Church and a sense of hope for the future.

Something I most appreciate about community life: When someone is struggling, especially when there’s a loss, the community gathers around.

SISTER JUDE CARROLL at 2014 Synod of the Diocese of Bridgeport, where she served as a delegate.

An interesting fact about me: I was the manager of a Social Security Office on Barnum Avenue when God called me to religious life. A second fact is that I was a patient at Engelwood Hospital, now the Catholic Center 1950 when I contracted Polio.

I really like this author: Edwina Gateley

Slogan that I would give to someone considering choosing consecrated life: If you feel the call, try it out. There’s a lot of time before vows to truly discern if it’s right for you.

The Pearl
by Sister Jude Carroll, CSFN
The gift of vocation in Nazareth: a gold mine.
Who wouldn’t sell all they own for what I have found?
Life—real life!
Struggles for sure, but more joy than pain, more life than death.
Joy is the echo of the kingdom!
In weakness I am made strong.
Imperfection knows its need for Him.
The pearl makes it all worthwhile.
Nowhere would I have found Him as I have in Nazareth.
Life and love blossoming in Nazareth’s womb.
The gift of vocation in Nazareth: a gold mine.
Who wouldn’t sell all they own?
For what I have found?

Schedule of Pope Francis in the U.S.

Here is the schedule for Pope Francis’ September 2015 Apostolic Journey to the United States of America as released by the Vatican on June 30, 2015. All times listed are Eastern Daylight Time.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 (WASHINGTON, DC)
4:00 pm Arrival from Cuba at Joint Base Andrews

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 (WASHINGTON, DC)
9:15 am Welcome ceremony and meeting with President Obama at the White House
11:30 am Midday Prayer with the bishops of the United States, St. Matthew’s Cathedral
4:15 pm Mass of Canonization of Junipero Serra, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 (WASHINGTON, DC, NEW YORK CITY)
9:20 am Address to Joint Session of Congress
11:15 am Visit to St. Patrick in the City and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington
4:00 pm Depart from Joint Base Andrews
5:00 pm Arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport
6:45 pm Evening Prayer (Vespers) at St. Patrick’s Cathedral

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 (NEW YORK CITY)
8:30 am Visit and Address to the United Nations
11:30 am Multi-religious service at 9/11 Memorial and Museum, World Trade Center
4:00 pm Visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels, East Harlem
6:00 pm Mass at Madison Square Garden

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 (NEW YORK CITY, PHILADELPHIA)
8:40 am Departure from JFK International Airport
9:30 am Arrival at Atlantic Aviation, Philadelphia
10:30 am Mass at Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia
4:45 pm Visit to Independence Mall
7:30 pm Visit to the Festival of Families Benjamin Franklin Parkway

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 (PHILADELPHIA)
9:15 am Meeting with bishops at at St. Martin’s Chapel, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
11:00 am Visit to Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility
4:00 pm Mass for the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families, Benjamin Franklin Parkway
7:00 pm Visit with organizers, volunteers and benefactors of the World Meeting of Families, Atlantic Aviation
8:00 pm Departure for Rome

2015 Winter Open House
1 pm – 4 pm
Sunday, October 18

2015 Fall Open House
5 pm – 8 pm
Friday, October 23

2015 Entrance Exam Dates
Saturdays
October 31, November 14
8 am – 11:30 am

2-Day High School Placement Test Prep Course
Friday, October 23
6 pm – 9 pm
Saturday, October 24
9 am – 1 pm

HSPT Prep Course
Students are invited to stay for lunch and football game on Saturday, October 24.
Register online now at SJCadets.org/admissions (Entrance Exam Prep Course)

For more information or to set up a private tour, please call the Admissions Office at 203-378-9378 admissions@sjcadets.org

25 SURROUNDING TOWNS
Choose St Joe’s

2120 Huntington Turnpike
Trumbull, CT 06611
203-378-9378 (ext. 455)
www.sjcadets.org
www.bridgeportschools.com

2015 Open House Dates
5th Grade and up welcome
Fall Open House Sunday, October 18
1 pm – 4 pm
Winter Open House Wednesday, December 2
7 pm – 8:30 pm

St. Joseph High School
**EDITORIAL**

**Summer Pilgrimage**

Many of us have hit the road for summer vacation, whether relaxing on the beach or taking on more adventurous travel. In parishes throughout the diocese, people are taking pilgrimages to holy sites around the globe. Among the summer pilgrims is Bishop Frank Caggiano, who has just returned from a pilgrimage to sites in southern Italy. His trip occasioned this reflection on immigration and the pilgrim church.

“I am beginning the first full day of pilgrimage today here in Argrigento, a city located in the southern portion of Sicily, which includes the port city of Lampedusa where many immigrant refugees fleeing poverty and religious persecution in Africa make the dangerous crossing over the Mediterranean Sea to find hope and freedom in Italy. It is the same city that was made famous by a recent visit by our Holy Father who wishes to draw the world’s attention to the plight of these refugees.

“The origins of the city lie over 2,900 years ago. Argrigento was the first Greek outpost in what is now Sicily, established as a trading post. Its ruins are famous and some of the best preserved in all of Europe. “The fact that this city has been the home of immigrants for over three millennia provides us a powerful spiritual lesson. For in the end, are we not all immigrants, traveling on a spiritual journey from this life to the glory of eternity? Even though we may be rooted in a country for generations, those roots do not last. The only roots that matter are those that will give us the privilege to enjoy eternal life with the Lord in the glory of Heaven. Our lasting city is heaven, not any place on earth. As such, it is time for the peoples of the world to stop treating each other as enemies, somehow trespassing on each other’s territory and realize that we are all pilgrims, all immigrants, all travelers to a far greater land that is not our own.”

Editor’s note. The bishop’s reflection first appeared on Facebook at “Bishop Caggiano.” You can also follow the bishop on twitter: @bishopcaggiano.

**EDITOR’S CHOICE**

**Caroline House promotes women in literacy program**

BRIDGEPORT—Caroline House, an education center teaching literacy and life skills to economically disadvantaged immigrant women and children, who have promoted over 80 women in their Mother and Child Literacy Program. Students study for two years in English as a Second Language and life skills classes, while their small children are taken care of in the Caroline House preschool program. Women in every level receive a promotion certificate for their accomplishment.

“Many congratulations to the women for a job well done,” Caroline House Board member Alexis Yates said. “We applaud all of your effort and hard work.”

Since opening its doors over 19 years ago, Caroline House has nurtured and educated hundreds of women and children. All programs and services are provided free of charge.

(Foundations, corporations, and individual donors provide the financial support for Caroline House. For more info, go to www.thecarolinehouse.org.)

**CLERGY APPOINTMENTS**

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

**ADMINISTRATOR**

REVEREND JOSE BERAQUE, S.A.C., Parochial Vicar, Saint Peter Parish, Bridgeport, to Administrator, Saint Peter Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date was July 1.

**PAROCHIAL VICAR**

REVEREND ANTHONY JOHN BRITTO, new to the Diocese, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Joseph Parish, Shelton. Effective date was July 2.

**HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN**

REVEREND DONALD ANYAGWA, new to the Diocese, to Chaplain at Stamford Hospital, temporarily residing at Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford. Effective date was July 15.

**CHAPLAIN**

REVEREND GONZAGUE LEOUX, new to the Diocese, to Episcopal Chaplain, Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford. Father Leroux will reside at Saint John Fisher Seminary, Stamford. Effective date is August 1.

REVEREND ELIO SOSA, I.V.E., to part-time Chaplain, University of Bridgeport. Father Sosa will continue to serve as Administrator of Saint George Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date was June 1.

REVEREND ANDREW VILL, to Diocesan Scout Chaplain for the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boys Scouts of America. Father Vill will continue to serve as Parochial Vicar at The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford. Effective date was July 1.

**RESIDENCE**

REVEREND ALBERT WATTS, to Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford. Effective date was July 8.

REVEREND MONSIGNOR ROGER WATTS, to Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford. Effective date was July 8.

**DEACON**

REVEREND MR. PHILIP LANE, PHAN, newly ordained to Deacon, Saint John Parish, Darien. Effective date was June 20-July 11.

REVEREND MR. ERIC SILVA, newly ordained to Deacon, Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Weston. Effective date was June 20-August 9.

Rv. Ian Jeremiah, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy July/August, 2015

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Family vacation

By Denise Bossert

Denise Bossert is a national Catholic writer and columnist.

We spend our time bickering about the details and worrying about the unforeseen events and very little goes as planned. The magical moments, those moments that we will remember and cherish twenty years from now, are almost always the moments we didn’t see coming. The ice cream cone on our last night. The insomnia that sent us to the window where we had a midnight view of Lake Michigan. The afternoon nap in Florida that wasn’t planned but came so full and so deep that we woke up and wondered where we were. Like when we were children. And then we smiled.

In the moment our vacation takes us where we didn’t plan, it looks more like a pilgrimage. And that’s when we realize we really needed a pilgrimage and not a vacation in the first place.

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Family vacation

Editors

Mourning the Death of False Idols

By Matthew Hennessey

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

Poor Atticus Finch. Once a hero to millions, now a flawed human being—just like the rest of us.

In Go Set a Watchman, Harper Lee’s unexpected pre/sequel to her beloved 1960 novel To Kill a Mockingbird, the fictional Finch, small-town lawyer and conscience of a nation, showed his young daughter Scout what it meant to be a just man in an unjust world.

Now, in Watchman, Scout is all grown up and Atticus has turned into a cranky, old, Southern, white man, infected by all the mid-century racist presuppositions that those adjectives imply. He has become what no one expected him to become—the opposite of what he was. In the real world, there has been outrage at this fictional change of character. There has been disappointment. Australian journalist Terry Barnes declared he wouldn’t read the new book because of its depiction of his idol, Finch.

“The principled, color-blind Atticus Finch of To Kill a Mockingbird is a person all of us should strive to be. Certainly that Atticus has inspired countless people entering public life, be they politicians, lawyer, community advocate or journalist,” he wrote.

Barnes left one profession off his list. I can’t imagine a father anywhere in the world reading To Kill a Mockingbird or watching Gregory Peck’s performance in the 1962 film version and not measuring himself against Atticus Finch.

“I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand,” Atticus tells his son, Jem. “It’s when you know you’re licked before you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do.”

On the one hand, the fall of Finch is bad news for all. It confirms what was long suspected: nothing good lasts; everything turns sour. Something in our character demands that exalted idols be brought down to earth.

The title of Go Set a Watchman is drawn from the Bible, the book of Isaiah, chapter 26. It’s the story of the fall of Babylon.

“For thus my Lord said to me: ‘Go, station a watchman, let him tell what he sees . . . Then the watchman cried . . . ‘Fallen, fallen is Babylon! All the images of her gods are smashed to the ground!’”

As Daniel Patrick Moynihan once remarked, “To be Irish is to know that in the end the world will break your heart.” But you don’t actually need to be Irish to appreciate that sentiment.

Think of Charles Lindbergh. Think of Lance Armstrong.

Think of Bill Cosby.

Think of all the Catholic clergy implicated in the sexual abuse scandal. Think of Adam and Eve.

Think of your own fallen nature.

Think, now, of Atticus Finch.

The Watchmen business is troubling. On the other hand, it offers the reflective parent a lesson in humility. None of us are on the side of the angels all the time. And, just because we were once right, doesn’t mean we’re always right—or righteous.

Think of your own mom and dad. When you’re young, they seem all-powerful, all-knowing. Eventually you develop the ability to see them as they are—regular, flawed, human people. The mistakes they made were human mistakes. Maybe they let us down here and there, but they did the best they could.

The only one who will never let us down is our God. Only he is all-powerful, all-knowing. He supplies the time that can heal broken hearts. He supplies the courage we need to face our fears.

He is the face of true justice, the model of true fatherhood.
SHU announces new College of Nursing

FAIRFIELD—Sacred Heart University has announced the creation of a new College of Nursing, effective July 1. The College of Nursing will join the University’s other five colleges: the Jack Welch College of Business, the Isabelle Farrington College of Education, the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Health Professions and University College.

“This is the logical next step for our long-standing and rapidly growing nursing program,” said SHU President John J. Petillo in his announcement. He also announced that Mary Alice Donius, PhD, current director of the School of Nursing, will be the dean of the new college.

In June, the university broke ground on a new building to house its Colleges of Health Professions and Nursing. The Center for Healthcare Education will be three stories comprising 117,000 square feet on 8.7 acres.

“The new facility will expand significantly on the amount of space available for practice and learning,” noted Dr. Donius. “There will be opportunities for our nursing students not only to practice on state-of-the-art manikins, but to collaborate on cases with students in the other health professional disciplines. This will ensure that students in all the disciplines will be prepared for the kind of interactions they will experience when they begin to work in professional health-care settings.”

For the fall semester, the College of Nursing will have approximately 500 undergraduate and close to 900 graduate nursing students. About half of the 1,400 students are online students. The college will employ 30 full-time faculty members.

The decision to transition the university’s School of Nursing into a College of Nursing reflects the program’s steady growth over the past 35 years. It is also a reflection of the growing need for health care professionals as people live longer and the baby boomer generation continues to age, Donius said.

“We are very proud of our world-class nursing program. Our award-winning nursing faculty members are known for their clinical expertise, initiatives in global health and use of state-of-the-art technology,” she said. “We are focusing on all levels of nursing education to meet the needs of our students and the marketplace. Our programs range from the first professional degree, which emphasizes patient and community care and readiness for the nursing licensure exam to our master’s programs that prepare nurse practitioners, nurse educators and nurse administrators to provide advanced primary care right through to the doctorate of nursing that teaches students to engage in problem-solving and health-care system issues at the highest level.”

The university’s nursing program was launched in 1980 as an RN to BSN program in which registered nurses with nursing diplomas could receive their bachelor’s degree. Today, it offers a wide range of academic programs, first professional degree students, a campus-based family nurse practitioner program, a doctorate of nursing practice, a nursing program designed specifically for onsite students and several programs for online students, including RN to BSN, RN to MSN and MSN programs in three different tracks: nursing management and executive leadership, clinical nurse leader and nurse educator. All of SHU’s nursing programs are accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

SHU established the School of Nursing within the College of Health Professions in the fall of 2013. In the two years since then, the program has grown from 1,100 students to today’s 1,400 with continued growth projected for the future.

“The transition to a College of Nursing will help us compete nationally with nursing colleges—not only for the best undergraduate nursing students, but also for the most talented master’s and doctoral students and doctoral-level faculty members,” noted Laura Niesen de Abruña, provost and vice president of academic affairs at SHU. “Nursing has always been recognized as a practice and profession, but this gives it recognition as an academic discipline as well.”

She also emphasized the strength of SHU’s online nursing programs. “We are drawing students and faculty from all over the country. Our online nursing faculty are full-time professors who are committed to Sacred Heart and are available and responsive to our students.”

Dr. Donius came to Sacred Heart one year ago, having previously served as dean of the School of Nursing at the College of New Rochelle for seven years. Her prior experience includes director of Medical Center Education for Sound Shore Medical Center in New Rochelle, N.Y. A graduate of D’Youville College with a bachelor of science in nursing, Dr. Donius holds a master of education and doctor of education from Columbia University Teachers College, and a post-master’s certificate in holistic nursing from The College of New Rochelle. Her previous experience also includes a faculty practice at Sound Shore Medical Center in New Rochelle and clinician and educator positions in a variety of hospital settings and at the Columbia University School of Nursing, where she was director of the undergraduate program.

Her research interests include the development of an attitude scale to measure caring as a three-dimensional construct of compassion, empathy and altruism, and the design and implementation of a caring-healing nursing practice model intended to increase patient satisfaction and support nursing recruitment and retention.

(For more Sacred Heart University news, visit www.sacredheart.edu/aboutshu/news.)
Kolbe Cathedral HS 50-Year Legacy

‘2015 Making a Difference’ ensures excellence

By NORMA K. DARRAGH

The “2015 Making a Difference Celebration” resonated the success of the first and the promise of the next fifty years at Kolbe Cathedral High School. Held in Greenwich, the event featured a liturgical celebration in honor of the late Msgr. Frank C. Wissel at St. Mary Parish, followed by dinner at Gabriele’s Italian Steakhouse. The net profits of the celebration exceeded $125,000, which will benefit the Monsignor Frank C. Wissel and Jonathan O’Herron, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Funds.

Kolbe Cathedral “makes a difference” in the lives of a diverse student population, 65 percent of whom are in need of financial assistance. “In 2015, for the fourth consecutive year, 100 percent of Kolbe’s graduating class are pursuing higher education, with 72 graduates awarded a record high of $15.7 million in scholarships and aid,” notes Kolbe President Jo-Anne Jakab.

Kolbe Cathedral recognizes individuals or foundations who make significant contributions that help to “Make a Difference” in the lives of young people by affording them a Kolbe Cathedral education, mentoring, access to enriching programs and opportunities to explore careers through internships. “The three 2015 honorees—Albertus van den Broek, Walter E. Luckett, Jr. and the William H. Pitt Foundation fill all those roles and have done so with dedication and passion for many years,” Jakab says.

Honoree van den Broek’s affiliation with Kolbe Cathedral began fifteen years ago through St. Thomas More Parish in Darien. Together with his wife, Patricia, they provided tuition and mentor support to four disadvantaged students, and he continues to secure the school’s future through service on Kolbe’s Advisory Board where, during his multiple-term tenure as chair, financial resources have been fortified and physical plant facilities improved and expanded.

A Kolbe Cathedral graduate, Walter Luckett, Jr., has been “making a difference” since high school. A talented basketball player, his Kolbe uniform is enshrined in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. His commitment to education includes 25-year tenure at Unilever Home and Personal Care, North America, and co-founding of the ECHO Perfect 10 Internship Program, predicated on the basic building blocks of empathy, character, hope, and opportunity. A member of the Kolbe Advisory Board, he established the Walter E. Luckett Jr. Foundation, Inc. in 2013 and reflects that the ECHO/Kolbe partnership created “Positive feedback from business partners. It is a testament to the core values instilled in each student, who transfers those values from the classroom to the work place and to life.”

Kolbe honored the William H. Pitt Foundation for their support of 25 students—including Shepherds, Inc., funding—affording disadvantaged youth the chance to reach their full potential.

At the event, Seniors Ambar Romero and Caroline Spencer echoed the impact that the community and the honorees have had on their lives. “Kolbe does not give up on family.”

A player on the varsity soccer team and basketball and softball team manager, Ambar recalled that “when my mom lost her job of 17 years, the Wissel Memorial Scholarship Fund made it possible for me to stay.” Upperclassman Class President, she participated in the ECHO Perfect 10 Internship Program founded by honoree Luckett, and earned distinction as School Spirit Director. One.

KOLBE’S “2015 Making a Difference” Award Presentation—(l-r) Kolbe President Jo-Anne Jakab with honorees William H. Pitt Foundation Director Warner K. Depuy, Kolbe Advisory Board member and former chair Albertus van den Broek, Kolbe alumni and Advisory Board member Walter E. Luckett, Jr., and Kolbe Cathedral Principal Henry Rondon.

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Sacred Heart Academy

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Reflections on Papal Encyclical

‘On Care for Our Common Home’

By EDIE CASSIDY

“Climate change represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.”

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue: it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.”

“What is fragile, like the environment, is defenseless before the interests of a defiled market, which becomes the only rule.”

“Whatever is fragile, like the environment, is defenseless before the interests of a defiled market, which becomes the only rule.”

“This made me aware that the reduction of noxious gases needs to be a national and international effort. I began to search for ways to become involved beyond an individual commitment to recycle, reuse, etc.

Until that day my efforts to keep my five grandchildren toxic-free centered on which was the best organic snack to feed them. Digging around the Internet and coming across the IPCC report I decided to switch my efforts from organic applesauce to thwarting climate change. I discovered the impact continued fossil fuel combustion would have on my grandchildren and is now having on those children now living along the coastline of Asia, the drought impacted areas of Africa and the Middle East (Syria), and those whose families who are losing to agribusiness the stewardship of our tropical forests which are the lungs of our planet.

What should I do with this information? Prayer was a good option, and my specific “ask” in that prayer was to find a like-minded community who would join me in my quest to reduce greenhouse gases. Pope Francis teaches us in his reiteration of Catholic social tradition that the Church “calls us to family, community and participation in order to rebuild, justice, trust and hope around you!”

The Spirit intervened in the form of an eighty-seven year old friend. She had watched a television program with a Yale climatologist who graphically stated the need for action now. A phone call to Yale resulted in our introduction to Citizens Climate Lobby. This group focuses on just one policy, a Carbon Fee and Dividend, which is supported by climatologists and economists as the best approach to rapidly mitigate the greenhouse gas effect.

Simply put, it places a one-time progressive fee or tax on fossil fuels as they come out of the earth with 100 percent of that money returned to American households in the form of a monthly or quarterly check. It does not involve intricate regula-

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Laudato Si’ as a hymn to the Creator God

By MARY TAYLOR

In June, I was invited to the presentation of Laudato Si’ by Cardinal Turkson of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace at the United Nations. The Cardinal began by saying that Pope Francis “did not set out to write an encyclical on climate change.” Rather, he said, the purpose was to link “human and natural ecology based on a contemplative, prayerful attitude toward creation.”

If you only relied on media coverage, I have a modest proposal: I suggest reading the chapters out of order, starting from the end—and “end” should be understood in the Catholic sense of a telos, that from which all things ultimately originate, toward which all things aim, and in which all things culminate.

Start, then, with Chapter Six. The Eucharist, said John Paul II, is our source and summit, and Francis calls it the “living center of the universe, the overflowing core of love and inexhaustible life... The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God’s hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration.” It reminds us of the Mass: “Father, you are holy indeed, and all creation rightly gives you praise.”

Turning to Sections VII and VIII, we find the Triune structure of that reality, and Mary, assumed into heaven not only as the Mother of God, but as the Queen of all creation. The last section, IX, turns us to our Final End, when we will be face to face with the beauty of God, in the presence of Christ, who “makes all things new” (Rev. 21:5).

The whole encyclical has a deeply incarnational emphasis. One of my favorite lines is a paraphrase of the theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar on the gaze of Jesus: “The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence.” Too many Catholics seem to be gnostics; others think that because environmental issues are so politicized, they must ignore creation, seeing it as nothing

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Summer Reading

J.F. Powers: Catholic writer and humorist

By BARRY WALLACE

One thing almost always said about Catholic writers is that they are neglected, perhaps especially by Catholics. Nowhere is this truer than the writings of J.F. Powers, a Catholic author of extraordinary gifts whose best books were published in mid-20th Century America. His books are funny, humane and filled with observations of the Catholic Church during its golden age in the post-war society. He is seldom read today.

Powers stories are about parish life in the pre-Vatican II Church. This is often cited as a reason for his neglect—that the Church changed around him and made his fiction irrelevant. But if you spend time reading his great short story collection, The Presence of Grace, you realize that nothing could be further from the truth. Despite the revolution and reforms of the past 60 years, the American Church still shares a lot in common with Powers’ world of pastors and curates trying to cope with the spiritual and material demands of running a parish.

Despite its comic tone, Powers’ fiction is centrally concerned with one over-arching theme: How does the American Church manifest itself as witness to Christian life? He lodged a bird’s-eye view in the rectory for his answer.

In fact, most of Power’s stories are populated by priests and their superiors living out the everyday aspects of their vocation in fictional suburban Minnesota parishes. These are fond and funny stories about the mundane and the spiritual. But the satire is also pointed when the conflicts between faith and practice are strained by ordinary experience. I suspect there were a good many priests and bishops who enjoyed Power’s wit and irony aimed at the human folly of those charged to carry out the work of Christ. Powers found humor abundant in our best efforts to live the Gospels. He never ridicules the faith but he deftly captures the inadvertent comedy of the Christian life.

The Presence of Grace is Powers at his best. In the story “Zeal” an ambitious young curate working for a rather tired old pastor, finds himself in a delicate situation. He has accepted a dinner invitation from Mrs. Mathers of the parish. When he gets to the house he slowly realizes that Father Early’s own pastor is flying directly to Rome to avoid the company of his quixotic curate. The bishop intuits that he has been “had” by the wily pastor, but he also recognizes the true zeal of the annoying young man. “The bishop slept well that night, after all, but not before he thought of Father Early, still out there, on his feet and trying, which was what counted in the sight of God…”

In the title story, another young priest, Father Fabre, an ambitious curate working for a rather tired old pastor, finds himself in a delicate situation. He has accepted a dinner invitation from Mrs. Mathers of the parish. When he gets to the house he slowly realizes that Mr. Pint, Mrs. Mather’s alleged boarder, may or may not be her significant other. Not only that, but he belatedly discovers that one of the stalwart women of the parish, Grace, has declined an invitation to the party. When he lets the bishop know of this he is told that Father Early’s own pastor is flying directly to Rome to avoid the company of his curate. The bishop intuits that he has been “had” by the wily pastor, but he also recognizes the true zeal of the annoying young man. “The bishop slept well that night, after all, but not before he thought of Father Early, still out there, on his feet and trying, which was what counted in the sight of God…”

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In the presence of grace, we have to be continually reminded of the radical call of Christ. He is very much worth reading today and should find the appreciative audience that he lacked in his own lifetime.
Obituary: Father Peter DeMarco

Father Peter DeMarco, 80, turned handicap into ministry

By PAT HENNESSY

Father Peter DeMarco, widely loved for his deep spirituality and for his ministry to the hearing impaired, died on July 20 in Bridgeport Hospital. He was 80 years old. Born with a cleft palate leading to speech problems, and experiencing progressive hearing loss during adulthood, Father DeMarco turned what could have been an impediment into a beautiful asset to his ministry. “God presents a lot of opportunities,” he said in 1988 during a day of province meetings at the Cardinal Shehan Center in Bridgeport. Moving comfortably among both the hearing and the deaf, “I can be a bridge between both worlds. I’ve never had any restrictions on me whatsoever.”

The Bridgeport native was born November 8, 1934, and attended Garfield elementary school and Fairfield Prep. He graduated from Fairfield University, where he learned sign language so he could volunteer at Mass for the hearing-impaired. He completed his theological studies at St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, Md., writing his thesis on teaching religion to the deaf. Father DeMarco was ordained on May 21, 1960 in St. Augustine Cathedral by Bishop Lawrence Shehan, first Bishop of Bridgeport. His first parish assignment after ordination was at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown, followed by Sacred Heart Parish in Stamford.

In 1967, he was named the first full-time director of special education in the diocese. At that time, the office included special needs children and adults, and blind, deaf and hearing-impaired Catholics. He resided first at St. Raphael Parish in Bridgeport and then at Holy Family Parish in Fairfield.

In 1974 Father DeMarco was named pastor of St. Mary Parish in Bethel, a position he held for nearly a dozen years. He was a member of the first Priests’ Council in the Diocese of Bridgeport, a vicar for Vicaire V and a priest advisor to Juvenile Court.

In 1986, dealing with worsening hearing, he chose to leave St. Mary’s and became spiritual moderator for the special education office. In 1989, he was named diocesan moderator of the Ministry of the Deaf and Hearing-Impaired while taking an assignment as parochial vicar at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull. In addition, in 1990, he served as temporary administrator of St. Gabriel Parish in Stamford.

Over the years he has been the spiritual advisor to the Cursillo movement, and leaves behind several meditative prayer groups that continue to meet to this day. Throughout his priesthood he continued to work with ministry to the deaf. He was named parochial vicar of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull in 1999, and retired to the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence in 2006. A wake for Father DeMarco will be held at the Abriola Parkview Funeral Home, 419 White Plains Rd., Trumbull, on Sunday, July 26, from 2-6 pm. The Mass for Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, on Monday, July 27, at 11 am. Father Joseph Marcello, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, will be the principal celebrant. Magr. Nicholas Grieco will give the homily. Burial will follow in the family gravesite in St. Michael Cemetery in Stratford.

Father DeMarco is mourned by many family members and friends, who will miss his smile and gentle spirit.

KOLBE LEGACY FROM PAGE 13

of three national finalists in the National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, Ambar noted that after being honored by the President of the United States” in the Oval Office in Washington, “nothing seems impossible.” Earning a full scholarship to Bentley University, Ambar plans to study international business with a minor in Mandarin Chinese.

“The opportunity to attend Kolbe was made possible by the Pitt Foundation” noted Caroline, whose family could not afford the tuition. Kolbe offered Caroline “a plethora of opportunities.” Maintaining a 3.9 GPA and National Honor Society status, she accessed five collegiate level courses junior and senior years, embraced athletics, Build-On Club service, and earned second place with her teammates at Fairfield University’s Fifth Annual Junior Achievement Business Challenge. This fall, Caroline will be pursuing a career in medicine as biology major at Cornell University. (To make a donation to the scholarship funds, contact Jo-Anne Jakab: 203.368.2648 or jjakab@kolbecaths.org.)
Obituary: Msgr. William A. Genuario

An advocate for the poor

By Father Colin McKenna

Msgr. William A. Genuario died the morning of June 24 at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence in Stamford. He was buried June 26 from St. Catherine of Siena Church, where he had served as pastor for 17 years.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the principal celebrant, and Msgr. Alan F. Detscher, longtime friend and current pastor of St. Catherine’s, was the homilist. More than 50 priests concelebrated the funeral Mass, assisted by six deacons.

St. Catherine’s was nearly filled to capacity with mourners who wanted to pay their sacramental farewell to a priest who had faithfully and tirelessly served the Diocese of Bridgeport in various capacities for nearly 60 years. Many of the faithful were past and present employees of the Catholic Center, where Monsignor had worked for many years in a variety of capacities, including vice-chancellor; chancellor; director of planning, administration and development; presiding judge; vicar general and consultant.

Since his formal retirement in 2004, he had continued to regularly travel to Bridgeport to work as a canon lawyer in the Tribunal at the Catholic Center. He always considered offering Mass at noon as his great gift to the Catholic Center staff. He would deliver the Gospel lesson in a scholarly way, tell humorous stories of his youth in Norwalk and give reviews of selections he was currently reading with his book club.

Born and raised in Norwalk, and a graduate of Fairfield Prep, Msgr. Genuario devoted much of his priesthood to the City of Bridgeport as parochial vicar and pastor of inner-city parishes. During his work as a priest in Bridgeport, he championed the needs of the poor and often challenged City Hall and the police department to work for justice and peace.

Coming from a large family, Msgr. Genuario worked to make his parishioners his family, too. “The parish becomes your family—that’s why you are called ‘Father,’” he said at his retirement.

During his years at St. Catherine’s, one of the largest parishes in the diocese, he had officiated at more than 6,000 Masses and hundreds of baptisms, weddings, and funerals. The clergy also became his family, as evidenced by the large number of priests and deacons that attended his funeral Mass. “He was a priest’s priest,” Msgr. Detscher said in his homily. “During his priesthood, he was a great help to many of his brother priests.”

Msgr. Detscher described Msgr. Genuario as a simple man with a fondness for food (in the sense of a connoisseur). His interest in food may have been passed on from his father, an Italian immigrant who made his living selling vegetables.

When he was appointed pastor at St. Catherine’s, Msgr. Genuario immediately utilized his intellect by learning Spanish. An expert in Latin, he also was proficient in French and Italian. Soon after he took over as pastor in Greenwich, he began celebrating Masses in French, Italian, and Spanish, to better serve the needs of his parish.

Msgr. Detscher joked that “Msgr. Genuario spoke Spanish with an Italian accent.”

As a priest whose ministry stretched from the pre-Vatican II Church to the post-Vatican II Church, Msgr. Genuario was forced to make adaptations along the way. Before 1983, he was in the habit of carrying with him at all times a “pocket-code” of Canon Law, for reference and to help immediately resolve canonical disputes that might arise.

For those who might continue to challenge him after he had made reference to his pocket code, he also pretended that he had a direct-radio link to God. Conversations could go something like, “God, yeah, this is Bill. Jim is here with me and he is questioning me about...”

When the Code of Canon Law was revised in 1983, the “pocket-code” was no longer published, so Msgr. Genuario was forced to leave home each day without his handy pocket reference book. Whether his direct-radio communication link with God continued in operation after 1983 remains unknown.

Vatican II also ushered in married clergy: the Order of the Diaconate. Msgr. Genuario embraced the renewed order of deacons and had four of them working for him at St. Catherine’s. “They are still here, but getting older,” Msgr.

Msgr. Genuario as “a priest’s priest.” Although it is an aspiration for many priests, “Very few become priests to priests, fathers to fathers,” Bishop Caggiano said. As Msgr. Genuario’s casket was carried to the hearse outside the church on this glorious early summer’s day, nearly 60 priests and deacons sang “Salve Regina,” a tradition at the funeral of a priest.

Msgr. Genuario is mourned by a large extended family, including his sister, Marie Staprowski, who lives in Westport. After the funeral Mass, he was buried at his family gravesite at St. John Cemetery in Norwalk.
Retirements

Farewell gathering held for pillars of the Catholic Center

Two long-time and very well-liked members of the Catholic Center were given a fond farewell at retirement party at the end of June.

Deacon Tony Detje, director of deacons, and Father Frederick Saviano, diocesan director of the Pontifical Mission Societies (Propagation of the Faith) have served the family of faith with skill and devotion throughout their lives.

Anthony Detje was born in Long Island City, Queens, N.Y. Like so many other former New Yorkers, as an adult he was happy to move to the green hills of Fairfield County. He and his wife, Isabelle, are members of St. Margarette Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield. The couple has two grown children.

A member of the first class of deacons ordained for this diocese, he was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Walter W. Curtis in St. Augustine Cathedral in 1978. He served as a deacon at St. Gregory the Great, St. Edward the Confessor and St. Joseph (Danbury) parishes before coming to St. Margarette’s in 1999.

“For 29 years, Deacon Tony has worked for the Office of Clergy and Religious in the capacity of director of diaconate formation, director of deacons and assistant director of clergy personnel,” said Father Ian Jeremiah, episcopal vicar for clergy. “As director of diaconate formation, Deacon Tony has presented 18 classes of men—over 120 in all—to the bishops of Bridgeport for ordination as deacons.”

Bishop Caggiano added his own words of praise. “I am grateful to Tony for his service to his fellow deacons and the support he has offered to priests in the parishes where these men have served. Deacon Tony’s 38 years of service have been a blessing to us all in the Diocese of Bridgeport.”

Deacon Detje will continue to serve St. Margarette’s in his retirement.

Father Frederick Saviano is a native son, growing up in the town of Westport. Heeding the call of the poor and spiritually needy in Latin America, he joined the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette and was ordained in 1968. He worked in the mission field in Argentina for ten years—being there at the time Pope Francis was a bishop—and in Peru.

When he returned to Connecticut, he continued his service to the Spanish-speaking faithful of this diocese, becoming parochial vicar of St. Benedict/Our Lady of Montserrat Parish in Stamford and then pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Danbury.

“I love the spirit of Our Lady of Guadalupe,” he said at the time of his appointment there. “They have a great hunger for the Gospel, and they are so willing to learn and to be fed with Christ.”

Father Saviano was named diocesan director of the Office for the Propagation of the Faith in January, 2007. He kept in touch with and encouraged missionaries, both those from this diocese and those supported by his office, and worked to raise awareness of the needs of missions throughout the world.

“I can’t thank enough Father Saviano for all his goodness,” said Sister Anila, DM, a member of the Daughters of Mary from Tamil Nadu in India. “He brings much hope and has made a big difference in the life of many numbers of poor, vulnerable and needy.”

Sister Anila is in charge of a leprosarium, a home for mentally challenged women, and an orphanage for children orphaned by AIDS. “For all his love, care, concern, prayer, spontaneity in his loving actions, friendship, availability, laughter and sharing, hospitality, goodness, extra mile with the needy, we thank him so much. He is always in our prayers.”

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DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT: JULY 26—SEPTEMBER 12

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| 5         | Rev. Msgr. Thomas F. Henahan | 1998 |
| 5         | Deacon Matthew Skurat | 2013 |
| 5         | Rev. John E. Fay | 1954 |
| 6         | Rev. Laurence F. Flanagan | 1985 |
| 9         | Rev. Richard Monahan | 2010 |
| 12        | Rev. Frank D. Yoia | 1974 |
High School Sports

Notre Dame’s Lucy Grant glitters on diamond

By DON HARRISON

Is baseball an appropriate game for girls?

Lucy Grant, who just completed her freshman year at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield, answers with a resounding “Yes.” And her actions speak louder than words.

Lucy was a valuable member of the Lancers’ otherwise-all-male junior varsity baseball team this spring, batting .259 while dividing her playing time between first base and designated hitter.

“She actually did well for us,” says JV Coach Mike Mildrum. “One of my best friends was pitching and I got two hits off him,” she explains, smiling. “I got two RBIs and we ended up winning 6-5.”

Baseball has been an important part of Lucy’s life for as long as she recalls. Despite frequent encounters with sexism, she has persevered and done well at every level. “We’ve been very supportive of her,” says her mother, who

“By tryouts, everyone was so nice... but at first they were a little bit skeptical,” she says. “Hitting is my strong point. When I joined the Tigers, they just drilled first base into me, so now I’m a lot better in the field.”

The Tigers’ coach, Manny Torrez, played a role in Lucy’s decision to attend Notre Dame. Jim Olayos, now the Lancers’ director of athletic advancement, had coached Torrez in baseball at St. Joseph, and their connection paid dividends. (As an aside, Grant drives his daughter to school each morning en route to his job as an attorney in Stamford.)

Last August, Lucy at 14 was the junior member of the American team that competed in the inaugural LG Cup Women’s International Baseball Tournament at Icheon, South Korea. The U.S. played six games in a field that included squads from Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Taiwan and two from South Korea.

“Basically, they were professional teams from South Korea, Australia and Hong Kong,” she says. “My parents accompanied me on the trip and it was expensive, but worth it.” Together, the American women watched portions of the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa., where a 13-year-old girl named Mo’ne Davis burst onto the scene by pitching a two-hit shutout. “She throws like a girl” took on a whole new meaning.

“There have been girls in the Little League World Series before,” says Lucy, “but she was the first one to really stand out.” So, what about Notre Dame and the 2016 baseball season? Players from the Lancers’ softball team are encouraging Lucy to switch to the smaller diamond, but she has rebuffed them thus far. “My dream as a sophomore,” she states, “is to play varsity baseball.”

“If she wants to play baseball,” says Mildrum, “there’s a spot for her on the team.”

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FAIRFIELD CATHOLIC

July/August 2015

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I still remember the day our daughter told us she was getting married in the Hamptons, not at some over-priced resort where the Kardashians vacationed, but rather on the beach in a free-spirited sunrise ceremony with Bermuda shorts and Hawaiian shirts, sand in our toes, leis around our necks and a lot of ‘60s-style frivolity. Did I mention “Kumbaya”? I wasn’t exactly sure who was going to officiate—David Hasselhoff from “Bay Watch” or Captain Stubing from “Love Boat”—but I got a sick feeling in my stomach just thinking about it.

Quite honestly, I can’t remember all the details because my rising blood pressure was making my brain pulsate. I’m not against free-dom of expression, but to be blunt, do it on someone else’s dime. Anyway, it was one of those rare occasions when my wife, Sandy, and I had a transcendent convergence of ideology, which means to say we agreed for the first time. We didn’t quibble or quarrel. We united in a noble cause and responded in unison, “It ain’t happening!”

That was simple. As the patriarchal Father of the Bride, I had no intention of paying for a beach party in the Hamptons. “If you’re getting married,” I said, “it’s going to be the Real Deal—the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, a Mass, and a church, preferably with stained glass windows, statues of saints and flickering candles, not to mention a priest wearing vestments and traditional hymns. Did I forget anything? How about some incense for good measure?”

After several weeks of Internet research, I discovered to my dismay that even during our so-called enlightened post-feminist era, which guarantees women equal rights in the workplace, the boardroom, the bedroom and the bathroom, the Father of the Bride is STILL expected to foot the bill for the wedding. Do you have any idea what that means financially to a guy with four daughters who went to college?

Nevertheless, it gave me bargaining power, and my message was pretty straightforward. “You’ve heard the phrase, “No Jesus, no peace”? My motto was “No Jesus, no wedding.” Besides, I had no intention of wearing a Hawaiian shirt.

At night as I lay in bed, I asked myself a familiar question that has haunted parents since Adam and Eve—“Where did I go wrong?” We tried to do everything right. We took our kids to church, we prayed together, and we stressed the importance of faith. The last thing I wanted was for them to slip into that notori-ous category of lazy non-believers called “Nones,” who tell pollsters they have no religious affiliation. When you’re facing a challenge like this, a little prayer helps, but not as much as a lot of prayer. I’m pleased to announce that Jesus and the Blessed Mother came to the rescue.

After a bit of wrangling, intense negotiations and compromise, the wedding was held in a beautiful Catholic church with stained-glass windows, holy water, hymns, an organ and a priest, who even read the “Exhortation before Marriage.” The couple was united before God and man and not before the local landmark. A good time was had by all.

I recalled all that family drama when I recently attended a wed-ding ceremony of a Catholic couple, held in a gazebo on a hillside by a lake and performed by a Justice of the Peace. There were several readings, but the Catholic “Exhortation before Marriage” wasn’t one of them. (St. Paul got left out, too.)

Instead, there was a Hindu reading, a Navajo prayer, a poem or two, a short essay about true love, and an inspired meditation about peace on Earth that sounded more than an inert backdrop. In this section the Pope reminds us that because of the Incarnation, no disfiguring dualisms are to mar the faith.

Regarding those, on the other hand, who value the environment over everything else, the Pope says they evince “an obsession with denying any pre-eminence to the human person; more zeal is shown in protecting other species than in defending the dignity which all human beings share in equal measure” (90). There is a definitive “No” to abortion, to embryo experimentation, to population control, to disturbing the complementarity of male and female, to “undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted” (91).

The encyclical is deeply rooted in Scripture (Chapter II). “The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God,” says Pope Francis, echoing Ephesians 1:10. Chapter 2,3, on the Mystery of the Universe, reminds us that “creation” is far greater than, and qualitatively different from, “nature,” dispelling any errors that the encyclical is somehow “neo-pagan!”

If instead you should choose to read the encyclical’s chapters in order, it is imperative to remember one thing. Note to whom it is addressed: not the bishops, the faithful, and “men of good will,” as other encyclicals are, but simply to “every person living on this planet,” which includes people of other religions and no religion. Therefore, the interpretive key might be Paul’s address to the Greeks at the Areopagus in Acts 17. Paul acknowledges their beliefs, but in order to reveal to them the inadequacy of their dominant ideology in the light of the truth about the Creator God, “in whom we live and move and have our being.” It is the rest of the encyclical that reveals that light.

This caveat will go a long way toward helping those who are puzzled by Chapter One and later policy suggestions. On these issues of prudential judgment, the Pope has made it clear that “the Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics. But I am concerned to encourage an honest and open debate so that particular interests or ideologies will not prejudice the common good” (188).

Pope Francis has offered a choice between two keys to reading both the encyclical and all creation: will we take the goods of technology and science and, surrendering, make them “the principal key to the meaning of existence” (110), a wrong-headed “reductionism” (107). . . or will we “read reality in a Trinitarian key” (239)?

The encyclical is a hymn to the Catholic vision of the Creator God and creation as the gift of love—the love, the Pope quotes Dante saying, that “moves the sun and other stars.” That must be understood first, as the form and telos of the encyclical.
Cor.3:1-2: “Brothers, I was unable to speak to you as people of the spirit. I treated you as people who are still infants in Christ. What I fed you with was milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it; and indeed, you are still not ready for it.”

To speak of spiritual growth, Paul uses the metaphor of developing from infancy to adulthood. He says people can be spiritual infants, acting out of only some basis of instruction, not ready for the next stage of development.

Julian of Norwich (d. 1413) boldly stated that “most people are spiritual babies.”

Pope Francis observed “perhaps the Church can speak to people in their infancy but not to those of full age.” He may have been reflecting the observation that many Catholics reflect a grammar school understanding of the faith. Too often many adult Catholics have eighth-grade or CCD answers to adult questions. As the Pope is apparently pointing out, many Catholics reflect a grammar school understanding of the faith.

Spirituality is the hook back into the faith for many young educated people. One has to be dismayed at the high degree of biblical illiteracy among Catholic people. One of our major Scripture scholars, Daniel Harrington, wrote: “I find God in and through the Bible. Most of my spiritual and pastoral life revolves around the Bible. It is for me the most important way to know, love, and serve God.”

The contemplative dimensions of the spiritual life needs to be stressed; teaching people to pray contemplatively. There’s a constant believing, they need nourishment.

If people are to persevere in constant believing, they need nourishment. And many young people are looking for nourishment, intellectual and spiritually solid knowledge. My experience has been that students respond with interest and attention when they actually encounter authentic, intellectually serious Catholic thinkers. I have witnessed excitement, surprise and appreciation when an intelligent and searching young person starts hearing about and reading Augustine, Hopkins, Claudel, Peguy, Mauriac, Graham Greene, Flannery O’Connor.

This is what can stop the quiet exodus of educated Catholics.

Spirituality is the hook back into the faith for many young educated people. One has to be dismayed at the high degree of biblical illiteracy among Catholic people. One of our major Scripture scholars, Daniel Harrington, wrote: “I find God in and through the Bible. Most of my spiritual and pastoral life revolves around the Bible. It is for me the most important way to know, love, and serve God.” In order to know God, we need to study the Scriptures.

The contemplative dimensions of the spiritual life needs to be stressed; teaching people to pray contemplatively. There’s the famous prophetic statement theologian Karl Rahner made in 1971: “The Catholic of the future will be a mystic, one who has experienced something, or he or she will not be anything at all. They will no longer be sustained by Catholic culture and customs.” (Theological Investigations, NY: Herder & Herder, 1971).

What is of decisive importance is a person’s interior life.

Some solid food Church programs recommended are:

- Strongly supporting reading and Bible Study groups.
- Promoting in-depth lecture series, and strongly urging people to attend them.
- Once every month or two months have some trained spiritual leader, who can address deeper issues pertaining to our relationship to God, prayer at the Sunday Masses.
- Maintaining a parish library. An uncatechized and poorly catechized populace is the greatest challenge facing the Church today. There can be no real spiritual life without an intellectual life. It enhances and deepens faith.

I have often been told that an old Irishman saying his Rosary is holier than I am, with all my studies. I daresay he is and I hope he is. However, it is equally obvious that ignorance is not a virtue. With more knowledge of God that Irishman would have loved God still more.

Adult catechesis is the indispensable element of evangelization.
Nuestra Voz

Comunidad chilena celebra su patrona

POR MABEL SOTO

La idea de celebrar a la Virgen del Carmen en Connecticut nace con el fin de ayudar y solidarizarnos con nuestros compatriotas después del terremoto ocurrido el 27 de febrero del año 2010. Es ahí donde un grupo de chilenas y sus respectivas familias deciden organizar una fiesta a beneficio de los damnificados del terremoto en Junio del mismo año, e invitan a participar a toda la comunidad chilena que reside en Connecticut en esta noble causa, la cual fue apoyada por el Padre Orozco quien, entonces, era el párroco de la Iglesia San Carlos Borromeo en Bridgeport, facilitando el salón de eventos de la parroquia. Esta actividad no sólo fue un éxito al recolectar dinero para los necesitados (que fue entregado al Hogar de Cristo en Santiago), sino que se logró convocar a gran parte de la comunidad chilena que vive en Connecticut.

Después de la acogida que tuvo la fiesta, decide celebrar a la Virgen del Carmen como patrona de todos los chilenos con una misa que fue oficiada por el Padre Orozco el 12 de julio del 2011 con la imagen de la Virgen traída de New Jersey.

Para conocer quién es la virgen del Carmen nos referiremos a la siguiente cita de la historia de Chile:

“La Santísima Virgen del Carmen es invocada en nuestra Patria como Reina y Madre de Chile, Patrona y Generala Jurada de las Fuerzas Armadas y de Orden, títulos que son fruto del reconocimiento especial de la protección de la Madre de Dios a lo largo de nuestra historia.

El 5 de enero de 1817, el General José de San Martín y el General Bernardo O’Higgins juraron fidelidad a la Virgen del Carmen como patrona, junto a todos los oficiales y tropas del ejército. Así, en la Batalla de Chacabuco, lograron la victoria el 12 de febrero de 1817.

Por esta razón, el pueblo entero se reunió el 14 de marzo de 1818 en la Catedral de Santiago e hicieron el siguiente juramento:

“En el mismo sitio en donde se dé la batalla y se obtenga la victoria, se levantará un santuario a la Virgen del Carmen, Patrona y Generala de los Ejércitos de Chile).

Este juramento hecho a la Virgen del Carmen, dio fruto en el triunfo de la Batalla de Maipú, el 5 de abril de 1818. Por eso, en ese mismo lugar, el General Bernardo O’Higgins “con sus propias manos”, puso la primera piedra del que sería el Templo Votivo de Maipú, actualmente Santuario Nacional del Carmen, Patrona y reina de Chile.

Es entonces cuando se comienzan a hacer diferentes actividades para salir adelante con el firme propósito de traer la estatua de la Virgen, y con el dinero de arcas privadas, donaciones de particulares y apoyo de la comunidad chilena se concreta uno de nuestros sueños: traer a la virgen. Y es así como en junio del año siguiente se encarga al artesano chileno José Miguel Cariaga la confección de la estatua de la Virgen, la que es traída directamente de Chile con la ayuda del Señor Julio Fiol (cónsul general de Chile en Nueva York) quien hizo las gestiones del traslado por valija diplomática.

Desde entonces, cada año celebramos a nuestra patrona de Chile con una Misa donde participa la comunidad chilena y latinoamericana con cantos, bailes y muestras de folklore a cargo del grupo folclórico “Aconcagua” (que nace en el año 2011 con el objetivo de venerar a Nuestra Madre), la participación de artesas locales y comida típica chilena ofrecida después de la Misa.

Desde ese día, se celebra a la Virgen del Carmen con una Misa el día domingo después del 16 de Julio, día oficial de la Virgen del Carmen (fiebrojacional en Chile) y al igual que las otras advocaciones marianas que veneran nuestros hermanos latinoamericanos, se encuentra ubicada en una vitrina de la entrada principal de la Iglesia San Carlos de Chile.

Cabe destacar que durante el año hacemos diferentes actividades para recolectar fondos y una gran rifa anual, siendo una de las más importantes y que todo el dinero reunido se entrega integral a la Iglesia San Carlos en reconocimiento al apoyo que nos ha dado durante estos años, el cual va directamente en beneficio de las comunidades que participan en ella. Agradecemos al Padre Francisco Gómez, actual párroco de la parroquia, quien ha apoyado nuestra causa y a confiado en nuestro proyecto desde que le fue presentado.

Este año, la misa se celebró el domingo 19 de Julio, a las 12:30 pm en San Carlos y oficiada por el Padre Thomas Simisky, quien gentilmente aceptó oficiar la Misa por su cercanía con nuestro país después de haber vivido algunos años en Chile.

Actualmente, el grupo de chilenos de la Carmelita en Connecticut lo forman cinco familias, quienes trabajan con mucho amor y dedicación con el único propósito de mantener nuestras raíces, nuestra cultura, nuestras tradiciones y nuestra fe viva en este país que nos ha acogido.

Invitamos a las comunidades latinoamericanas a compartir nuestras tradiciones, a conocer nuestra cultura y a conocer más sobre nuestra Virgen del Carmen Patrona y reina de Chile.

(Para más información sobre Chilenos de la Carmelita en Connecticut, puede contactarnos por email: fgvaleria@hotmail.com o mabelgreenwich@hotmail.com)
CELEBRATION of the Independence of Colombia will be held at St. Benedict-Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Stamford, on Sun., July 26, starting with Mass at 2 pm. Traditional Colombian dishes and desserts, live music, and the folkloric dance group Viva Colombia. For more info, contact Laura Valencia: 203.219.8115.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS are held around the diocese: Thurs., August 6, at St. James Parish, Stratford, 7 pm; Mon., August 17, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, 7:30 pm; Thurs., August 20, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, 7:30 pm; and Thurs., Sept. 3, at St. James Parish, Stratford, 7 pm. For more info, contact Anne Marie: amromano@att.net.

ENCOURAGE apostolate for friends and family of loved ones with same sex attractions meets friends and family of loved ones ADULTS (18-35) will take place Sun., August 2, at 10:30 am and is the third Saturday of the month with same sex attractions meets friends and family of loved ones. For more info, go to massmobfc.webs.com or email massmobfc@gmail.com. CONCERT with Krista Adams Santilli at Sacred Heart Parish, Stamford, on Sun., Sept. 13, at 4 pm. Open to all: Tickets: $7; reception follows at the concert. Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart. For more info or to purchase tickets, call 203.968.1234.

MUSICIAN CURTIS STEPHEN will perform at St. Cecilia Parish, Stamford, on Fri., Sept. 18, at 7 pm. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Diocese of Bridgeport youth trip to World Youth Day 2016. For more info, contact the parish: 203.322.1562.

20-YEAR REUNION for Notre Dame Catholic HS Class of 1995 will celebrate the weekend of Sept. 25-27. Four separate events are planned. For more info, check the website: www.ndclassof95.com or call Steve and Diane Parker Cavallo: 203.371.6346.

DEADLINE for donating a Veteran’s Brick to the St. Margaret Shrine Veterans Memorial before the Nov. Veterans’ Day observance, is Wed., Sept. 30. The Veterans’ Memorial is located at 2523 Park Ave., Bridgeport. The names of the veterans on the newly donated bricks will be read at the Veterans Day Mass and Blessing on Sat., Nov. 7, at 12:15 pm. For information donating a brick for a veteran from the U.S. Military or our allies—living, deceased, wartime, peacetime, or currently serving, call 203.345.3244.

RED MASS for Catholic lawyers will take place Sun., Oct. 4, at 9 am in the Egan Chapel at Fairfield University. Bishop Caggiano will be the celebrant. Breakfast follows in the Oak Room. For reservations or more info, email dtiejen@diobpt.org or phone 203.416.1385.

PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY offers free and confidential help to those seeking healing from the wounds of abortion. To experience God’s love and mercy, contact Project Rachel: 203.416.1619 or projectrachel@diobpt.org. Visit our website: www.projectrachelbpt.com.
ST. VINCENT’S SWIM ACROSS THE SOUND

18TH ANNUAL Interfaith Memorial Service

Celebrating the lives of family members and friends who have been lost to cancer

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2015

Registration 8:00 am — Service 8:30 am
Captain’s Cove Seaport, Bridgeport (Handicapped Accessible)

• Interfaith Prayer Service • Reading of Names • Musical Tributes
  • Inspirational Readings • Refreshments

Dedicate a flower to be cast into the Sound in memory of your loved one.

If unable to attend, please visit our website at www.stvincents.org/prayer and submit the name of your loved one to be remembered at the service.

For information, please call 203-576-5550.