



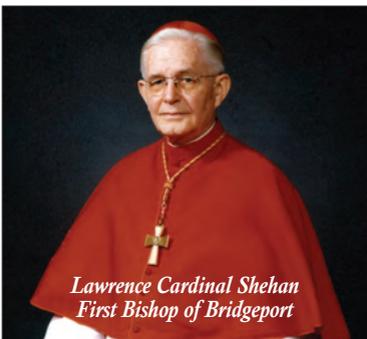
FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

JUNE/JULY 2013 | VOLUME 30, NUMBER 6 | GRADUATION ISSUE

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(PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

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Vals and Sals

Diocese recognizes the best of the best

As our youth columnist for this month put it, four years of effort lies behind the moment: “Graduates, turn your tassels!”

Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport, attended the graduation ceremonies of all five diocesan high schools. In addition, either Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator, or Chancellor Anne McCrory was on hand to speak and confer diplomas.

Fairfield County Catholic congratulates all graduates of public, private and diocesan schools as they complete their high school years. As they prepare to step into the future, we take time to recognize the top scholars of diocesan high schools and private Catholic schools with graduates from the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Immaculate, Danbury

Immaculate High School held its graduation on June 5 in St. Mary Church, Bethel. Chancellor McCrory was on hand to congratulate the 70 graduates, who come from the greater Danbury area. Immaculate had an enrollment this year of 380 students. Sarina Perera is Immaculate’s valedictorian; Julia Amodeo is salutatorian.

Sarina Perera, a parishioner at St. Edward the Confessor Parish in New Fairfield, is a member of the National Honor Society, the Tri-M Music Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. She is a student ambassador at IHS and a co-leader of the knitting club, participated in the concert choir and sang at the school’s cabaret



IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL, DANBURY – Sarina Perera, valedictorian; Julia Amodeo, salutatorian

nights. Sarina, who has done neuroscience research at Columbia University over the past two summers, received the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award. She accepted early decision to Columbia, where she plans to major in either psychology or neuroscience.

Julia Amodeo, Immaculate’s salutatorian, is a Eucharistic Minister and member of the youth group at St. Joseph Parish in Danbury. Julia is an AP Scholar who has earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award and Senior Visionary Award. A flute and piccolo player and an officer in the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Julia was selected for the Southern New England Honor Band, UConn First Chair Honors Band and All New England Honors Band. She has also competed in North American and World Championships for Irish Dancing.

Julia holds a black belt in mixed martial arts and teaches martial arts to younger children. A long-time volunteer with the American Red Cross and at New Milford Hospital, she will



KOLBE-CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL, BRIDGEPORT – Andre Escaleira, Jr., valedictorian; Celine Edmondson, salutatorian

be attending the University of Massachusetts, where she will pursue a career in nursing.

“Sarina has been an exemplary student from her first day at Immaculate, achieving an amazing 4.6 GPA on a 4.5 scale,” says Principal Joseph Carmen. “She is that special student who strives for excellence in all her endeavors. Julia has demonstrated outstanding academic performance, yet even more impressive Julia always found time to give back to her

community. She is an embodiment of the Immaculate mission.”

Kolbe-Cathedral, Bridgeport

Kolbe-Cathedral High School in Bridgeport held its graduation on June 6 in St. Augustine Cathedral. Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator, officiated. Fully 100% of Kolbe’s 67 graduates are college bound; they have been awarded just over \$8 million in scholarships and grants. The school’s current enrolment is 310 students. With the inclusion of engineering in their curriculum, Kolbe now has several students each year



pursuing engineering programs in college. Andre Escaleira, Jr. is Kolbe’s valedictorian; Celine Edmondson is salutatorian.

Andre Escaleira, Jr. is a graduate of Park City Magnet Elementary School. He is a member of the National Honor Society and French Honor Society. Andre is an active member of St. Andrew Parish youth group and has been actively engaged in the annual Convivio Youth Congress in the Diocese

of Bridgeport. At Kolbe, he has been an altar server and a High School Apostle. Andre is an ambassador for the school and was selected as the 2012 Barnum Festival Prince. He has been a member of the school’s Cablevision Challenge Team, the Physics Olympics Team and the Junior Achievement Challenge Team. Although he was wait-listed at Harvard, he has chosen to attend Fordham University while discerning a vocation at St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford.

A graduate of St. Augustine Elementary School, Celine Edmondson has been a member of the Summer Reading Team and a participant in the GE Shadow Program. A gifted dancer, she is a member of the Westport Dance Center and has studied at the Earl Mosely Institute of the Arts for the past two summers. Celine has contributed to the development of a Multi-Cultural Talent Program at Kolbe and has shared her passion for dance with students at St. Augustine’s and the Boys and Girls Club of Bridgeport. After graduation, Celine will participate in Fordham’s Summer Dance program. She will attend the University of the Arts in Philadelphia this fall, where she will study in the Bachelor of Performing Arts program.

“Andre is an extraordinary young man who exemplifies integrity in leadership and service, the pursuit of academic excellence and devotion to the Catholic faith and his personal relationship with our Lord,” says Principal Jo-Anne Jakab. “Celine balances a very busy dance schedule with dedication to both studies and service to others. Her passion for her art as well as

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

ON THE COVER

Immaculate High School, Danbury, graduates (l-r) Lindsay Jossick, Shannon Curry and Emily Finn turn their tassels to make it official at their recent commencement ceremony held at St. Mary Church in Bethel. They were among the hundreds of high school and elementary school students who took the next steps in their lives and education. Students celebrated their academic achievement and faith-filled experience.

ABOVE THE MAST: Adam Witek and Zachary Eriquet prepare to step into the future at the Immaculate High School graduation. One hundred percent of graduates are moving on to college or higher education. Cover photos by Amy Mortensen.

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Local News

Diocese announces sale of housing units

BRIDGEPORT—The Diocese of Bridgeport has announced the sale of the 186-unit Bishop Curtis Homes (also known as Augustana Homes) in Bridgeport to Related Companies of New York City.

The 10-story building is located on 3.13 acres of land at 525 Palisade Avenue in Bridgeport. The sale between Related Companies and Bishop Homes, Inc. of Bridgeport was completed on June 19.

Related will undertake over \$4 million of improvements and renovations to the property, and has committed to preserve the senior housing complex as affordable for an additional 30 years. Last year, Related preserved 1,051 units of affordable housing in eight developments across six states, including 141 units in the River Run Apartments in New Haven.

“The Diocese of Bridgeport is very pleased with Related Companies’ long-term commitment to preserve and enhance the Bishop Curtis Homes units as affordable housing. Their successful track record in this area was a major part of our decision making,” said Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator.



“They are better positioned to make long-term investments and improvements in the property, and have the management expertise, resources and staffing to ensure that residents benefit from safe, affordable housing for years to come.”

“The purchase of Augustana Homes continues Related Affordable’s 40-year legacy of creating and preserving affordable housing, and our continued commitment to never take a

single unit of affordable housing to market rent. We believe everyone, regardless of income level, deserves to have a place to call home and we are pleased to give the seniors in Bridgeport a beautiful, safe place to live,” said Matthew Finkle, president of Related Affordable, a division of Related Companies.

Of the 186 units, 180 of the units are part of the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment “HAP” program, which, in the

case of Augustana Homes provides affordable housing for the elderly of Bridgeport. As part of the financing, Related secured a 20-year renewal and extension of the Section 8 HAP contract. Additionally, a majority of the units are further set aside for residents whose incomes are at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI).

The property was constructed in 1982 and last rehabilitated in 1990. The new renovations will include new kitchens, bathrooms and windows. Capital improvements will include new boilers, a new roof, new lighting, carpet and painting throughout the building, a complete renovation of the 4,500 square foot community room as well as the installation of a DVR security monitoring system. Additionally, the elevators will undergo significant upgrades and there will be major masonry repairs. All renovations are expected to be completed by May of 2014 and will be conducted without displacement of residents.

Bethel Units

The diocese also announced that negotiations concerning the sale of the Bishop Curtis Homes

at 28 Simeon Road in Bethel are underway but have not been completed.

“In our negotiations with the potential buyer, we have made the residents a top priority,” said Anne McCrory, chancellor of the diocese. “As in Bridgeport, we have identified a buyer who is committed to preserving the affordable housing units and to working with residents and improving the units.”

She said that the Congregate housing that shares the site in Bethel is not for sale, nor are any of the other Bishop Curtis Homes throughout Fairfield County.

“The decision to sell is a difficult one because of the historic role that Bishop Curtis Homes have played in the diocese and the lives of residents. However, we simply lack the resources going forward to manage and invest in the facilities for the future.”

McCrory said that for residents in all of the other Bishop Curtis Homes, nothing will change. Likewise, she is confident that residents living in the Bridgeport and Bethel units will continue to enjoy safe, affordable and well-maintained housing consistent with our mission. ■

Appeal looking for strong finish

BRIDGEPORT—The Annual Bishop’s Appeal, the major source of funding for diocesan programs and ministries, has reached over \$9 million with more than 23,000 gifts to date. “There are still opportunities to give by making a gift and supporting a wide range of diocesan programs,” says Pamela Rittman, director of the Appeal.

“We remain blessed by very generous donors who participate in the Appeal each year, and we typically see a strong response during the month of June,” says Rittman. “Now is the time to step up if you haven’t given. If there are areas that are important to parishioners, they may direct their gift where it means the most, whatever ministry that is.”

This year’s Beacon of Hope campaign once again highlights diocesan schools, soup kitchens,

formation of seminarians and care for retired priests. In total, there are over 60 programs supported by the Appeal.

Rittman says that the Appeal makes it possible for the diocese to provide 1.3 million meals served to the poor and homeless; spiritual care for 22,000 patients in nursing homes and hospitals; 15,000 counseling sessions through Catholic Charities; 1,323 scholarships awarded to inner-city Catholic elementary students; support for 48 retired priests, with 17 in residence at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence; 36 seminarians who are discerning their call at St. John Fisher Seminary and major seminaries; and much more.

She is grateful for the response to the Appeal, because the Connecticut economy is lagging behind the nation’s; many people

still struggle with unemployment or live on a reduced or fixed income.

She adds that the absence of a bishop has posed additional challenges for the Appeal, which grew from \$6 to \$12 million under Bishop Lori, who played an active role in fund raising over the years. “A new bishop will no doubt inspire personal giving. As Msgr. Doyle, our diocesan administrator, has said, the best way for us to prepare for a new bishop is to ensure that the Appeal is a success and that we continue to fund the important ministries of the diocese.”

Rittman points out that the ordination of seven priests in May and the announcement of another Blue Ribbon School, along with the creation of Cathedral Academies, is good news and demonstrate the importance of supporting diocesan ministries and

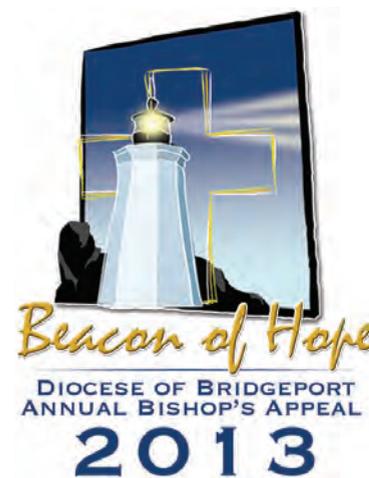
programs. She says that the ordinations speak to the vitality, hope and future of the Church.

“These gifts keep the doors of John Fisher Seminary open and also support other vocation

personal notes for helping support their education and formation. They know so well how important the Appeal is,” says Rittman.

She notes that some donors prefer to make gifts over the summer. “There are reasons donors give later in the campaign, so we’re looking forward to their participation during a final push as we get closer to our goal and create more resources for the programs they care to support.”

(Gifts may be made online at www.2013ABA.com; pledged directly at 2013ABA@diobpt.org; or mailed to Diocese of Bridgeport, Annual Bishop’s Appeal, 238 Jewett Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606. Please make checks payable to the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. All gifts will be acknowledged by the diocese and are tax deductible. For more information, visit www.2013ABA.com.) ■



programs for both women and men. The newly-ordained priests thanked donors this year through

Vocations

Ordination is moment of beauty and drama

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

With a wild wind and rain storm making the warm glow of candles and lights within St. Theresa Church seem even brighter, the ordination of seven men was a joyous moment filled with the beauty of the music and the drama of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

More than 1,200 family members, friends and faithful filled the cathedral-like St. Theresa Church to capacity on May 25 to witness the ordination of seven men for the Diocese of Bridgeport by Hartford Archbishop Emeritus Daniel Cronin.

Worshippers stood in the aisles and filled the choir loft and the vestibule of St. Theresa's for the ordination of Fr. Juan Acosta of Westport; Fr. John Connaughton of Trumbull; Fr. Joseph Gill of Bethel; Fr. Matthew Krankall and Fr. Krzysztof Kuczynski, both of



NEWLY ORDAINED Hartford Archbishop Emeritus Daniel Cronin (center) and Bridgeport Diocesan Administrator Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle (far right) stand with the new priests after their May 25 ordination at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull: (l-r) Fr. Ralph Segura, Fr. John Connaughton, Fr. Damian Pielez, Fr. Matthew Krankall, Fr. Krzysztof Kuczynski, Fr. Juan Acosta, Fr. Joseph Gill.

Monroe; Fr. Damian Pielez of Brookfield; and Fr. Ralph Segura of Norwalk.

After saying, "I do" to the responsibilities of exercising priestly ministry and promising obedience to the bishop, the seven men lay prostrate before the altar symbolizing their com-

plete dependence on God and the prayers of others. The mothers of the newly ordained brought up the offertory gifts, and the new priests distributed the Eucharist throughout the church.

"I give you seven new priests," said Archbishop Cronin after Communion, and the congrega-

tion erupted into joyous applause and a prolonged standing ovation.

In his closing remarks, Archbishop Cronin told the newly-ordained priests that when they have challenges in their lives, they should think back to their ordination and the message

in the three readings: "You were chosen before you were formed in the womb. You have been sent to shepherd the flock. You are protected from the evil one," he said.

Archbishop Cronin asked the newly ordained to remember Archbishop Lori in their prayers because it was as Bishop of Bridgeport that he accepted them as seminarians.

Diocesan Administrator Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle thanked all of those who helped to plan and prepare for the ordination and announced the assignments for the new priests:

Fr. Juan Acosta to Church of the Assumption Parish, Westport; Fr. John Connaughton of Trumbull, continued study in Rome and to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Danbury for summer assignment; Fr. Joseph Gill to St. Mary Parish, Bethel; Fr. Matthew Krankall to St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull; Fr. Krzysztof Kuczynski, continued study in Rome and to St. Rose of Lima, Newtown, for summer assignment; Fr. Damian Pielez to Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Stamford; and Fr. Ralph Segura to St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan.

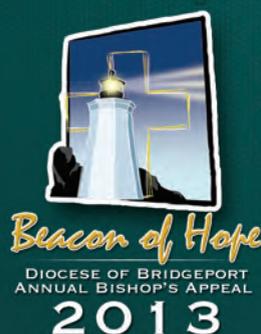


Thank you for participating in the 2013 Annual Bishop's Appeal. Through your generosity and God's grace, I am confident that we will present our next bishop with a local Church that serves as a beacon of hope for many across Fairfield County.

May God bless you and your family,

Jerald A. Doyle

Reverend Monsignor Jerald A. Doyle, J.C.D.
Diocesan Administrator



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Vocations

Transitional ordination

By PAT HENNESSY

FAIRFIELD—On the second day of summer, with the doors of St. Thomas Aquinas Church thrown open to a beautiful morning, Hartford Archbishop Henry J. Mansell ordained four men from the Diocese of Bridgeport to the transitional diaconate, the last step before final ordination to the priesthood.

Rolando Arias Galvis, Christopher Perrella, Andrew Vill and Robert Wolfe II were ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon in a joyous ceremony inspired by the beautiful singing of the choir of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish under the direction of David Harris. Family, friends and faithful gave the young men standing ovations during the rite and as they processed out of the church.

Archbishop Mansell told each candidate, "Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you have become. Relive what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

Referring to the beauty of the early summer day, Archbishop Mansell told them that nothing grows without roots and that their own vocations were a celebration of the roots they've found in their families and parish communities.

At the end of the ceremony, Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, administrator of the Diocese of Bridgeport, thanked Fr. Robert Kinnally, director of vocations, "for preparing the seminarians and bringing them to this point." He also told the newly ordained that "You couldn't get to this day without family and friends," and he praised the men for their "willingness to serve and the example they have set for others."

"The Gospel chosen for the Mass for the diaconate ordination comes from the 20th chapter of Matthew's Gospel," says Fr. Robert Kinnally. "Jesus puts discipleship in perspective: 'Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve. (Matt 20:26-28)' And so it goes with the diaconate. As these men embark on the last leg of their journey to

priesthood, Jesus reminds them of what is important—serving the needs of all. I am confident that these four deacons will serve the Church in love and charity."

Deacon Rolando Arias Galvis

Deacon Rolando Arias, 31, was born and raised in Colombia, the eleventh in a family of 12 children. His father, Pastor Arias, is deceased. His mother Maria Galvis de Arias is a member of San Vicente de Paul Parish in the city of Armenia.

He attended local grammar and high schools in Armenia. After graduating high school in 1998, he felt called to volunteer on mission trips through his parish. He also held a number of jobs in Bogotá, Colombia's capitol city, including work in a stained-glass factory.

"I felt the necessity of talking to people about God," he says. "Out in the countryside, they appreciated so much that we would spend Holy Week or Christmas with them. It helped me realize that I wanted to serve them more completely."

As his missionary activities intensified, he made contact with members of the Carmelite order and thought God might be calling him to join them. While a candidate with the Carmelitas Descalzos in Bogotá, he attended the Universidad Javeriana, a Catholic University. After three years, it became clear that his vocation was pulling him in a different direction. A Colombian priest who was serving in the Diocese of Bridgeport encouraged him to come to the United States.

He entered St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford and spent a year there perfecting his fluency in English. He enrolled in Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, where he completed his seminary studies this May.

"God has given me the grace to understand that he is calling me to serve as a priest, and throughout these years I have discovered the wonders that the Lord has done for me," he says. "I abandoned myself to his divine providence, and I am very grateful and confident to know that God will be at my side everywhere and at all times."

After serving internships in several parishes in this diocese, Deacon Arias now considers St.

Mary's in Bethel his home parish. He assisted at his first Mass as deacon at St. Mary's on June 23 at 10 am. Fr. Corey Piccinnino, pastor, was the celebrant and homilist.

Deacon Christopher Perrella

Deacon Christopher J. Perrella, 25, one of three children, was born in Philadelphia, PA, and grew up in Amherst, NH. His parents, Frank and Anne Perrella, are members of Sainte Marie Parish in Manchester, NH. He attended public schools in Amherst, earning a second degree black belt in Taekwondo, before entering the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He graduated in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. In that year he was the chairman of the Mount 2000 High School Youth Retreat.

He had begun to consider a vocation to the priesthood during his college years, and by the end of his junior year, he was feeling that God's response was a resounding "yes." His hometown parish priest had been a seminary colleague of Fr. Tom Thorne, pastor of the Church of the Assumption in Westport. With that entry into the Diocese of Bridgeport, and a visit to St. John Fisher Seminary, "All doors seemed to open," he says.

He spent the summer after his graduation from college at St. Pius X Parish in Fairfield before going to Mount St. Mary's in the fall.

At Mount St. Mary's he became friends with fellow seminarians from the Diocese of Bridgeport, and summer parish assignments gave him a chance to sample the life of the diocese. One of them, St. Rose of Lima in Newtown, held a surprise. "I found a number of graduates from Franciscan University at St. Rose, including some classmates," he recalls. "They really made me feel welcomed." He now considers St.



Scan this code with a smartphone to see a slideshow of the Transitional Deacon Ordination.



NEWLY ORDAINED TRANSITIONAL DEACONS (l-r) Andrew Vill, Christopher Perrella, Rolando Arias and Robert Wolfe enjoy a moment in the sunshine with Archbishop Mansell and Diocesan Administrator Msgr. Jerald Doyle. This is the last step before ordination to the priesthood. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

Rose his home parish.

"First I had to encounter the Lord and begin a meaningful, living relationship with him, which is different from just being a baptized Catholic. Once I put the Lord at the very center of my life, I was able to ask the question, 'Lord what is your plan for me?' Slowly, in prayer, Jesus showed me that he was calling me to be his priest and that he had made me with this in mind. I'm excited to embrace the identity and calling of a priest because this is who I was made to be."

Deacon Perrella assisted at his first Mass as deacon and delivered the homily at St. Rose of Lima on

June 23 at 10 am. Msgr. Robert Weiss, pastor, was the principal celebrant. He will be returning to Mount St. Mary's this fall to complete his seminary studies.

Deacon Andrew A. Vill

Deacon Andrew Vill, 25, grew up in Ridgefield, where his parents, Andrew and Angela Vill, are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. His brother and two sisters all live in Fairfield County. Another brother, Christopher, is deceased.

He attended Ridgebury Elementary School, East Ridge Middle School and Ridgefield High School, where he gradu-

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Local News

Golf scores for Bridgeport students

SOUTHPORT—The Catholic Academies of Bridgeport 2013 Golf Classic at the Country Club of Fairfield raised over \$200,000 to support scholarships and financial aid for Bridgeport children seeking a Catholic education.

“It was our first golf outing and we were delighted with the participation, enthusiasm and genuine engagement of the donors, players, sponsors and volunteers,” said Sr. Joan Magnetti, rscj, executive director of Cathedral Academies.

More than 125 people participated in the event, which was sponsored by the Catholic Academies Board under the lead-

ership of James L. Bailey and R. Bradford Evans, co-chairs.

During the awards reception, Bailey reminded those in attendance that they had benefited from a good education and added that now was the time to assure that the next generation, especially of inner-city children, has the same opportunity. Funds raised in the Golf Classic will be used for scholarships that fill the gap between the actual cost of education per student and the need to keep tuition affordable for Bridgeport families.

More than 1,280 youth are



GATHERED TOGETHER to support the Cathedral Academies, (l-r above) Patti Bumgardner, Marylou Salvati, Chancellor Anne McCrory and the Board Co-Chair Jim Bailey turn out for the Golf Classic at the Country Club of Fairfield. Below, right, Paul Queally, chair of the Development Committee, welcomes the chance to share his enthusiasm for Catholic education.

zation of Catholic Schools in Bridgeport announced earlier this year. The Academies include the new Cathedral Academy serving grades Pre-K through third grade at St. Raphael School and grades four through eight in the upper school at the nearby St. Augustine School. St. Ann Academy in Black Rock and St. Andrew Academy in the North End of Bridgeport will continue to offer Pre-K through eighth grade on their respective campuses.

(For more information on Catholic Academies, visit www.catholicacademiesbridgeport.org or email info@catholicacademies-bridgeport.org.)



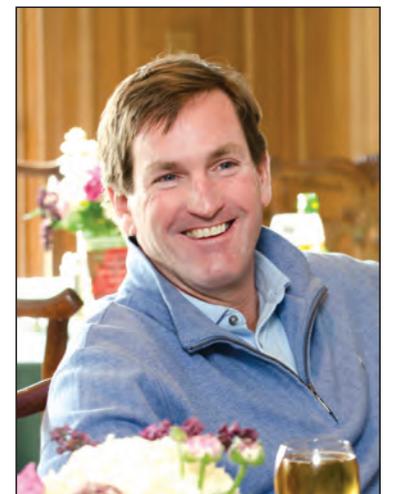
JOE SCHULTZ, left, gets ready to tee off at the Golf Classic. Above, Joyce Hergenhan, Co-Chair Brad Evans, and Sr. Joan Magnetti, executive director of the Cathedral Academies, lend their support to the day's events.

(PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

enrolled in Bridgeport Catholic schools, and about 65% of families rely on some level of financial assistance.

During the event, the Catholic Academies Board presented the Leaders of Tomorrow program developed by Alison Barr of Greenwich, a member of the Planning Committee. Ten golfers donated tuitions of \$4,000 each to help sponsor pre-schoolers enrolled in Catholic Academies schools.

Catholic Academies of Bridgeport, formerly known as the Cathedral Education Cluster, represents the overall reorgani-

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Reverend Juan Acosta
Reverend Joseph Gill

with Most Reverend Daniel A. Cronin
and Reverend Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, JCD

Parish News

St. Pius X Faith Center
nears completion

FAIRFIELD—Work on the new \$6 million St. Pius X Faith Center is nearing completion, with an open house set for Sunday, August 25, after the 10:30 Mass, according to Fr. Michael Dogali, pastor.

The \$6 million dollar project began with renovations to the church and the building of a 14,000 square foot, L-shaped addition, which will house a chapel, office space and a multi-purpose area for social and educational events.

"This has been a labor of

love for all of us," says Denis Sullivan, parish trustee and chair of the Building Committee. "I think we all feel an enormous sense of personal satisfaction. This is not just for us, it is for the next generation of families and parishioners."

He says that all major construction has been completed, the town of Fairfield has signed off on the final inspection, and exterior landscaping has already begun on the 13-acre campus that has been transformed by the project. Only some interior fit and

finish needs to be done.

Sullivan says the 2,000 family parish had outgrown the multi-purpose room in the old school facility and that many ministries were meeting in a portable classroom.

He adds that the new Faith Center achieves three important goals. "The first was to create a new community space for special occasions; the second was to have a space for prayer and reflection, and the third was to develop functional meeting spaces for our many ministries and programs."

Finishing touches are being



AN AERIAL VIEW of the nearly-completed parish complex at St. Pius X Parish.

put on the new 100-seat chapel, which will be used for daily Masses as well as baptisms and funerals. Behind the chapel is a new prayer garden that will provide an outdoor room for private prayer and reflection.

The final touches will be completed in the coming weeks when the huge parking lot is given a more pastoral feel with the addition of 108 trees and landscaped islands to soften the look from the street.

In addition to the new Faith Center, the project included a new slate roof and other upgrades to the 612-seat church, including new windows and doors, a heating and cooling system and other energy-efficient measures.

The last major piece to be finished will be the "fit out" of the administrative wing office space, which will enable the parish to move many administrative functions out of the rectory building.

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

 TRANSITIONAL ORDINATION FROM PAGE 5

ated in 2006. After a year at the University of Connecticut in Stamford, he entered St. John Fisher Seminary and graduated from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield in 2010 with a bachelor of arts in philosophy. He completed his bachelor of sacred theology degree at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, with residence at the North American College, graduating this spring.

He had worked at Stop and Shop Supermarket in Ridgefield during high school, and was an admissions advisor for the American Institute for Foreign Study in Stamford while at UConn. He held a summer job as an inserter technician for Pitney Bowes in Danbury before entering the seminary. An Eagle Scout and a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouting's National Honor Society, Deacon Vill is a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

"I fell in love with the Lord on a retreat I made in high school," he says. "When I felt that God was calling me to be a priest, I answered with great excitement and began seminary formation for the Diocese of Bridgeport. From my years at St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford, and up to today at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, I have grown deeper in my friendship with God. I am eager to serve in the vineyard of the Lord as a deacon in the Diocese of Bridgeport, and one day soon as a priest."

Deacon Vill assisted at his first Mass on June 23 at 9:30 am at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Fr. Joseph Prince, pastor, was the main celebrant; Deacon Vill delivered the homily. He will return to Rome in September to begin studying for a License of Sacred Theology.



Deacon Robert L. Wolfe

Deacon Robert Wolfe grew up in Shelton, where his parents, Robert and Pamela, and his brother Nicklaus are members of St. Joseph Parish. He graduated from St. Joseph elementary school in 2002 and received the Louis V. Gerstner Scholarship to St. Joseph High School in Trumbull, from which he graduated in 2006.

Always active at his home parish, he has worked as an aide in St. Joseph's parish office. He

entered St. John Fisher Seminary in the fall of 2006 and graduated from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, where he was a member of the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Honor Society, in 2010.

He has been in priestly formation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome since 2010. There he had the opportunity to serve as a guide of the subterranean excavations beneath St. Peter's Basilica as part of his formation. He completed his bachelor's in sacred theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome this spring. "I first considered the possibility of a priestly vocation when I was eight years old," he recalls. "I watched the priest and the altar servers and just knew that, somehow, this was where I belonged. I first visited St. John Fisher Seminary in the spring of 2003 and realized from that very moment that God was calling me to be a priest. Over the past seven years, including the last three years I have lived in Rome, I have continually seen the hand of God working in my life and carrying me forward along the path he has set for me. God is so good!"

He assisted at his first Mass as deacon at St. Joseph's on June 23 at 10:30 am. Fr. Augustine Nguyen, parochial vicar, who was ordained to the priesthood last year, was the principal celebrant. Deacon Wolfe delivered the homily.

He will be returning to Rome in the fall for continuing formation as well as for further theological studies.

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Holy Land/Italy: Aug. 26-Sep. 8, Sep. 2-15, Sep. 9-22 ...

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News

Archbishop Lori opened Fortnight for Freedom

"The Church does not have two wings: a 'faith-and-worship' division on the one hand, and a 'service' division on the other," said Archbishop William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, in his homily opening the Fortnight for Freedom. "Quite the contrary. We cannot claim to love God without loving our neighbor. What we believe and how we worship gives rise to a life of service."

Archbishop Lori, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, delivered the homily at a nationally-televised Mass on June 21 initiating the 2013 "Fortnight for Freedom" in the Basilica

of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore.

The two-week period ("fortnight" as our country's founders would have called that time span) from June 21-July 4 highlights the importance of religious freedom in America amid threats to the practice of faith guaranteed by the First Amendment. In particular, on June 26 the Supreme Court overturned the wishes of over 7 million voters when it struck down California's Proposition 8, which defined marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

"The efforts of the government to divide the Church into a worship wing and a service wing do not spring from a theoretic-

cal interest in how churches are organized. It is part of a broader movement to limit religious freedom to freedom of worship—to accord a fuller degree of religious liberty to houses of worship but a lesser degree of religious freedom to charities, hospitals, and universities. If left unchecked, this tendency will continue to diminish the influence of religion in helping to shape the character of our country, not only by our words but above all by the way we conduct our ministries of service."

"Faith and worship inspire and sustain the service the Church offers," he said, "yet the government is insinuating a contrary Gospel in the Church's daily life." ■

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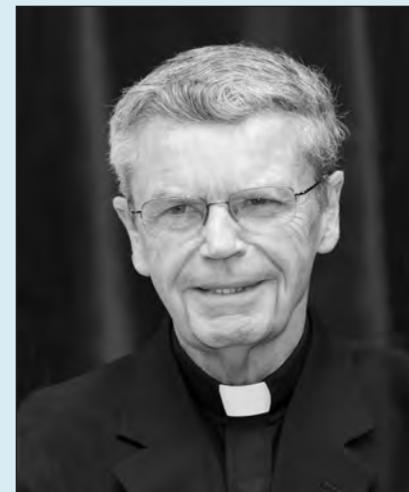
Celebrating our Faith

Dear Friends,

On August 6, 2013, the Diocese of Bridgeport will observe the 60th Anniversary of its founding in Fairfield County.

The anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate our own faith and those who came before us in faith. Though we face many challenges, we have much to celebrate because the Church is alive and vital in the continued faith and witness of our priests religious and laity.

For sixty years, under the spiritual guidance of four bishops, the Diocese of Bridgeport has been a beacon of hope and faith, manifesting God's love in our parishes, schools, ministries, and most importantly in our own hearts.



We have been bound together by the redeeming love of Christ, which embraces time and eternity. We have also been bound together by our good works, which represent faith in action as we reach out to safeguard the lives of those who are poor, defenseless and vulnerable.

As part of the observance of our 60th anniversary, we must recommit ourselves to grow in personal holiness, to evangelize and to get involved in good works, whether serving in a soup kitchen or on a parish board or helping in the many ways that are recognized each year through the presentation of St. Augustine Medals of Service.

As we eagerly await the announcement of a new bishop, who will help to shape our local 21st-Century Church, I am pleased to say that he will find a diocese blessed by deep faith and its expression through a remarkable level of charity, generosity and compassion for those in need.

There will be many opportunities to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the diocese throughout the year. During this time of transition, I ask you to pray for the diocese so that our faith and example may continue to encourage future generations to live the Gospel.

Sincerely,
Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle,
Diocesan Administrator

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Celebrating **60 years** of faith and good works

Bishops of the Diocese of Bridgeport



**Lawrence Cardinal
Joseph Shehan**

**First Bishop of Bridgeport
1953-1961**

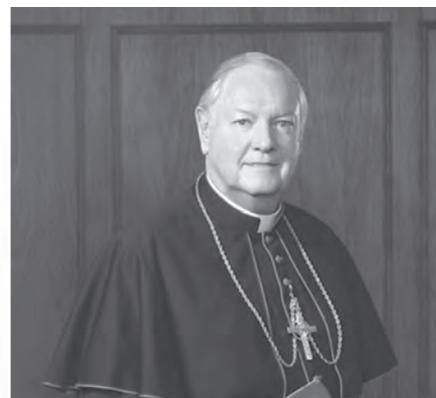
- Ordains 151 priests for the Diocese of Bridgeport
- Initiates Hispanic ministry in Bridgeport, Norwalk, Stamford
- Builds 17 new parishes in the young diocese
- Finds three high schools and 15 elementary schools
- Brings nine religious communities to the diocese.
- Authorizes the first census
- Convened the First Synod
- Called for a dynamic youth outreach through Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) which led to the founding of the Cardinal Shehan Center



**The Most Reverend
Walter William Curtis**

**Second Bishop of Bridgeport
1961-1988**

- Participates in the Second Vatican Council and brings the changes and reforms to the Diocese of Bridgeport
- Founds Sacred Heart University in 1963
- Names the first Ecumenical Commission in the State
- Initiates diocesan missions in Peru and Brazil
- Opens health centers and subsidized senior housing
- Restores the Permanent Diaconate
- Opens 19 new parishes in the suburbs
- Establishes Apostolate for African-Americans



**Edward Cardinal
Michael Egan**

**Third Bishop of Bridgeport
1988-2000**

- Establishes St. John Fisher Seminary Residence
- Regionalizes the diocesan school system
- Establishes Apostolate for Haitians and nurtures ethnic communities including Hispanics and Brazilians
- Creates the Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education
- Launches Faith in the Future capital campaign
- Opens St. Catherine Academy for children with special needs
- Opens the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of clergy Retired Priests' Residence



**Archbishop
William Edward Lori**

**Fourth Bishop of Bridgeport
2001-2012**

- Leads restoration and renovation of St. Augustine Cathedral
- Creates the diocesan Office of Safe Environments to protect children
- Revolutionizes parish finance with web based systems for transparency and accountability
- Inspires the diocese through "Following in the Footsteps of Christ" pastoral plan for evangelization
- Unveils a major restructuring of Catholic schools
- Publishes prophetic pastoral letter on Religious Liberty and provides leadership in defining the issue both locally and nationally

The Diocese of Bridgeport Today!

Where Mass is celebrated in **14** languages... Where **11,000** children and young people are secure in **35** schools that are faith-filled learning communities... Where **240** priests, **103** deacons, and **343** religious women witness to Christ and serve in loving ministries... Where **82** parishes engage the lives of Catholics through the reception of the sacraments and expression of Christ in worship... Where **4,343** baptisms, **5,128** first communions, **2,614** marriages carry on a vibrant, living faith that connects generations... Where seven men are newly ordained to the priesthood in May and four to the transitional diaconate... Where **460,000** Catholics worship, volunteer, and participate in the universal Church.

Local News

Fairfield University acquires heritage Bible

By PAT HENNESSY

Fairfield University has acquired a Heritage Edition of the St. John's Bible, printed from original vellums commissioned by the monks of St. John's monastery.

"The Gospel and Acts," volume six of the seven-volume edition, was used when the university celebrated its Baccalaureate Mass on May 18.

"This is a fine art reproduction, created to last for hundreds of years," says Joan Overfield, director of Fairfield University's DiMenna-Nyselius Library. "Even so, it's made to be seen and it's made to be used."

To understand the importance of the St. John's Bible, it's necessary to take a trip back in history. When Johannes Gutenberg produced the first printed Bible in Germany in 1450, his achievement sounded the death knell to an ancient monastic tradition. From the Dark Ages through the Medieval world, cloistered monks painstakingly inscribed illuminated Bibles on vellum, a finely processed calfskin. The surviving Bibles, striking works of art, now mainly have their homes in muse-

ums throughout the world.

Fast forward 500 years. For their millennium celebration, the Benedictine monks of St. John's Monastery in Collegeville, MI, decided to commission the first completely hand-written and illuminated Bible since the invention of the printing press.

They called on the skills of Donald Jackson, official scribe of Queen Elizabeth II, and his team of skilled craftsmen in Wales. The project enlisted the best technology of the entire millennium, with the layout planned on a Macintosh computer and the actual lettering produced using quill pens—goose, turkey or duck depending on the script (Jackson created a new script specifically for this project).

The monks recorded their plainchant of the Psalms—which were originally written to be sung, not read. A voiceprint of their chant threads through every page of the volume of "Psalms," sometimes shrinking to a tremulous vibrating whisper across the page, then swelling in burnished gold to become part of an illustration. That volume uses a lighter weight script, representing the musical flow of the Psalms.

In all, the St. John's Bible called on the talents of six calligraphers and seven artists. One of the artists specialized in nature: birds, butterflies, fish native to Minnesota. Poisonous insects native to Minnesota are shown beside passages of Eve's temptation in the garden of Eden "The detail is spectacular," says Overfield.

The dedicated craftsmen, working like monks, completed 20



GENEALOGY OF JESUS is given a modern interpretation in an illumination of the St. John's Bible. "The illuminations call us to look at the Word of God with a fresh perspective," says Joan Overfield, director of Fairfield University's DiMenna-Nyselius Library, which has acquired a Heritage Edition of the Bible.

years-worth of work on the seven-volume Bible in a mere 11 years.

Although the Heritage Edition is printed, it is a work of art in itself. The cover is of Italian calfskin, the paper 100% cotton rag from New Hampshire. A woman from Pakistan hand sews each head band & tail band. The gold in the illustrations (gold to symbolize the divine) is all painstakingly hand burnished.

Beautiful as it appears, the glory of the illuminated Bible is definitely more than skin deep. "The illuminations are not illustrations," explains Fr. Michael Patella, O.S.B., chair of the Committee on Illumination and Text. "They are spiritual meditations on a text. It is a very Benedictine approach to the Scriptures."

The impact can be seen in the dramatic illumination of Jesus' lineage at the opening of Matthew (shown in the photo accompanying this article): a

Jewish menorah serves as Jesus' family tree, with his ancestors' names written in Hebrew and English. The whole is superimposed on an image of a DNA double helix, indicating both his human nature and the relatedness of all humanity in him.

One of the most striking illustrations accompanies the Gospel parables of forgiveness. As the prodigal son flees a life of degradation, his father joyously awaits his return. A curve in the path holds the image of the Twin Towers burning in the background. The illumination seems to say that only forgiveness can overcome violence. The image gives a new, and painful, awareness to readers perhaps too familiar with the parable.

"It's evocative and impressionistic," says Overfield. "What

do you see in this image? We all interpret it individually."

The aim of the monks was to use this extraordinary Bible to build a new awareness of the Word of God by sharing reactions to it from a variety of perspectives. "When I discussed our intention to acquire this Bible with the deans, we talked about how we would use it in various disciplines," Overfield recalls. "The dean of the School of

Nursing may use the illustrations in the volume on the Pentateuch to discuss ancient knowledge of hygiene. The Engineering School may look at the press, how this was created." Art students have already studied the illuminations, contrasting them with Medieval art in the Book of Kells.

"The St. John's Bible speaks to the Jesuit and Catholic mission of the university," Overfield concludes, pointing to the reputation of the Jesuits as scholars and educators. To date, the university has five volumes of the seven-volume Bible. Each one is made specifically for the university, which expects to have all seven volumes by the end of the coming school year.

One volume is always on display in the DiMenna-Nyselius Library. A new page is turned every week. "In 200-300 years, people will still be talking about this magnificent work of art," Overfield says. "This is a treasure to support university curricula and the Jesuit mission and to be enjoyed by the whole community and our visitors." ■

ST. PIUS FROM PAGE 7

Sullivan says he is grateful to all of the donors who have made pledges and to the professionals involved in the design and construction.

"All of the project partners AV Tuchy Builders, Doyle-Coffin Architects, our project manager, all of our sub-contractors and service providers have been doing great work on behalf of our parish family to bring this project to completion," he says.

Sullivan says he is also grateful for the leadership of Fr. Michael Dogali, who took over leadership of the parish in 2011.

"He had to contend with the recession and a difficult economy but he understood how impor-

tant this was to the parish and he stayed with it. Since then he has been out in front talking to donors and building support for the project."

The 13-acre parcel of land on Brookside Drive was purchased in 1955 from the late Walter O'Malley, who was then the owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers. The parcel, known as the Lincoln Kennel property, included a barn and a white frame farmhouse, now the rectory, which the O'Malley family used as a residence in the summers and on weekends.

(For more information and photos of the project, visit the St. Pius X Parish website at www.st-pius.org.) ■

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Parish News

Pastors observe 40th

In an affirmation of friendship stretching over more than 25 years, Cardinal Edward M. Egan was on hand for the 40th anniversary celebration for Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield. During his tenure as Bishop of Bridgeport, Cardinal Egan had appointed Msgr. Bronkiewicz chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport. He later became administrator of the diocese when Cardinal Egan left for New York in 2000.

The Norwalk native was ordained in St. Peter's Basilica on July 2, 1973. From 1979-1984 he returned to Rome to serve as academic dean of the North American College, as well as becoming spiritual director of seminarians.

During his four decades of ministry, he has served in parish assignments in Stamford, Greenwich, Norwalk, and Brookfield. He has been a theology instructor in the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program and at St. John Fisher Seminary. Between 1986 and 2000 he assisted Bishop Walter W. Curtis and then-bishop Egan, the second and third Bishops of Bridgeport, in various capacities

beginning as episcopal vicar for clergy and religious, overseeing clergy appointments, and later as chancellor.

He was reappointed chancellor by Bishop William E. Lori in 2002 and was named pastor of Saint Mary's in February of 2003.

The tri-lingual family of faith at St. Joseph Parish in Norwalk is preparing to celebrate the 40th anniversary of its pastor, Fr. Gilbert D'Souza, on June 30. The energetic parish, which celebrates Mass in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, is ably served by Fr. D'Souza, a man of multilingual talents in his own right. Fr. D'Souza was born in Goa, India. He pursued his seminary studies at the Colegio de San Argot del Valles in Barcelona Spain, and at the Papal Atheneum in India. He was Ordained in Bombay on April 7, 1973.

He came to this diocese as parochial vicar at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Riverside in 1983 and was incardinated into the Diocese of Bridgeport in 1987. He first came to St. Joseph's as parochial vicar in August of 1996; he was named administrator in 2008 and pastor three years ago, on June 2, 2010.

The parish is inviting parishioners and friends

to an open reception for Fr. D'Souza on Sunday, June 30, from 2-5 pm.

"Being drawn intimately into the moments of joy and suffering of others is one of the greatest gifts of the priesthood," Msgr. Robert Weiss said at his Fortieth Anniversary Mass on Pentecost Sunday.

With people filling the pews and standing in the aisles at St. Rose of Lima Church, Msgr. Weiss received repeated standing ovations during and after Mass. At times the Mass felt like an extended family gathering, with parishioners from other parishes where Msgr. Weiss had served joining the Newtown community.

Most of those present celebrated him as "Fr. Bob," a man

whose prayerful witness and deep humanity comforted the town and the nation after the loss of children and teachers.

The Anniversary Mass brought back together many of the leaders who gathered in the church on the weekend of December 14 as the country reeled in shock and horror after the shooting at Sandy Hook School, including Governor Dannel Malloy and U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal.

"It's a privilege to be in this pulpit every day and in our own human way to keep people close to the heart of Christ," Msgr.

Weiss said during his homily.

In addition to these three pastors, two other priests of the Diocese of Bridgeport are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. Fr. Ray Petrucci, who resides at St. Joseph Parish in Danbury, is a chaplain at Danbury Hospital. He was formerly rector of St. Augustine Cathedral. Msgr. John Saunders is the former pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Bridgeport. Now retired, he resides at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy priests' retirement residence in Stamford.



AN HONOR GUARD of Knights and brother priests were on hand when Cardinal Edward Egan joined the 40th anniversary celebration of Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz. (PHOTO BY JEAN SANTOPATRE)



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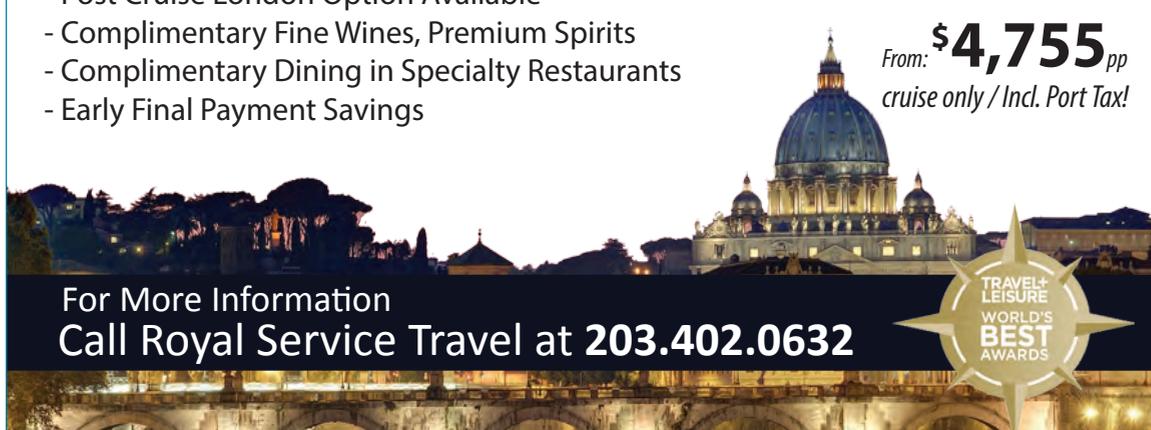
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Family Life

NFP plans special Rosary & Mass

BRIDGEPORT—National Family Planning Awareness Week is July 21-27. The theme this year, “Pro-woman, Pro-man, Pro-child,” emphasizes the benefits of NFP to everyone within the family.

“When we discover NFP, we are celebrating and reverencing God’s vision of human sexuality,” says Angela Mantero, diocesan director of the Ministry for Marriage and Family. The ministry will be recognizing the occasion with a special Rosary and

Mass on Saturday, July 27, at St. Ann Church in Bridgeport.

The dates of NFP Awareness Week mark the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Mother. They also highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood.

“This year, we celebrate the 45th anniversary of Pope Paul

VI’s document in which he reiterated the Church’s age-old ban on artificial contraception,” says Mantero. She points out that this encyclical was met with dissent by both Catholics and non-Catholics, as they viewed the Pope as out of touch with modern times.

“What many don’t realize, however, is that God created us with the methods by which to take control of our fertility in a responsible, natural way that is 100% in accord with his plan for

life and love. NFP not only serves to plan and space children, it is proven to strengthen marriages. Couples who practice NFP have a divorce rate of only 5%.”

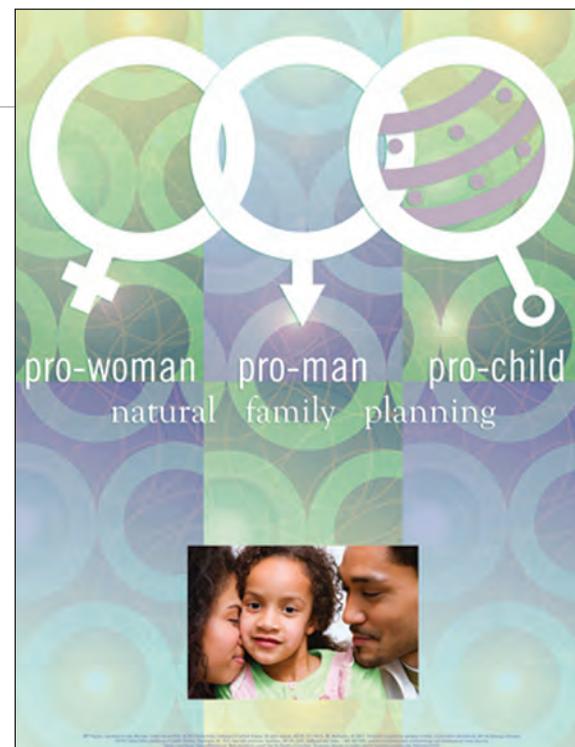
While National Family Planning refers to meth-

ods for postponing or achieving pregnancy based upon observations of a woman’s body that inform her of the fertile and infertile phases of her cycle, the process involves both the man and the woman through constant communication and occasional abstinence.

Catholic author Fletcher Doyle explains it like this: “He develops a sense of awe in the way God made her, and she develops a sense of gratitude that he is willing to sacrifice his own pleasure for her sake. And both grow in their love and trust in God when they see the plan for sex and marriage that he built

into their bodies. I have seen and experienced how using Natural Family Planning can make a difference in marriage. That should come as no surprise because it’s God’s way to practice responsible parenthood—it’s his design for life and love!”

(The special NFP Rosary will begin at 3:30 pm at St. Ann’s on Sat., July 27. Mass is at 4 pm; a light reception with an opportunity to meet NFP couples will follow the Mass. For more information on this event or the local NFP ministry, go to www.ccl.org or contact Angela Mantero: 203.416.1627 or amantero@diobpt.org.)

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In Residence: Fr. Paul N. Check, Director of Courage

Deacon Stephan Genovese

Choirmaster: David J. Hughes

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Sunday Masses: 8:00am, 9:30am Extraordinary Form Solemn High Mass, 11:30am Ordinary Form High Mass, 1:15pm in Spanish

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

June 30: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Spem in alium* (Palestrina); *Magnus es tu Domine* (Josquin); organ works of Vierne and Messiaen

July 7: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Rex splendens* (Mass VII)

July 14: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Magnae Deus potentiae* (Mass V)

July 21: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Orbis factor* (Mass XI)

July 28: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa à 3* (Dunstable)

August 4: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Dormendo un giorno* (Guerrero)

August 11: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Laudate Deum* (Willaert)

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Faith in Action

Immaculate students make breakfast for homeless

By **DON HARRISON**

"All of my experiences at Morning Glory have been positive and cheerful. Everyone there has a huge smile on their face and is so grateful for our help. The people who attend breakfast love having us there and start conversations with us," says Julia Haley, a freshman at Immaculate High School in Danbury.

Julia is among some 15 students at Immaculate High School who serve breakfast to the hungry and homeless twice a month at Morning Glory, a hot breakfast program sponsored by the Diocese of Bridgeport's Catholic Charities in Danbury.

Its clients are drawn from two nearby homeless shelters, the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality and the Danbury Adult Shelter. Breakfast is served by students and adult volunteers Monday through Friday, from 6:30 to 9:30 am.

"The number of people we serve fluctuates depending on the weather. Up to 120 a lot of times, but lately it's been about 50," says Michele Conderino, MSW, Catholic Charities' director of homeless services who has supervised Morning Glory since its inception six years ago.

"The majority are middle-aged, forties to fifties, and many are day laborers. Occasionally some kids come in. Now that summer is here, we'll probably see more kids."

Patricia Buckley, a religious education teacher and campus minister at Immaculate, accompanies the students to Morning Glory on many occasions. She's pleased that so many young people have derived considerable gratification from helping the less fortunate. "Last year, our kids were there once a month. This

year it's twice a month, on the first and second Wednesday of the month," she explains. "The kids have asked if we can do it this summer, so they'll be there July and August."

Many students have recognized some of the Morning Glory clients from around town. "They're just like us," the kids say.

"They just happen to be down on their luck," Buckley notes.

Operating out of 11 Spring St. in Danbury, the Morning Glory program has served more than 100,000 meals since its founding in October of 2007. Mark Grasso, then the director of homeless services, conceived the Morning Glory name.

Morning Glory works in collaboration with its sister program, the Homeless Outreach Team, and other agencies to provide education and referrals in a quest to end homelessness in Danbury. Many agencies use Morning Glory as a site to connect with the hard-to-reach population and provide services.

No cost is associated with meals or the interaction with other agencies; guests are only asked to sign in when they arrive. All participation in services with visiting programs is voluntary.

Some comments from other participating Immaculate High students:

Lexi Oskam: "I loved going to Morning Glory! It was a great way to start off my day. All of the people were so kind and I loved how everyone acted as a community there. Everyone looked out for each other."

Bobby Rickard: "Morning Glory is a really fun experience for all. It's a great experience for the clients and for us."

Abby Lenz: "The people who work there regularly are all really

great. They come so early in the morning to help with breakfast. I even made friends with the chef."

Faith Whitmore: "It is so much fun serving them. It is a great experience and it's awesome to see what a great time they have together."

Conderino is delighted that so many Immaculate students have elected to participate in Morning Glory. "I love the fact that they asked to come. They really want to be there," she says, adding, "The students really learn about homelessness. I love the education piece of it."

(Monetary donations to the Morning Glory Breakfast Program may be mailed to Catholic Charities, Attn: Michele Conderino, 24 Grassy Plain St., Bethel, CT 06801.

Donations of food may be coordinated with Conderino or program assistant Sierra Pepi: 203.748.0848, ext. 231 or ext. 229. Donations may be given in honor of a friend or family member online through Blessed Gifts: www.bridgeportdiocese.com)



THE CLIENTS WHO RECEIVE breakfast through the Morning Glory program in Danbury enjoy the presence of young servers. Here (l-r) Dan Buckley, Abby Lenz and Lorena Curtis prepare breakfast with a smile.

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EDITORIAL

Building our future

Exciting learning centers. Students building a solar tower, serving meals in a soup kitchen, studying how our government works, learning to write computer code. That's what schools are like in today's world. That's what you see throughout this special schools issue, from the top scholars heading off to college to tiny kids in pre-K working collaboratively around a giant SMART Table. There's an energy in today's classrooms, a sense of exploration, a feeling that students and teachers are sharing a journey to the center of knowledge. Who knows what they may find along the way.

Most Catholic students are in public schools. Their teachers are committed, enthusiastic, dedicated educators, working for the best for our children. In many ways, Catholic schools have it easier. Parents, parish and school build a community that encourages children to fulfill their potential. Religion classes form the foundation, but they are just the beginning of the experience of faith. Prayer leads to action; the practice of charity, here at home or in places like tornado-damaged Oklahoma, is built into the school's reason for being.

As the school year ends, praise goes to all teachers and school staff. They deserve a big 'Thank You' from all of us, whether or not we have kids in school. They're building our future.

Diocese at 60

August 6 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

On August 6, 1953, Pope Pius XII created the new diocese when he carved Fairfield County out of the Archdiocese of Hartford, reflecting the fact that the growth along the coast was outpacing the rest of the state.

When our first bishop, Lawrence J. Shehan, came to Bridgeport on November 30 of that year, he inherited a territory that had been well served by Hartford; his new diocese already included 250,000 Catholics in 60 parishes with 20 of those designated as ethnic parishes.

We as Catholics today stand on their shoulders—many physically carried the granite stones and materials used to build the first churches. Our parishes and our living faith are a gift from those who came before us.

Many of us remember that day 10 years ago when Catholics of the diocese filled Harbor Yard for the 50th anniversary. It was a memorable moment with over 8,000 faithful coming together to affirm their faith and the historic role of the Church in the life of Fairfield County. The prayers and petitions that day were intoned in many different languages, including English, Spanish, Haitian, Italian, French, Polish, Slovak, Slovenian, Portuguese, Hungarian, African—reflecting the great diversity and vitality of the diocese. We should never lose sight of the fact that the very DNA of the diocese is that of an immigrant Church representing the aspirations and deep faith of all those who came to live and work here.

Today, at 60, the diocese is even more diverse—strengthened by the vitality of so many recent immigrants as well as families that have worshipped here for generations. And even a quick glimpse at the history of the diocese, shows the Church is also dynamic and always changing.

We the Catholics of today live in a very different world than those who came before us, yet we take this occasion to celebrate their faith and to remember that we are bound to them by our need for the sacraments and the embrace of the Church in our lives.

Summer Breeze

We do nothing to earn summer; the purity of white roses, the buttery glow of euonymus at sunset, the green fidelity of hosta. In fact, summer always seems to arrive when our attention is turned elsewhere, too busy to notice all the new life around us. In a culture entirely given to work, to getting ahead, or simply surviving, we are oblivious to what mildness has to tell us. Perhaps the summer breeze is a messenger with an invitation to listen. Reason enough to stop, to rest, and to find God's grace, not in our goals or plans, but in our openness to life. ■

Work of Mercy

Several years ago I felt a calling to volunteer in our local jail on North Avenue in Bridgeport as a Christian witness to pray and study the Bible with the inmates. Men are often sentenced there for over a year with little or no opportunity for religious activity. My calling was reinforced after I learned that research shows there is much less recidivism for inmates who participate in religious programs while being incarcerated.

Volunteers go through an orientation and a background check conducted by the state correctional system. The prison ministry of the Diocese of Bridgeport requires that volunteers have a recommendation from their pastors. They need a generous heart, but do not have to have an extensive knowledge of the Bible.

Safety for volunteers is not an issue in this jail. There has never been a safety incident during my sixteen years of weekly visits.

During a typical visit a small group of men sit around a table with me and focus on a reflection about a short Bible passage which relates to their daily situations. The men are cooperative, respectful and thankful. They hunger for more visits and study their Bibles during their free time. The evenings end with each of us composing a brief prayer aloud—usually the most inspiring and heartwarming part of the meeting.

So, why not pray about it and give it a try. Your spiritual life will never be the same.

Joe Walsh, Fairfield
(To volunteer for prison ministry through the Diocese of Bridgeport, contact Sr. Nancy Strillacci, ASCJ: 203.416.1511 or srstrillacci@diobpt.org.)

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS



Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, JCD, Diocesan Administrator, has made the following clergy appointments in the Diocese of Bridgeport:

PASTOR

FATHER REGINALD NORMAN, Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Bridgeport, to Pastor, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton. Father Norman will also continue as Director of Apostolate of African Americans. Effective date is July 1.

ADMINISTRATOR

FATHER JOSEPH J. KARCSINSKI, Parochial Vicar, Saint Jude Parish, Monroe, to Administrator, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date is July 1.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

FATHER JUAN GABRIEL ACOSTA, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Westport. Effective date was June 7.

FATHER CHARLES ANEMELU, new to the Diocese, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Thomas More Parish, Darien. Father Anemelu will continue as Assistant Chaplain at Norwalk Hospital. Effective date was May 28.

FATHER JOHN CONNAUGHTON, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Danbury. Father Connaughton will return to the North American College to complete his studies. Effective date was June 7.

FATHER JOSEPH GILL, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Bethel. Effective date was June 7.

FATHER HENRY J. HOFFMAN, Parochial Vicar, Saint Edward the Confessor Parish, New Fairfield, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Jude Parish, Monroe. Effective date is July 1.

FATHER MATTHEW KRANKALL, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Theresa Parish, Trumbull. Effective date was June 7.

FATHER KRZYSZTOF KUCZYNSKI, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown. Father Kuczynski will return to the North American College to complete his studies. Effective date was June 7.

FATHER DAMIAN PIELESZ, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Stamford. Effective date was June 7.

FATHER RALPH SEGURA, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Aloysius Parish, New Canaan. Effective date was June 7.

*Rev. Msgr. Kevin Royal, Delegate for Clergy Personnel
June, 2013*

Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, JCD
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Editorial



The poet “Hounded” by God

A WOMAN’S VIEW

BY ANTOINETTE BOSCO

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

As I write this, I am re-reading Francis Thompson, the English poet who wrote the incredibly moving poem, “The Hound of Heaven,” which so affirms that our God is the One who will not let go of us. A troubled, brilliant, but devout man, he died one hundred and six years ago, on November 13, 1907, at the young age of 48 years. He left an unusual legacy, wanting to be remembered as “the poet of the return to God.”

I first heard of him decades ago as a Catholic college student when I rather accidentally picked up

a copy of his magnificent poem, opening with the haunting words, “I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; I fled Him, down the arches of the years...” I wanted to know what had happened in his young life that separated him from the God who never stopped “hounding” him.

I found his story, and truly it was a remarkable one. He was born in England in 1859 to good parents. His father, a doctor, was a convert to Catholicism, and his parents thought he’d enter the priesthood. Instead, he went to medical school, but hated it. He’d sneak off, going to libraries so he

could read poetry. But then he fell ill, and was given a drug they called “laudanum,” later translated as opium. He became addicted.

Medical school was over for him. He went to London, picked up a poor-paying job here and there. He had a “chance encounter” with a man who saw him on the streets, writing. This man had a shop and employed him, lending him books, paper and pencils. But that didn’t last, either. He wanted the drugs, and “reentered the underworld,” he would later say. Homeless, he was helped, amazingly, by women known as “streetwalkers,” kindnesses he never forgot.

Francis, still writing, sent a packet of his poetry to a magazine called “Merry England.” He didn’t get a response, slipped further into his street life, and decided to commit suicide with an overdose of drugs. He went to a place where gardeners threw out their rubbish. But before he could swallow the drugs, he felt an arm on his wrist, and “saw Chatterton standing over him and

forbidding him” to do it. Thomas Chatterton, a despairing poet, had committed suicide in 1770 at the age of 18, never knowing he would one day be acclaimed for his work. Francis told this story later, saying he knew it was Chatterton from “pictures of him.” Was this a real visitation from the other world as Francis Thompson believed?

Actually, a surprise was already in store for the homeless vagabond. “Merry England” published one of his poems, “The Passion of Mary,” nearly a year after Francis sent it in. He saw it and wrote to the editors, Wilfred and Alice Meynell, who invited him to come in so they could meet this unknown poet. Thompson came in, a derelict with no shirt or socks, still a drug addict. The Meynells, devout Catholics and extraordinarily good people, took him in, recognizing his work as genius.

Thompson was 29, and changed his life. Before he died at age 48 he had achieved what he had envisioned, that the role of the

poet was to be that of “using his craft for the sanctification of the soul, the uniting of the elements of God and man artistically,” as Wilfred Meynell would affirm.

After his death, a commentary in a British publication, the *Athenaeum*, said of Thompson, “He was not a saint, but a man who had the saint’s intense, unflinching preoccupation with eternal things, the saint’s desire for God, whose passionate, individual apprehension of Christianity markedly affected that of his contemporaries.”

In truth, it was Francis Thompson’s Catholicism that defined his work, for as Alice Meynell wrote, “Thompson’s imagination was permeated with the conviction that the personal embrace between Creator and creature was ‘solely the secret and note of Catholicism,’” as the poet put it.

He went to his Maker 106 years ago, but left us the truth he discovered, that while we may try to flee from God, our God, who forever loves us, will not stop pursuing us. ■



On the list

A DAD’S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

My grandmother was from Ireland. We called her Nana. When I was five years old, she asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I gave her my rank-order preferences: baseball player, train conductor, Jedi Knight.

Nana was having none of it. “You could be a priest,” she suggested. I smiled and went back to my train set. Having a priest in the family has long been a point of pride for the Irish, but I’m not aware of a single one in my line.

When I was a little older, we took a family trip to the

National Shrine of North American Martyrs in Upstate New York. It was a stage of life when nothing mattered more to me than baseball. Not girls, not music, not school. Nothing. Baseball was it.

In that bucolic setting, however, with the stories of St. Isaac Jogues, St. Rene Goupil, and St. John Lalande knocking around in my head, the religious life seemed at least as heroic to me as playing center field for the Yankees. When I closed my eyes, I could imagine walking those lush green hills in barefoot communion with God and His creation. I saw a simple and holy

life. It seemed within reach.

But then we hopped back in the station wagon and tuned a game in on the radio. Rickey Henderson led off with a walk, stole second, and scored on a Don Mattingly double to the gap. All thoughts of the priesthood slipped away. Somehow playing center field for the Yankees seemed a likelier possibility.

Eric Metaxas, the great evangelical Christian author and speaker, has said that all men desire to live heroic lives. I think that’s true, and important to consider, especially, when talking to boys about their journey to manhood. Who do we honor by calling them heroes? What examples do we offer? Actors? Business tycoons? Ball players?

I’m of the mind that heroism is about self-sacrifice. Anyone who sacrifices his own needs for those of another is a hero in my book.

That includes anyone taking the responsibility of being a parent seriously enough to get down on the floor and play with a kid.

Maybe we won’t get the Medal of Honor for changing diapers and taking out the trash, but we are sacrificing ourselves in some heroic way for our families when we do these things.

Sacrifice need not be on a large scale to be heroic. After all, relatively few will be asked to give their lives in battle. Fewer still will be called on to enter a burning building to save a life. These are heroic acts, but even a coward may do the right thing by providence or by accident. True heroism requires a conscious sacrifice.

Which is exactly what the priesthood is and should be: an all-day, every day job, performed in service of others and with no expectation of earthly reward. What could be more heroic?

Last month, my wife took our oldest daughter up to St. Theresa’s in Trumbull to see seven men of our diocese ordained to the priesthood. I’m sure there were a few proud grandmothers in the pews that day.

I wonder sometimes how I

would react if my son told me he was thinking of becoming a priest? Would I be happy? Would I be thankful? Would my son be able to tell instantly by my reaction that I was proud of him?

Tough questions, but ones that every Catholic parent should come to terms with. Our Church is in dire need of vocations to the priesthood. We should pray for them every day. We cannot thrive as a faith community without them.

No one in our house—except for Nana—ever talked to me about the priesthood. It was never mentioned as something a boy could actually be when he grows up. In fact, that conversation with Nana was the only time anyone ever spoke seriously to me about it.

Many of us—me included—don’t do enough to present the priesthood as a heroic option to our kids. I’m not saying we have to push it on them, but it could be on the list, couldn’t it?

Somewhere between Jedi Knight and center fielder for the Yankees? ■

Science

Science projects make the world a better place

By PAT HENNESSY

Curiosity, experimentation and attention to data paid off as students from diocesan middle and high schools again placed highly in the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair, held each spring at Quinnipiac University.

More than 15,000 students in grades 7 through 12 from Connecticut and several bordering New York State towns compete for the 500 spaces at the state fair. In all, 120 schools and regional fairs send students to the CSEF.

There are two main divisions: Dominion Physical Science and Pfizer Life Science awards. In addition, competitors may earn Special Category Awards and awards from individual foundations and academic organizations.

At St. Mark School in Stratford, eighth-grader Megan Robertson took home a remarkable third place in life sciences. For the environmentally astute, Megan's project was "The

Phytoremediation Efficacy of *Elodea Canadensis*, *Lemna Minor*, and *Brassica Juncea* in Copper Sulfate Contaminated Water." An interpretation for the less technically inclined: Megan analyzed natural ways to neutralize industrial waste. She also took home an environmental Science Awards trophy with CIACIWC. Megan has been invited to compete on the national level in the Broadcom MASTERS Science Fair Competition. She will attend St. Joseph High School in Trumbull next year.

Her classmate, Alexandra Sciallo, was a finalist in life science.

The other outstanding diocesan achievements landed in the physical sciences. Heading the list is Grace Herrick, an eighth-grader at St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown, who took home a third place trophy for "Evaluating the Performance of a Model Solar Updraft Tower Power Plant." In addition, she took home a number of individual trophies, includ-

ing a First Place from Barnes Aerospace Applied Technology and EnergizeCT/eesmarts Renewable Energy.

As part of her project, she actually built a working solar updraft tower and monitored its energy output. This is a repeat performance for Grace. As a seventh-grader, she took first place among all projects at her grade level with a study of water pollution.

Grace will attend The Gunnery prep school in Washington, CT, in the fall.

At St. Joseph School in Danbury, eighth-grader Martha Haddad took home the fourth place trophy in physical sciences for "Converting Waste to Electricity Using Efficient Microbial Fuel Cells." She, too, collected a number of additional trophies, including a first place in biotechnology from Alexion Biotechnology.

Both Grace and Martha have been invited to compete in Broadcom.

St. Joseph's can also be proud of James Parris, grade 8, and Makinsey Jarboe, grade 7, who



SCIENCE EXPLORERS, diocesan students took home trophies at this year's State Science Fair. Their achievements were headed by Grace Herrick from St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown in the physical sciences and Megan Robertson (above) of St. Mark School in Stratford in life science.

were both finalists in physical science, and seventh-grader Alexandra Peters, who was a biotechnology finalist.

Wrapping up the list of top physical science awards, eighth-grader Evan Guerrero from All Saints Catholic School in Norwalk took home fifth place for "Comparative Study of Three Renewable Energy Sources: Solar Power, Wind Power, and Hydroelectric Power."

His classmates Christy Russo and Leah Zezima were finalists in the physical science team category. Seventh-grader Kristen Beaumonte was a finalist at her grade level, also in physical sciences.

Given the intense competition, all schools can be proud of students whose projects gained entry into the State Fair. Of particular note, St. Mary School in Bethel saw two finalists, both seventh-graders: Hannah Folan in

life science and Tiffany Saviano in physical science. St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury had three eighth-grade finalists, Peter Chaves in life science and the team of Katie Colucci and Anna Strosser in the physical science team category. At St. Catherine of Siena School in Trumbull, eighth-grader Abigail Kelly—another repeat winner—was a finalist in physical science.

A number of students in these and other schools throughout the diocese took home Special Category awards and medals.

Displaying an attitude common to all State Fair competitors, Grace Herrick spoke of the drive behind her effort. "Age isn't really a limit," she says. "If it's what you want to do, then go for it."

"When I'm older I want to create a technology to help the world be a better place. I think this is a step toward doing that." ■

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Danbury

St. Joseph School: Blue Ribbon excellence

By PAT HENNESSY

“Academic achievement qualified us to apply for the National Blue Ribbon nomination,” says Lisa Lanni, principal of St. Joseph School in Danbury. “But it’s who we are that got us the award.”

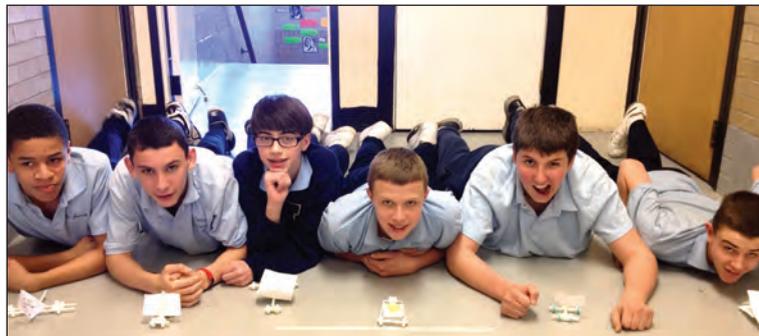
Ask Lanni how St. Joseph’s defines “who we are,” and the words start tumbling out: a technological school, one that sees a collaborative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) project every quarter during the school year. A school with a CT History Day winner; a Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee winner; a state winner—a first-grader—in the Hibernians handwriting competition; a CT State Science Fair physical science winner. It’s a school with foreign language training starting in pre-K. One where the music teacher wrote, produced

and directed the school play. One where students and their parents raised \$1,000 for the victims of the tornado in Oklahoma in less than a week’s time.

“We’re a Catholic school, first and foremost. All the rest is bells and whistles. We’re a school that offers children a lived experience of Gospel values. Our faculty are role models of faith—throughout the day, throughout the week, throughout the year,” she says with passion.

The standardized test scores allowed St. Joseph’s faculty to present all this to Washington. After a painstaking process, St. Joseph’s was named one of 50 nationally recognized Blue Ribbon schools for the 2012-13 school year.

At St. Joseph’s, Gospel values are infused in the daily life of the children. “We don’t just read



WIND POWER drives these “Puffer Cars.” Students worked out the technology, collected data, studied transportation history and wrote reports, involving every subject in the curriculum. The project concluded with races in the middle school hallway. The kids loved it! (l-r) Paul Wright, Andrew Mollenthiel, Zach Zuccala, Michael Halas, Michael Gaboardi, and Colm Doherty.

the book, we lead the life,” says middle school religion teacher Sr. Frances Heffron, CSJ. “From the littlest ones on, they participate in activities that are age appropriate to them in terms of social justice.”

The St. Joseph Care Club, made up of children in kindergar-

ten through grade five, has baked muffins for the Morning Glory outreach van sponsored by the Dorothy Day Hospitality House. They’ve spruced up the gardens around the church and school, and made pretty seasonal place-mats for the residents of nearby

nursing homes. Older students are always ready to lend a hand in the parish, moving tables, working at a clothing drive, staffing a bake sale.

“Our kids have really good role models in their parents,” Sr. Frances adds. “After Hurricane Sandy, we were closed for a week. As soon as we re-opened, our parents had three U-Haul vans ready to bring supplies to New Jersey for families who’d lost everything in the hurricane.”

The community spirit, faculty and staff agree, are behind St. Joseph’s success. “Parents want a Catholic school that encourages faith,” Lanni says. “They want to know their kids are safe, and that they’re cared about. Faculty, staff, parents: we all work together. If it takes a village to raise a child, we are the village

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART Congratulates the Class of 2013



Our 82 graduates have been accepted to the following colleges:

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University of Colorado
at Boulder
Colorado College
Connecticut College
University of Connecticut-
Honors
Cornell University (4)
Denison University
Duke University (2)
Elon University
Fairfield University
Fordham University

The George Washington
University
Georgetown University (5)
Gettysburg College
Hamilton College-NY (2)
College of the Holy Cross (2)
Johns Hopkins University (2)
Kenyon College
Lehigh University
Loyola University Maryland (2)
Marquette University
Miami University, Oxford
Middlebury College
New York University (2)
Northeastern University
Northwestern University (4)
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
Providence College
Rice University
University of Richmond (2)

Salve Regina University
The University of Scranton
Skidmore College (2)
Smith College
University of Southern
California
Southern Methodist University
University of St. Andrews,
Scotland
Stanford University
Tulane University
United World College
of the Atlantic
Vanderbilt University (2)
Villanova University
University of Virginia (2)
Wake Forest University (2)
Washington and Lee University
Washington University
in St. Louis
Yale University

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All School..... Saturday, November 2



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Blue Ribbon School

ST. JOSEPH

FROM PAGE 17

working for the benefit of each child here.”

The school’s cooperative culture makes it easier for children to excel, Lanni affirms. Recognizing that many families would not be able to afford an iPad for their child, the school provided two iPad carts, one for the middle school and one for grades three through five. In addition, “bring your own device” technology introduced this year allows students to use their already existing laptop or Kindle on the school’s network.

“Parents don’t have to purchase anything,” says St. Joseph’s

technology coordinator, Deanna George. “Students can bring their own computers, and the carts fill in for families who don’t have that kind of technology at home.”

Comfort with technology starts at the pre-K level, where the little ones have supervised access to a SMART Table. “It’s like an overgrown iPad on legs,” George explains. “Four kids can work on it at once.”

A cluster of youngsters excitedly swiping images on the board look to an observer like a miniature edition of the TV forensic program CSI. Meanwhile their older schoolmates are learning to write computer code by creating video games—incorporating

English grammar to create a version of Mad Libs. Students in the upper grades, under the guidance of George and their social studies teacher, are learning not only how to research topics on the web but how to distinguish the accuracy of the sites they explore.

“Parents want a school with high academic standards and expectations—they don’t care if it’s done with textbooks or technology,” Lanni observes. The National Blue Ribbon Award confirms that St. Joseph’s meets, and exceeds, that standard.

In April, in honor of their Blue Ribbon status, St. Joseph’s hosted a formal reception with representatives from the City of



TEAMWORK PAYS OFF for fourth graders at St. Joseph School in Danbury. In a STEM project for fourth grade, students were given the challenge to build a car with two wheels, powered by a rubber band. The project included science, technology, engineering, math, social studies, and English.

Danbury, State Senator Michael McLachlan, diocesan officials, the Knights of Columbus, and parish priests including their pastor, Fr. Samuel Scott.

Best of all, this semester Double Twister Ice Cream Shop in Danbury invented a special

“Blue Ribbon Ice Cream,” and invited students, family and staff in for a party. The ice cream is still available on request.

Meanwhile, St. Joseph’s staff is busy making plans for the next school year. “The wheels are always turning here,” says Lanni. ■

Congratulations to the Fairfield Prep Class of 2013!

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Jakov Andelic V
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Timothy J. Attolino Jr.
Christopher E. Auray
Brian K. Austin-Carter
Jackson L. Aymar
Henry S. Backe
John R. Baekey
Erik W. Baktis
Scott P. Ball
Nicholas K. Bargiello
Grayson M. Barlow
Matthew B. Barnett
Christopher G. Bayer
Joshua P. Beaudoin
David J. Bigley Jr.
Thomas O. Black
Cody B. Bond
Max S. Bracchi
Kieran P. Bracken
Kevin T. Brown
David K. Bruton
Alexander W. Budinoff
Timothy J. Butala
James M. Campbell
James P. Cannon
Thomas J. Capalbo
Andre R. Carrera
Jed Edward H. Cartas
Michael J. Carter
Edward P. Casey
Nikolas C. Cirillo
Christopher J. Collins
Kenneth C. Collins
Richard F. Connington
Patrick T. Connolly
Matthew F. Contino
Christopher T. Conway
William J. Coupe Jr.
Daniel P. Coyle
Liam P. Coyle
Kevin J. Culligan
Daniel C. Cunn

Thomas A. Cunningham
William A. D’Amore
Mitchell B. D’Eramo
Jack A. Dardis
Christopher L. Davis
Jordan P. Dawe
James P. De Felice
Jack E. DeSilva
James DiGennaro
Anthony R. Dileo
Charles S. Dodge
Ethan A. Doerger
Jake T. Donohue
Dylan M. Duffy
Timothy B. Edmonds
Daniel J. Featherston
Christian R. Felner
Matthew P. Festa
Evan C. Field
Thomas L. Foerster III
Troy A. Foreit
Timothy M. Frassetto
Paul J. Genco
Gregory P. Gentile
John R. Gepfert V
David F. Gerics
Mark H. Giannini
Owen J. Gibson
Juan P. Giron
Christopher K. Golger
Nicholas P. Greco
Joseph A. Grosso III
John F. Hand
Andrew G. Hatton
Thomas J. Hatton
Christopher Hauer
Connor R. Henry
Sean P. Henry
Michael R. Hoffman Jr.
Bradley R. Holmes
Aaron Huang
Ryan F. Hurley
Matthew D. Janny
Timothy R. Jeanneret
Bretton A. Jervey

Jonathan T. Johannes
Cody T. Jones
James M. Kavulich
Christopher J. Kelly
Matthew T. Kiernan
Ryan J. King
Matthew A. Kingsbury
Raymond A. Kingsbury
Kevin M. Kirshner
Timothy J. Kleps
Jean-Claude Le Meur
Steven J. Licari
Quinn D. Lincoln
Matthew G. Logan
Benjamin E. Longson
David L. Maloof II
John D. Marsalisi
Nicholas A. Martinez
Nicholas J. Martucci
James W. Marusi
Christopher M. Masone
Charles P. Mastoloni
Brian P. McAvey
Joseph R. McBride
Connor M. McCann
Terry J. McCarthy
Timothy P. McGrath
Thomas J. McHugh
Jarvis M. McLaughlin
John W. McPadden III
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Gregory A. McTiernan
Christopher T. Meyer
John T. Meyers
Patrick J. Miles
Kyle P. Mollo
James V. Monroe
Matthew D. Montani
Michael A. Muscato
Ryan D. Muscato
Jordan M. Namin
Thienquoc N. Nguyen
Giovanni V. Nicolola
Jean Paul Noel
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Jack T. O’Leary
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Parker J. Rand-Riccardi
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Michael P. Silano
Alex D. Slossberg
Christopher P. Stein
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Daniel P. Sullivan
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Zachary T. Sullivan
Christopher R. Sutay
Shane B. Sutera
Julian D. Taborda
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David White
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Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 2

diligence in her studies provides an outstanding example of the Kolbe Cathedral work ethic. We are proud to call them graduates of Kolbe Cathedral!"

Notre Dame, Fairfield

Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield held ceremonies for its 102 graduates on June 7. Notre Dame's student body of 392 is drawn from 30 different towns. Both Msgr. Doyle and Anne McCrory were at graduation.

Michael Lenard of Monroe is Notre Dame's valedictorian. The school recognized two co-salutatorians this year: Madeline



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Michael Lenard, valedictorian; Madeline Guman and Sandie Samrin, co-salutatorians

Guman from Trumbull and Sandie Samrin from Stratford. Michael Lenard is a member of the National Honor Society and president of the Spanish Honor Society and the Care Club. He was a member of Campus Ministry, the Principal's Advisory Council, the Drama Club, the Key Club and the Spanish Club. Michael also participated in the High School Engineering Academy. A member of St. Jude Parish, Monroe, youth group and Emmaus Retreat, he has participated in two service trips to Appalachia. Michael will be

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

The University of Alabama
American University
Arizona State University
Babson College
Baylor University
Belmont University
Bentley University
Binghamton University- SUNY
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
University of Bridgeport
Bryant University
Bucknell University
University of California at Los Angeles
Canisius College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
The Catholic University of America
Central Connecticut State University
Champlain College
College of Charleston
Clark Atlanta University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colgate University
University of Colorado at Boulder
Columbia College- Chicago
Columbia University
University of Connecticut
Cornell University
Creighton University
Curry College
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
University of Dayton
University of Delaware
Denison University
University of Denver
DePaul University
DeSales University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Elon University
Emmanuel College
Emory University

Endicott College
Fairfield University
Fisher College
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida State University
University of Florida
Fordham University
Franciscan University of Steubenville
Franklin Pierce University
Full Sail University
Furman University
George Mason University

Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Lynchburg College
University of Maine
Manhattan College
Manhattanville College
Marist College
Marquette University
University of Maryland, College Park

Pennsylvania State University
University of Pennsylvania
Pepperdine University
Philadelphia University
University of Pittsburgh
Plymouth State University
Polytechnic Institute of NYU
Pomona College
Pratt Institute
Presbyterian College
Providence College
Purchase College- SUNY
Quinnipiac University
Randolph-Macon College
University of Redlands
Regis University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
University of Rhode Island
Rhodes College
University of Richmond
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
University of Rochester
Roger Williams University
Rollins College
Rutgers State University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Anselm College
Saint Joseph's College-ME
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Louis University
Saint Michael's College
Saint Peter's University
Saint Vincent College
Salve Regina University
University of San Diego
Santa Clara University
The University of Scranton
Seton Hall University
Siena College
University of Southern California
University of South Carolina
Southern Connecticut State University

Southern Methodist University
St. Bonaventure University
St. John's University
St. Lawrence University
University of St. Thomas
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
SUNY College at Brockport
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Tulane University
Union College
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Wittenberg University
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Members of the Fairfield Prep Class of 2013 were accepted at these Colleges and Universities

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University of Hartford
University of Hartford-Hart School
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
College of the Holy Cross
Hunter College of the CUNY
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Indiana University at Bloomington
Iona College
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Juniata College
Keene State College
Kenyon College
King's College
Lafayette College
Lasell College
Lehigh University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
Mercyhurst University
Miami University, Oxford
University of Miami
University of Michigan
Middlebury College
New England College
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
New York University
New York University-Tisch School of the Arts
Newbury College
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Norwich University
University of Notre Dame
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University



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Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 19

attending Sacred Heart University in the fall and plans to study business and Spanish.

Madeline Guman, who was president of the French Honor

Society and a member of the National Honor Society, contributed to Notre Dame's strong track and field and cross country programs. She volunteered through

the Care Club, served as a four-year member of the Drama Club, and volunteered to teach first and seventh-grade religious education classes at her home parish of St.

Mark's in Stratford. Madi will be attending Quinnipiac University in the fall and plans to study biology or psychology.

Sandie Samrin has been tapped by her classmates to serve in an extensive list of leadership positions, including Senior

success remained her top priority and she certainly serves as a model for all students."

St. Joseph, Trumbull

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SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, TRUMBULL – Matthew Immerso, valedictorian; Kiersten Lynch, salutatorian



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Class president, National Honor Society vice president, Spanish Honor Society vice president, Care Club president, Spanish Club vice president, and secretary of the Key Club. Sandie has also served as a Notre Dame Student Ambassador. She volunteers every Saturday at Sterling House in Stratford, and is a member of her youth group and choir at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church in Bridgeport. Sandie will be attending Sacred Heart University and studying either biology or chemistry.

"Since his freshman year, Michael has excelled tremendously both in and out of the classroom and been a valued member of our community," says Principal Christopher Cipriano. "His extra-curricular activities, especially his service to his school, community and church, are of special note.

"Madi's academic achievements are tremendous and her commitment to serve others, both at Notre Dame and in the community, is a perfect example what Notre Dame seeks to instill and develop in every student. I can't recall another student in recent memory who assumed and successfully served in as many leadership roles as Sandie did this year. Despite all of her other commitments, her academic

to the stage for the June 1 graduation. They earned \$16.7 million in scholarships and grants to their colleges and universities. St. Joe's has a total enrollment of 824 students. Chancellor Anne McCrory was present to hand out diplomas.

Matthew Immerso is valedictorian of the class of 2013 at St. Joseph High School; Kiersten Lynch is salutatorian.

Matthew Immerso, a parishioner at St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton, was on the cross-country, track, math and debate teams during his years at St. Joseph, and acted in Drama Club productions. This year, he was elected Student Council president.

When given an assignment for Sophomore English to shadow a person in a field of interest, he chose a politician and "caught the bug." Exploring Rep. Jim Himes' website he saw the ad for an internship, and got it. During the internship, he did research for the "Green Tech" area in Bridgeport, and prepared a seminar on Medicare. Matt will take his talents to the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania next fall, where he will major in economics.

Kiersten Lynch of St. Jude Parish in Monroe is the salutatorian of this year's St. Joseph High School graduating class. In

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

Youth

Shepherds celebrates 15 years

By NORMA DARRAGH

BRIDGEPORT—"As I got ready to attend the 2013 Kolbe Graduation," Wedney Morgan reflected, "I realized that my journey to this event had been a series of firsts. I was one of the first Shepherds students. I was the first in my family to graduate from college. I was the inaugural Shepherds alumnus to return to the program as a mentor and now, I was about to witness the graduation of my student, Chris—the first student to be awarded the

Shepherds/Kolbe Founder's Scholarship established in honor of Principal Jo-Anne Jakab."

Founded in 1998 by Brendan Fisk and Barnet Phillips IV, Shepherds is currently celebrating its fifteenth anniversary. Beginning with five students at Kolbe-Cathedral in Bridgeport, the program has impacted the lives of over 240 disadvantaged youth, with current partnerships at three schools across the state. "The primary reason that we started the program—to offer inner-city youth who would 'fall through the cracks'

in a public high school, most likely not graduate high school and not pursue their dream of college—remains the same" says Phillips.

"The correlation between economic success and education is a strong one. The Shepherds opportunity is life-changing."

Fifteen years ago, Morgan was an eighth-grader from "The Hollow" in Bridgeport whose grandparent's home was next to a crack house. A Shepherds student at Kolbe, he earned entry into the National Honor Society, received the Maximilian Kolbe Award

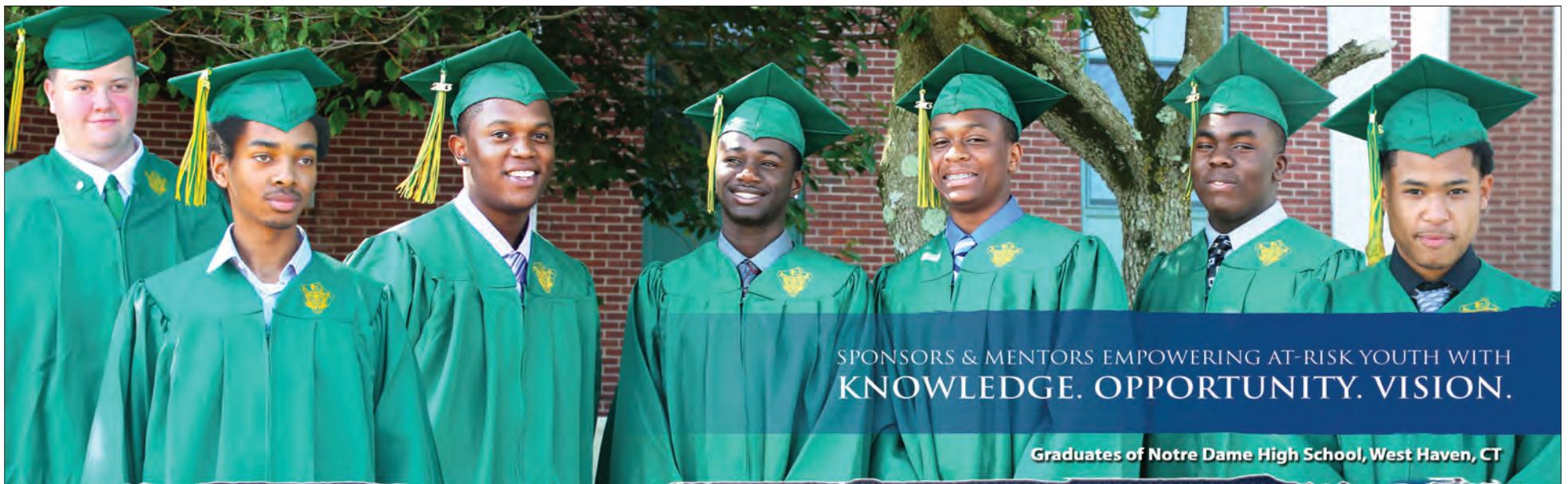


WEDNEY MORGAN (l), was the first Shepherds graduate to become a mentor. This June he attended the graduation of the Kolbe student he mentored, Chris Williams.

and got a full scholarship to the University of Vermont for electrical engineering. "The Shepherds Program is directly responsible for guiding me and helping me to become the person I am today."

Like Morgan, the climb to success for Shepherds students is harder and steeper than most. Although they pass the entry exam at the partnership school,

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



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Graduate of
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Middletown, CT

Graduates of Kolbe Cathedral High School,
Bridgeport, CT

Sports

Big change for Sacred Heart athletics

By **DON HARRISON**

Alumni, fans and others who have followed the rise of Sacred Heart University athletics across the past two decades have been weathering the winds of change in recent months.

Don Cook, 72, the university's director of athletics since the fall of 1992 and the guiding hand behind a program that expanded from 11 to 31 teams and made an emphatic arrival in the Division-I ranks, announced his retirement last December. Within a matter of weeks, the Pioneers stunned the nation by hiring Bobby Valentine—the Stamford native who achieved multiple successes as an athlete and Major League manager—as his successor, effective July 1.

Some questioned Valentine's hiring, but the former manager of the New York Mets, Texas

Rangers, Boston Red Sox and Chiba Lotte Marines (Japan) wasn't laughing. "If it's a joke, it's an inside joke," he said. "I'm very serious about everything I do in my life. I deal with passion and commitment. I deal with excellence."

In May, Dave Bike and Ed Swanson, the head coaches who elevated the Sacred Heart men's and women's basketball programs to new heights, departed. Bike, who turned 66 in June, retired after directing the Pioneer men to 530 victories across 35 seasons, a run that included five NCAA Division II Elite Eight appearances and one (1985-86) national title.

In 1999, Bike's squad entered the Division I ranks and, after experiencing some growing pains, possessed the wherewithal to make back-to-back appearances in the Northeast Conference



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY'S DAVE BIKE, left, shares a warm moment with his successor as head basketball coach, Anthony Latina.

championship game (2007, '08).

Swanson, 46, who took over a women's Division-II program in 1990 that was, arguably, the

worst in New England, instantly lifted the Pioneers to respectability. After the university's entry into D-I, his squads developed into the dominant program in the NEC, winning three titles and making a like number NCAA Tournament appearances. Three of his brightest stars—Amanda Pape, Alisa Apo, Callan Taylor—were NEC Players of the Year. He has resigned to become head coach at William and Mary.

Bike was replaced by Anthony Latina, the 39-year-old son of Italian immigrants, who was his primary assistant coach the past eight seasons. The effervescent Latina developed his

game at South Catholic High in Hartford and played collegiately at Brandeis. At press time, the university was in the process of selecting Swanson's successor; three of his former assistants were among the final candidates.

Cook's retirement at the end of June ended his run of 42 years as an athletic director at three Connecticut institutions: Fairfield University, his alma mater (1971-86); the University of Hartford (1986-92), and Sacred Heart.

Under his watch, the Pioneers won five straight NEC Commissioner's Cups and captured conference championships in no fewer than 16 sports. On the men's side: baseball, fencing, football, golf, both indoor & outdoor track and field, and tennis. On the women's: basketball, bowling, cross country, field hockey, lacrosse, outdoor track & field, soccer, softball and volleyball.

This spring, the NCAA recognized eight Sacred Heart teams for their academic excellence.

"We've won five consecutive Commissioner's Cups," Cook said, "but for me, I'm just so pleased that so many kids have moved on and graduated and become wonderful adults and responsible citizens."

The Brooklyn-born, Mount Vernon, NY, raised Cook played and coached baseball with

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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of Fairfield

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Youth Column

Graduation: it's amazing; it's bittersweet

By ANDRE ESCALEIRA, JR.

"Graduates, turn your tassels!"
The moment for which I have waited for four long years. It sure seems like it's gone by much faster than I wanted it to, though. I can still remember the awkwardly quiet first days of freshman year where everyone was too afraid to talk to someone else because no one knew anyone. Those days are long gone, however, and I have now graduated from the best school in the city of Bridgeport and in the diocese (of course, I'm partial).

When entering high school, there was no place else that I wanted to go beside Kolbe-Cathedral, and now that I have to leave, it's actually quite saddening. Although it is the culmination of four years of extremely hard work, this graduation is bittersweet. The Class of 2013 at Kolbe has become like a second family to me, despite our differences and occasional arguments. It is incredible that we have accomplished all that we have and it warms my heart to see that the "hidden treasure" of Bridgeport is beginning to be found.

Graduation is also a time to reflect on my time in this "hidden treasure," to reflect on the fact that these four years have been an amazing opportunity for growth, for both my classmates and me. I know that I have personally grown (in both stature and maturity) tremendously in my four years at Kolbe-Cathedral High School. It is, at least in part, due to the incredible atmosphere of Kolbe, one that supports and encourages faith, education, hard work and, of course, kindness. These four years at Kolbe have taught me much more than I could ever articulate, not only in the classroom, but in the chapel, on the court, in the community, and in life. But, of course, these past four years have been anything if not difficult. From personal dilemmas to athletic injuries (we had a few too many for my liking this year, including my own), from the death of our favorite janitor Scotty, a fixture at Kolbe, to the academic struggles of maintaining high grades, we've been through

just about everything.

Rather than divide our class, however, these events, these dilemmas, these obstacles, only served as magnets, pulling our class together into the true family that we are. Graduation seems to be the end of our journey as a tight-knit class of sixty-seven, but I've realized that it is in reality a beginning. It is the beginning of the incredible future which God has in store for the Class of 2013, which is 100% college-bound, whether it is an Ivy League College or the United States Army, AmeriCorps or the seminary, or any other institution of higher education. Graduation is simply the beginning of what life has in store for us, the Class of 2013.

Graduation. The moment for which I have waited for four long years. This moment has finally arrived. After the nerves subside and the excitement wears down, the realization that I am no longer in high school, the realization that I am growing up, that I will have to become a functioning member of society sets in. It's incredible that I have made it this far, with my friends and fellow classmates by my side; it's amazing; it's bittersweet.

Part of me doesn't want to leave the comfortable, pleasant, and welcoming environment to which I have become so accustomed over these past four years. On the other hand, part of me wants to leave and move ahead to see what it is that God has in store for me. This entire mix of emotions is what is running through my mind. But underneath it all is a calm, a trust in the plan that he has set out for not only me but for all of my fellow graduates, and a deep sense of pride, not only in my own achievements, but also in those of my fellow classmates, the Class-Family of 2013, who have shot for the moon and most certainly landed among the stars.

Although graduation is a sad occasion, a realization of the reality of change, it is also an occasion for celebration. Despite the natural sadness I feel in having to bid my fellow classmates adieu, I am optimistic and excited for the future.



My fellow graduates of the Class of 2013: Good luck! May you achieve your dreams! May God bless each and every one of us today and always! Class of 2013, we've made it and the future is ours.
(Andre Escalera, Jr., is valedictorian of Kolbe-Cathedral High School in Bridgeport.)

Big Day of Serving



NEW CANAAN—Members of the St. Aloysius Youth Group spent a day in service to those in need at The Big Day of Serving, organized nationwide by Group Mission Trips. For their project the teens worked in the Bronx alongside other adults and youth from the tri-state area. Their group headed to a garden in a housing project that was overgrown with weeds and in great need of attention. The residents who used to work the garden have aged and are unable to do the physical labor. They weeded, hauled, moved dirt, planted seeds, repaired fencing and painted. It was a beautiful day of service to our brothers and sisters in need!

Congratulations Lauralton Hall Class of 2013



11,500 HOURS
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SERVICE PERFORMED



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AWARDED IN MERIT
SCHOLARSHIPS



68
NATIONAL HONOR
SOCIETY MEMBERS

Connecticut's First Catholic College-Prep School for Girls
Empowering Women for Life

Katharine Anthony
Valentina Ballas
Caitlin Bennett
Taylor Black
Emily Bonzagni
Katherine Boynton
Victoria Bresnahan
Rajané Brown
Kathryn Browne
Jenna Bump
Dorothy Canevari
Kiley Cappetta
Allison Carey
Andrea Castillo
Emma Catalfamo
Megan Clark
Kathryn d'Ablemont
Blythe D'Andrea
Staci D'Andrea
Isabella Dalena
Carina de Lemos
Kelly DeHart
Michelle DeSantis
Mary Alice Devaney
Mary Mackenzie Diamond
Shea Dolan
Chelsea Donovan

*VALEDICTORIAN

Melanie Dumitrescu
Deirdre Eason
Julia Elia
Maria Flores
Sarah Foley
Mary Kate Fornshell
Lily Fortin
Alyssa Fratarcangeli
Sydney Free
Linda Fuller
Alexandra Garvey
Cameron Gerrity
Catherine Gulish
Emily Harris
Alice Horne
Stephanie Iannone
Eva Karakolidis
Jordan Kellogg
Caitlin Kells
Jaclyn Kline
Casey Jane Kral
Mary Landry
Julie LaPerch
Katherine Leiper
Elizabeth Leonard
Olivia Levey
Elizabeth Levine

**SALUTATORIAN

Lauren Lichac
Caroline Lillicraf
Regina Magi
Nadia Makhraz
Abbey Maloney
Shannon Maloney
Gabrielle Mancini
Michelle Martire
Caroline McCauley
Catherine McNeela
Marisa Messer
Alison Miles
Kara Millington
Deneca Minowa
Brenda Moreno
Rebecca Morgan
Jillian Murray
Jessica Napolitano*
Caitlin Nevins
Colleen O'Connell
Caleigh O'Leary
Hannah Olsson
Alexa Pavia
Amanda Perez
Myriam Philitas
Deanna Popa
Catherine Priolet

Emily Radesca
Jessica Recce
Bianca Robertson
Kathryn Rogers
Brigid Rooney
Kelly Russo
Emily Ruther
Carolyn Savoia
Isabella Serrano
Rebecca Sherrick**
Gabrielle Shkreli**
Caitlin Skroly
Aidan Sneider
Katie Souto
Emma Soviero
Alena Sowka
Kathleen Sullivan
Nicole Sweeney
Emilia Tanu
Alexandra Torres
Kathryn Ullman
Kathryn Walsh
Deirdre Wells
Katherine Wilcoxson
Sarah Yoney
Natalie Young

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Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 20

addition to her academic achievement she also served as editor of the yearbook, was vice-president of "Convivio," and was chosen by her peers as Homecoming Queen. Winner of the PEO

call her an alumna."

Trinity Catholic, Stamford
Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle was on hand for the ceremony on June 1 to congratulate the 79 graduates



TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, STAMFORD – Theresa Ellen Conlon, valedictorian; Carolyn Elena Janik, salutatorian

Star Scholarship, Kiersten will begin her studies at Seton Hall University, where she is planning to major in Occupational Therapy.

"From the day he entered St. Joe's, Matt embraced and pursued the ideal of spiritual growth, academic achievement, co-curricular involvement and social development," says Principal Ken Mayo. "Kiersten is a wonderful example of young Catholic womanhood. We were blessed to have her with us these past four years and are proud to

at Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford. The school has a total of 415 students enrolled this year. Theresa Ellen Conlon is the valedictorian of the Class of 2013. The Salutatorian is Carolyn Elena Janik.

Theresa Conlon, a member of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton, attended grades K-8 at Our Lady of Fatima School. Theresa has served as a TCHS School Ambassador and is an active member of the Sedes Sapiente Chapter of the National

Honor Society. In addition, she is a member of the Crusader Book Club. For the last two years, Theresa has volunteered at Sidewalker in Brewster, NY, where she assists handicapped children during their Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Lessons. Theresa has been a Gymnastics Instructor at the Wilton Family YMCA for over 4 years. Among other honors, Theresa was the recipient of the Tony Conte Unsung Hero Award. Theresa will attend UCONN at Storrs this fall.

Carolyn Janik is a member of St. Cecilia's Parish in Stamford. She was an active member of the National Honor Society, the Student Ambassadors, Crusaders for Life, the Business Club and the TCHS Yearbook Club. Carolyn has been enrolled in the High School Engineering Academy since she was a sopho-

merely practiced their faith, they have lived it."

In addition to the five diocesan high schools, several private Catholic schools enroll a large number of students from the Diocese of Bridgeport. *Fairfield County Catholic* takes this occasion to recognize their top students.

Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich

The class of 2013 at the Convent of the Sacred Heart saw 82 girls graduate on June 7. The school has 775 students in preschool through grade 12, with 299 girls in the upper school, grades 9-12.

The town of Greenwich is honorably represented in this year's graduating class. The co-valedictorians, Taylor Blevin and

Mary's rectory. She will attend Washington University in St. Louis this fall.

Carolyn Schnackenberg is a National Merit Commended Scholar and an AP Scholar. She has been named to the National Cum Laude Society. She founded the Current Events & Debate Club where, each week, she moderated team debates that detail the issues surrounding current topics. During her junior year, to bring her passion for human rights to the CSH school community, she proposed and carried out an innovative program with third and fourth grade students, teaching them about social justice and fair trade. She will attend the University of Virginia, where she intends to pursue a double major in economics and international relations.

Sarah Hirshorn, CHS salu-



CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, GREENWICH – Taylor Blevin and Carolyn Schnackenberg, co-valedictorians; Sarah Hirshorn, salutatorian

more and received the Robert D'Aquila Family Excellence in Mathematics Award. She volunteers at Vacation Bible Camp, the St. Cecilia Art Club and the Middle School Math Tutoring Program. She has participated in CONVIVIO, Fan the Fire Catholic Youth Rally and the Steubenville East Catholic Youth Conference. A competitive State Champion gymnast, she also coaches gymnastics. Carolyn will pursue her goal of becoming a mechanical engineer at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania this fall.

"All of us at Trinity Catholic High School are so proud of Theresa and Carolyn," says Trinity's principal, Tony Pavia. "Their speeches at graduation mirrored the type of people they both are—unpretentious, insightful, humble and profound. Theresa and Carolyn have not

Carolyn Schnackenberg both live in Greenwich. Taylor is a member of St. Mary Parish and Carolyn attends St. Michael the Archangel Parish. The salutatorian, Sarah Hirshorn, who is from Harrison, NY, is a member of St. Paul Parish in Greenwich.

Taylor Blevin is an AP Scholar and National Merit Scholarship Commended Scholar. She has been the editor-in-chief and the layout editor for the school's multilingual literary and art magazine, *Voices*. A member of the JV and varsity tennis club at CHS, Taylor has been a member of the Model United Nations Club, and headed the Observatory Club. She has tutored underprivileged children in the Stamford area in all academic subjects, worked on a committee for outreach and membership recruiting to re-establish Youth Group at St. Mary's, and helps out at St.

tatorian, is a National Merit Commended Scholar and an AP Scholar. In addition to rowing on the school's varsity crew team, Sarah has competed on the state and international level in the Future Problem Solving Program and is captain of the school's team for that competition. She is the submissions editor for *Voices*. She will attend Stanford University in California in the fall, where she plans on majoring in symbolic systems—a discipline which combines calculus, linguistics, computer science, probability, and philosophy. She also has a place on the university's lightweight women's crew team.

Her family has a strong history at CSH. Her mother, Hope Houston Hirshorn is a member of the class of 1982 at CSH. Her older sister, Grace, the salutatorian for the Class of 2011, is a rising junior at Yale University.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2013



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Vals and Sals



FAIRFIELD PREP HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Top scholars, Timothy Butala and Christopher Meyer

Dr. Linda Vahdat, professor of medicine and director of the Breast Cancer Research Program and head of the Solid Tumor Service at Weill Cornell Medical College, was the commencement speaker. Dr. Vahdat is the mother of senior Camilla Kummen. The family lives in Wilton.

“As we look back on our 164th year, we celebrate the success achieved by all our graduates and wish them well as they go off to college. We look forward to their return at alumnae reunions, when we can say ‘Welcome Home,’” said Pamela Juan Hayes, head of school.

Fairfield Prep

Fairfield Prep’s 71st commencement exercises were held on June 2 in Alumni Hall on the campus of Fairfield University. 201 young men graduated in white tuxedo dinner jackets, a tradition among many Jesuit high schools in this country. A total of 886 were enrolled in the school year 2012-13. Because of their challenging course offerings, Prep does not rank students into valedictorian and salutatorian. Timothy Butala and Christopher Meyer are in the top 1% of this graduating class.

Timothy Butala is an AP Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society. A peer tutor, he received the Excellence in Math and Science Award from Fairfield University and Sikorsky Aircraft. Tim was honored with the prestigious CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athlete award. In basketball, he earned All-State, All-SCC, Connecticut Post All-Star, Hearst Connecticut Super 12,

New Haven Register All-Area, and was featured as a News 12 Scholar Athlete. He has volunteered in the children’s recreation programs at the Cardinal Shehan Center in Bridgeport. Tim is a member of St. Stephen’s Parish in Trumbull and will be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall. He is interested in engineering, possibly complementing it with business.

Christopher Meyer received the Fairfield Prep Latin Award and the St. John Francis Regis, S.J., Campus Ministry Award for outstanding leadership and for his contribution to the liturgical life of the school. An AP Scholar, he achieved National Merit Commended status and was a peer tutor through Prep’s National Honor Society chapter. He was a co-captain of this year’s freshman retreat, structuring the retreat and leading 240 freshmen through the two-and-a-half day period. Additionally, Chris was active in Prep’s REACH Club, an organiza-

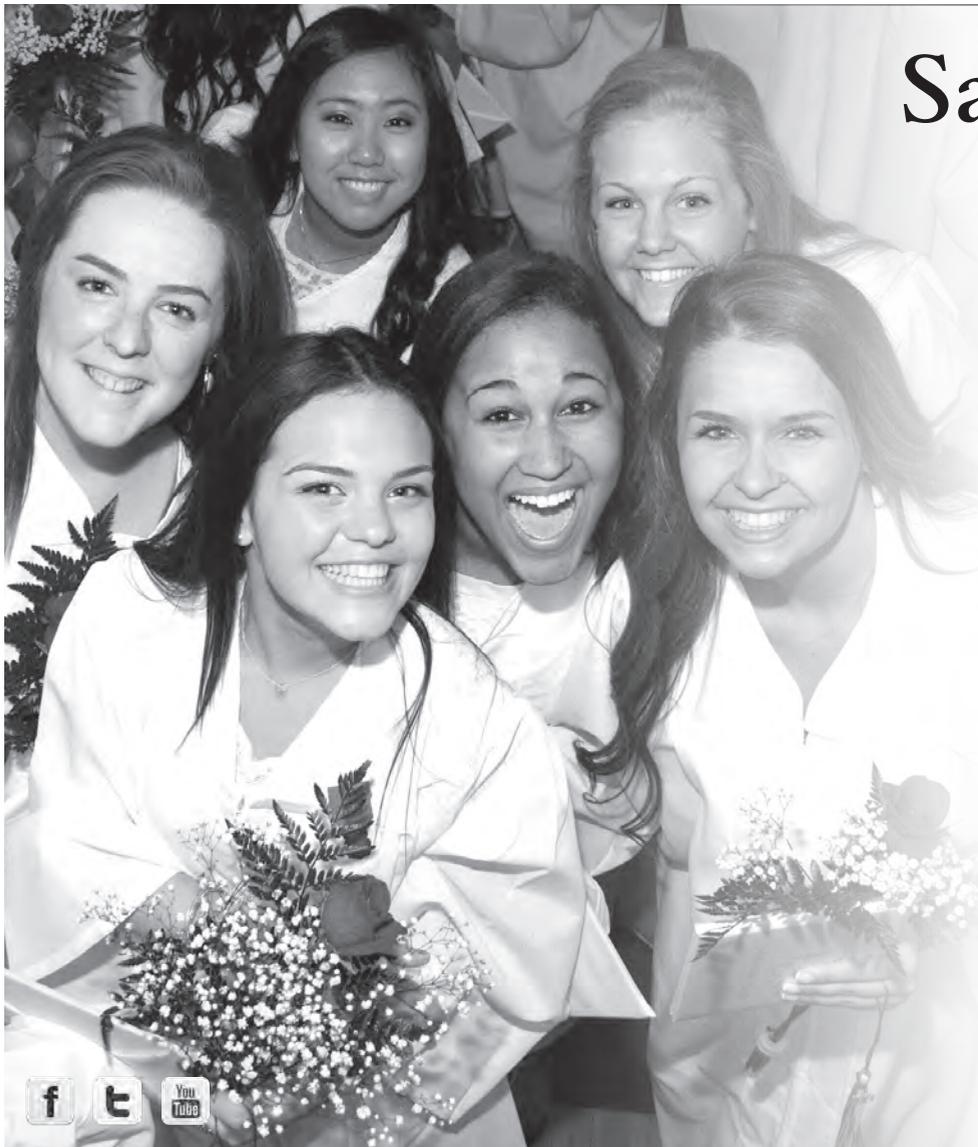
tion which assists children with disabilities in a local community. He spent a week working in Appalachia in 2010 and went on Prep’s mission to Tierra Blanca, El Salvador, in 2013. An active member of St. John’s Basilica in Stamford, Chris will attend Dartmouth College in the fall.

“Calm and approachable, Tim is an active and valued member of his class and his talents have been on full display during his high school career,” says Dr. Robert Perrotta, Prep’s principal. “Chris’ activities and achievements speak powerfully for him as a young man committed to growth and willing to seek and seize opportunities for his development in many areas of life, in and out of the classroom.”

Lauralton Hall, Milford

Lauralton Hall recognized a valedictorian and two salutatorians at their 107th commencement ceremony, held on June

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



Sacred Heart Academy

CONGRATULATES the CLASS OF 2013

100% WILL FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION
18.5 MILLION AWARDED IN MERIT, SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS
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19% GRADUATED AS 4.0 SCHOLARS
100% HAVE EMBRACED THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE THROUGH
12,000 HOURS OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Alyssa Ackerson, Allison Adley, Brianna Alfaro, Ava Amendola, Samantha Anastasio, Katie Arnone, Taylor Baker, Haley Barnum—*Fourth in the Class*, Katherine Baum, Katherine Betlej, Annalisa Biceglia, Riley Boath, Lauren Boudreau, Erin Bowman, Melissa Brigante, Nicole Brown, Jessica Byrnes, Daleesha Cadore, Chloe Campoli, Katie Camputaro, Alexis Cardinali, Alexandra Casella, Meghan Castellano, Tess Cersonsky—*Salutatorian*, Selena Chiluisa, Carla Ciaramella, Anna Cruz, Caleigh Curran, Maria Dandrow, Torrie DeGennaro, Jennifer DeGrand, Alyssa DeLieto, Ashley DeLucia, Rachel Dely, Jenna DeMartino, Gabrielle DiGirolamo, Gabrielle Dizon, Marisa Dussetschleger, Cecilia Fanning, Sophia Fisk, Rebecca Fracasse, Madelyn Fumiatti, Nicole Funaro, Sierra Gallagi, Gina Garbatini, Rachel Good, Andrea Grammatico, Brittney Guerra, Catherine Hagggett, Olivia Harris, Rachael Heard, Victoria Heckert, Theresa Iannaccone, Alexis Iannone, Brooke Jenney, Fatimah Jeudy, Christina Jiang—*Valedictorian*, Kathleen Kelly, Kelly Korolyshun, Claudia Krah, Bernice Kwashie, Jessyca Lary, Sarah Lauer, Rachel Lawlor, Alexandra LoRicco, Cameron Maselli, Margaret McAndrew, Brooke McPherson, Danielle McPherson, Michele Merwin, Lindsey Miranda, Christine Mongillo, Micaela Montini, Darrien Murphy, Caroline Ney, Rebecca Nguyen, Alexandra Novak, Raeanne Nuzzo—*Third in the Class*, Linsey Ochenkowski, Kathlyn Oliverio, Angela Onofrio, Rebecca Onofrio, Liana Paglia, Alyssa Paolillo, Alexa Parisi, Vanessa Passaretti, Emma Pavano, Tiara Pearson, Maria Pisani, Emily Pisciotta, Kayley Podolak, Caitlin Pursell, Katherine Puzycki, Sarah Robitaille, Kayla Roddy, Brynn Rodie, Rebecca Rogoz, Sarah Roper, Willa Rusowicz-Orazem, Sarah Rybacki, Erica Sanchez, Kaitlyn Schuster, Lindsey Seyfried—*Fifth in the Class*, Yasmine Shreiteh, Laura Smith, Lauren Taddei, Megan Tucker, Lauren Vetter, Bryn Webster, Jessica Widman, Panagiota Zorgias

Sacred Heart Academy | A ministry of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 25

2. One hundred seven young women from towns across Connecticut received diplomas. Luralton Hall serves 470 students from New Haven and Fairfield counties.

The 2013 Valedictorian is Jessica Napolitano. Jessica lives in Hamden, where she is a member of St. Stephen Parish. She will be majoring in physics at Connecticut College. The school honored co-salutatorians this year: Rebecca Sherrick of Milford and Gabrielle Shkreli of Easton. Rebecca will be attending the Dana Scholars Program at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, majoring in biology and anthropology.

Gabrielle Shkreli is a member



LAURALTON HALL HIGH SCHOOL, MILFORD – Gabrielle Shkreli, co-salutatorian

of the Notre Dame Parish in Easton. She was manager of the varsity soccer team, volunteered at the Luralton Hall Science Olympics and was a Freshman Ambassador. She was National Honor Society President, received the Bronze medal in the Spanish National Honor Society, and earned President Obama's Recognition of Educational Excellence Award. Gabrielle had the unique honor of singing for the Pope at the Vatican New Year's Day Vigil. She will be attending Providence College, RI, and hopes to become a broadcast journalist.

In addition to their top scholars, Luralton confers its highest honor, named after

Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, to a student for her dedication and commitment to Luralton Hall's mission. Kathleen Sullivan, a member of St. Mary Parish in Milford, is the recipient of this year's McAuley Award. She will be attending Providence College in the fall where she will major in English.

"The Class of 2013 is an extremely talented group of young women with an abundance of school spirit," says Principal Ann Pratson. "They are involved in athletics, theater, music, clubs and an impressive number of community service activities. They are outstanding scholars and I am going to miss them."

Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden

Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden held its commencement on May 25; there are 111 seniors receiving diplomas and 500 students currently enrolled at SHA. The school's valedictorian, Christina Jiang, attends Calvary Baptist Church in New Haven. The first person in her family to attend college, she has earned a full academic scholarship to UCONN, where she intends to double major in molecular and cell biology and nutritional sciences. Salutatorian Tess Cersonsky attends Christ Church in Oxford. She will be attending Columbia University with plans to study biomedical engineering.

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DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT JUNE 30—AUGUST 24

JUNE	YEAR
30 Rev. Arthur E. Norton	2004
Msgr. Thomas P. Mooney	1956
Msgr. John E. Tomis	1986
JULY	YEAR
1 Rev. Anthony J. Intagliata	1990
2 Rev. Alfred J. Carmody	1958
5 Msgr. John J. Hayes	1964
6 Msgr. Philip N. Salmone	1967
8 Rev. James J. Kane	1956
9 Rev. Sean F. Flynn	1978
10 Rev. Edward F. Doyle	1981
Deacon Stephen Sebestyen	2011
13 Msgr. James P. Devine	1972
Rev. A. Fred Constantino	1980
17 Msgr. Walter R. Conroy	1997
Fr. Robert Terentieff	2011
19 Msgr. Bartholomew J. Laurello	2004
20 Rev. John M. Conlisk	1990
Rev. Kevin P. Fitzpatrick	2008
Rev. Chester Kicia, O.F.M.	2003
Msgr. John J. Wigh	1995
21 Rev. David H. Krahel	2008
22 Msgr. Nicholas P. Coleman, P.A.	1963
24 Fr. Paul Lalic	2011
25 Rev. Hubert P. Carrig	1978
26 Msgr. Francis M. Wladasz	1959
28 Rev. William G. Mahoney	1973
29 Deacon Ian Black	2006
AUGUST	YEAR
1 Msgr. Daniel J. Foley	1999
Msgr. John J. Toomey, P.A.	1992
2 Rev. Patrick V. Lavery	1976
Msgr. James J. McLaughlin	1985
3 Rev. Francis E. Fention	1995
4 Msgr. Michael J. Guerin	1981
Msgr. James F. Leary	1994
7 Rev. Thomas G. Keeney	1990
9 Msgr. John J. Kennedy, P.A.	1955
Msgr. Frank C. Dellolio	1983
Msgr. Richard T. Scully	1988
14 Deacon Gerardo Ramos	2007
15 Msgr. Edward J. Duffy	1977
16 Rev. Victor E. Piaskowski	1961
18 Rev. Alexander Z. Seregely	1971
21 Rev. John J. Dillon	1959
Msgr. Thomas P. Guinan	1998
22 Rev. Michael Fay	2009
23 Msgr. Emilio C. Iasiello, P.A.	1969

Obituaries

Deacon Farley, 89

STAMFORD—Deacon Joseph J. Farley, 89, passed away peacefully this spring at Stamford Hospital. He was born on April 19, 1923, in Brooklyn, NY. After graduating as president of Manual Training High School's senior class in Brooklyn, he served in World War II in the U.S. Navy. After the war, he graduated from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

During his 26-year career at IBM Corporation, Deacon Farley contributed to the company's

growth and success, serving in key assignments in California, Washington DC, and Armonk, NY. He retired as director of Government and Industry Standards, representing IBM domestically and internationally at the National Bureau of Standards.

A member of the third class of permanent deacons for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Deacon Farley was ordained at St. Augustine Cathedral by Bishop Walter W. Curtis in 1980. He was assigned to his home parish of St. Leo's, Stamford, from the date of his ordination until July 2005, when he retired.

Bishop Curtis also named Deacon Farley the director of the Diocesan Immigration Office, where he always gave warm, personable, sympathetic assistance to people struggling with the difficult legal processes of immigration. Throughout his deaconate he worked with Catholic Charities, which has now taken over the immigration program.

Upon Deacon Farley's retirement, Bishop William E. Lori expressed his gratitude for his extraordinary service to the Diocese of Bridgeport. "As a servant after the mind and heart of



Christ, you have helped us, as a family of faith, to welcome strangers with compassion and love," Bishop Lori said. "All this has required of you hard and patient work and a detailed knowledge of immigration law and practice. In thanking you, Joe, I echo the gratitude of the many lives your special ministry has touched."

Deacon Farley is survived by his wife Geraldine. In keeping with his decades of dedication, his family requested that, in lieu of flowers, the donations be made in his memory to Catholic Charities Immigration Program.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Deacon Farley at St. Leo's on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph. His close friend, Msgr. Edward Surwilo, pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Stamford, was the principal celebrant. Another friend, Fr. Joseph Prince, pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Ridgefield, was the homilist. Burial followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, NY.

Sr. Geraldine, 85

Sr. Geraldine Coleman, D.C., died on April 16, 2013, at 85 years of age at Villa St. Michael, the Daughters of Charity senior care residence, in Emmitsburg, MD. In June of 2012, she celebrated 61 years vocation as a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Geraldine Coleman was born in Wildwood, NJ, on September 27, 1927. She entered the Daughters of Charity in January of 1951. She graduated from St. John's University in Queens, NY, with a bachelor of science in pharmacy degree 1960, and earned her master's in health administration from Yale University in 1972.

From 1952 to 2007, Sr. Geraldine served in hospitals affiliated with the Daughters of Charity, most notably St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, where she served from 1960-65 and again from 1970-72.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sr. Geraldine on April 20 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg. Sr. Geraldine was buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Emmitsburg.

Sr. Anne, 93

Sr. Anne Gilson, OP, of the Dominican Sisters of Hope, Ossining, NY, died April 14 at The Wartburg in Mt. Vernon, NY. She was 93 years old.

Anne Gilson was born October 8, 1919 in Haddon Heights, NJ, the youngest of eight children. She entered the novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of Newburgh, NY, on September 7, 1938, taking the name Sr. Mary Evangelista, and made her first profession of vows the following year. Sr. Anne made her final profession in 1946. She earned her BS in secondary education and her MS in zoology from Catholic University.

Sr. Anne taught at elementary and high schools in New York and New Jersey. She was named assistant principal at Immaculate High School in Danbury in 1962, a position she held until 1968. During those years, Sr. Anne was a member of the Mayor's Committee representing private schools for the City of Danbury. She returned to

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Sr. Benedict, died at 96

MONROE—Sr. Benedict Jaskiewicz, C.F.S.N., died peacefully on March 27 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent in Monroe, just a month before her 97th birthday.

Genevieve Jaskiewicz was born on April 26, 1916, in Philadelphia, PA, the oldest of eight children. Upon graduation from high school, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth on June 6, 1935, taking the religious name of Sr. Benedict. She earned a BA in secondary education from Chestnut Hill College and an MA in social studies from Villanova University, both in Philadelphia.

She taught on the junior high and high school level for 46 years in several schools, many of them on Long Island. She also taught in Massachusetts and Connecticut. In this diocese, Sr. Benedict taught at St. Mark School in Stratford.

In addition to teaching, she served as a high school principal in both New York and Massachusetts. Sr. Benedict moved to Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent in Monroe in 1990, where she served as facility manager for the convent for twelve years before retiring.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sr. Benedict on April 2 in the chapel of Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent. Interment took place the following day at the Community Cemetery in Philadelphia, PA.

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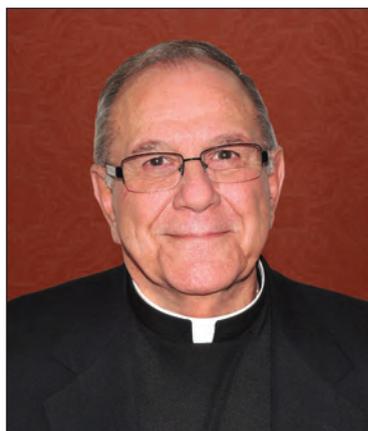
Nicholas Scott Lazzaro, 28
Saint Mary Parish
Branford

Sr. Geraldine Coleman, DC, 85
Saint Vincent's Hospital
Bridgeport

Sr. Anne Gilson, OP, 93
Immaculate High School
Danbury

Sr. Benedict Jaskiewicz, 96
Saint Mark School
Stratford

Column



Another “Flying Nun”

GUEST COLUMNIST

BY FR. FREDERICK SAVIANO

Fr. Saviano is diocesan director for the Office of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

There are few people in the Diocese of Bridgeport who have not heard of Sr. Theresa Tremblay of the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood, whom I refer to as “The Flying Nun.” Many of you will recall the “Flying Nun” of Sally Field fame from the TV program in the ‘60s. Sr. Theresa Tremblay cannot take flight as the TV character did, but it doesn’t take much imagination to think about her as “lifting off” to accomplish so many things in her work day.

Her efforts on behalf of the poorest of the city and her love for them has been well recognized both in civil and ecclesiastical circles. Many of us have witnessed

the enthusiasm of the parishes, schools, youth groups and students from Sacred Heart and Fairfield universities who generously collaborate with Sr. Theresa’s efforts, whether it be food for the hungry, clothing for the homeless or assistance with the management of the day care center, serving children in the impoverished neighborhood around North Avenue in Bridgeport.

I boast of having known Sr. Theresa when she was a lowly postulant for her religious order,

the Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood, in Ipswich, MA, when the Sisters were employed as staff in the LaSalette Major Seminary where I was studying. Even then it was hard to keep her feet on the ground. Our ways parted as is the inevitable course of life, each going on to our very different missions.

I knew that the Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood had a day care center in the Diocese of Bridgeport, so when I came home from missionary work in South America, I was pleasantly surprised to meet Sr. Theresa actively immersed in

the work that she considers her greatest fulfillment—being among the poor and assisting them in the name of God.

As a curious aside, I have always noticed that

the veil of her religious habit never seems to sit squarely on her head. I usually laughed at the sight because it appeared that she

“Perhaps her veil just can’t keep up with this ‘Flying Nun’ to sit where it is meant to be.”



LOVE AND CARE are the hallmarks of Sr. Theresa Tremblay at her day care center in Bridgeport.

didn’t have time to tie it on her head as she ran out the door to the service she has chosen among God’s children. Lately, though, it occurs to me that perhaps this “flying nun” so as to be able to sit where it is meant to be. It has a tough time catching up to her.

On a more serious note, Sr. Theresa is a model of selfless dedication to the poor and homeless and to the education of children and teenagers. She is loved by all. BUT, though she tells me everything is fine, I know that love doesn’t pay the bills.

I would like to launch a clarion call to all of you readers to reach out to help Sr. Theresa in her efforts to help some of the poorest children in Fairfield County and their families. We all know that the economy is tight, but that doesn’t stop the ever-mounting bills from coming in. Sr. Theresa lives from hand to mouth and with great faith in the providence of God. She has an army of vol-

unteers who labor alongside her out of love—but the electric bills still arrive and repairs have to be made to the day care center to keep it up to code. Donations for the food pantry and clothing for the homeless are a never-ending necessity. They constantly need replenishing.

Let’s help keep this “Flying Nun” in orbit! Pray that she keep up her health and strength and that her hands be always filled with good things to distribute to God’s poor. Then do more than pray. We can be the “wind beneath her wings!”

Keep on flying, Sr. Theresa and may God bless you and your labors for his children.

(To donate to the day care center and preschool, make checks payable to “Daughters of Charity” and put “Bridgeport Day Care Center” on the memo line. Donations can be mailed to Sr. Theresa Tremblay, Daughters of Charity Rescue Mission, 1490 North Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06604.)



ST. JOSEPH’S CENTER



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

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News

SHEPHERDS FROM PAGE 21

most come from disadvantaged family circumstances and are the first generation to dream of college. Hailing from districts where the dropout rates soar as high as 44.6%, with Shepherds' unique extended one-on-one support from mentors and the College Prep, Access & Readiness Program, 179 students have earned their high school diplomas. For the seventh consecutive year, 100% of the Class of 2013 graduates—most of whom are the first in their families to earn a high school diploma—earned college acceptances. Phillips cites that “Shepherds is all about improving the odds!”

Four years ago, Morgan was introduced to Chris Williams, who had overcome many challenges during elementary school as he moved from place to place due to family issues. “I hope that I have been able to teach him that, with determination and hard work, anything is possible.” Morgan says. “These are valuable life lessons that Mr. Ix, my mentor, shared with me and I want to pass down. I wanted to become a mentor because of how much he was there for me.”

As Chris accepted his diploma, Morgan “felt such a sense of pride. He will be attending Suffolk University in Boston in the fall and I’m excited for his future.”

(Shepherds is hosting a Fifteenth Anniversary Founder’s Dinner on October 10 to raise funds for the program. To learn more about the event or to inquire about becoming a sponsor and/or mentor, call 203.367.4273, email info@ShepherdsInc.com or visit the website: www.ShepherdsInc.com.)

SR. ANNE OBIT FROM PAGE 27

Immaculate as guidance counselor from 1976-85.

In 1954 she was elected to the Society Sigma XI National Honor Society for Scientific Research. She was on the Sisters’ Council for the Diocese of Bridgeport from 1976-79, and later was a member of the Archdiocesan Committee for Health and Retirement at Fordham University.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated for Sr. Anne on April 18 at the Dominican Sisters of Hope Chapel at Mariandale in Ossining, NY. Burial took place at the Dominican Sisters Cemetery at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh.

SACRED HEART FROM PAGE 22

distinction at Fairfield University, too, as a catcher earning Senior Athlete of the Year honors and, as a coach, leading the Stags to three straight ECAC Tournaments and more than 200 victories. One of his protégés, Keefe Cato, later pitched for the Cincinnati Reds.

Bike, who graduated from Sacred Heart in 1969 and played eight seasons as a catcher in the Detroit Tigers farm system, became emotional at the May 30 news conference when he talked about his retirement.

“I was never the best coach, the best father or the best son,” he told the assemblage of SHU coaches and staff, and news media. “But I did have the best parents, the best sister, the best grandchildren and, best of all, a wife (Judi) who was always there for our family.”

Bike, who was born and raised in Bridgeport, was a basketball and baseball star at Notre Dame High School and passed up basketball scholarship offers from Boston College and Fordham to sign with the Tigers.



DON COOK ACKNOWLEDGES a standing ovation from Sacred Heart University coaches and staff members at the news conference announcing his retirement as athletic director and Bobby Valentine as his successor.

It should be noted that he was the first Connecticut native to be chosen in the initial baseball draft (158th pick), ahead of such future Hall of Famers as Tom Seaver (193rd) and Nolan Ryan (295th).

He was on the Tigers’ 40-man roster in the spring of 1966, and peaked at Triple-A Toledo of the International League before retiring and returning to basketball as an assistant coach to his brother-in-law, Billy O’Connor, at Seattle

University. In 1978, he replaced Don Feeley as director of athletics and basketball coach at Sacred Heart, then relinquished the A.D. position when Cook came on board.

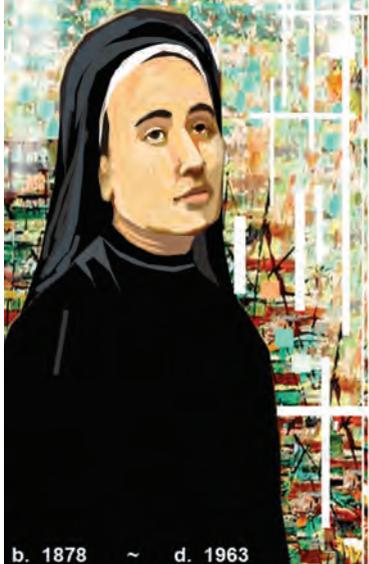
“I’ve met few people who can match up with Dave on an integrity perspective and as a human being,” Cook said. “All the time we worked together I never had to worry if he was playing games with the NCAA rules.”

Although both formally “retired,” Cook and Bike will continue with the university on a part-time basis. Cook was appointed executive director of athletics emeritus and will assist with fund-raising. Bike, who earned a degree in mathematics and once taught the subject as an adjunct professor, will put his expertise to use assisting with the athletic budget.

SAINTLY LIVES

BY ED WALDRON

Saint Mother Maria Guadalupe Garcia Zavala



b. 1878 ~ d. 1963

MARIA’S FATHER RAN A GIFT SHOP OUTSIDE THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF ZAPOPAN IN JALISCO, MEXICO. SHE FREQUENTED THE CHURCH FOR PRAYER AND DEVELOPED A STRONG DEVOTION TO OUR LADY AT AN EARLY AGE. SHE HAD PLANNED TO MARRY A YOUNG MAN, GUSTAVO ARREOLA, BUT ENDED THE ENGAGEMENT AFTER PERCEIVING A CALL TO LIFE AS A RELIGIOUS.



THE SISTERS TOOK VOWS OF POVERTY AND GAVE THEMSELVES WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO THE MEDICAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE OF THE PATIENTS. DURING THE YEARS OF THE CRISTEROS REBELLION, THEY WERE FORBIDDEN FROM WEARING THEIR HABITS. MOTHER MARIA KEPT HUNTED PRIESTS AND BISHOPS IN HIDING FROM THE ANTI-CLERICAL GOVERNMENT MILITIA -- PUTTING HERSELF AT GREAT RISK.



WHEN SHE CONFIDED IN HER SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, FR. CIPRIANO INIGUEZ, HE SHARED THAT HE HAD LONG DESIRED OF FINDING AN ORDER THAT WOULD CARE FOR THE POOR AND SICK IN HOSPITALS. IN 1901, AT THE AGE OF 23, MARIA CO-FOUNDED THE HANDMAIDS OF ST. MARGARET MARY ALOCOQUE AND THE POOR.



SISTER MARIA’S HANDMAIDS CURRENTLY EXIST IN FIVE COUNTRIES: MEXICO, PERU, ICELAND, GREECE AND ITALY. KNOWN BY HER CONTEMPORARIES AS “MADRE LUPITA” -- A STRONG, COMPASSIONATE, HUMBLE WOMAN -- SHE WAS CANONIZED APPROXIMATELY 50 YEARS AFTER HER DEATH BY POPE FRANCIS ON MAY, 12TH 2013.



Bits & Pieces

CURSILLO ULTREYAS are held around the diocese: Mon., **July 1**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, 7 pm; Thurs., **July 18**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, 7:30 pm; Mon., **Aug. 5**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, 7 pm; Sun., **Aug. 11**, Cursillo Family Picnic, Wolfe Park, Monroe, 12 noon-5 pm. For more information, contact Jeanette at jkovacs@snet.net.

ADULT FORMATION: "Seven Deadly Sins: Seven Lively Virtues" a DVD course by acclaimed author Fr. Robert Barron, will take place at St. Edward the Confessor Parish, New Fairfield, on Wed. evenings, **July 3, 10, 17, 24** and **31**, from 7-8 pm. For more information, call the parish: 203.746.2200.

TAG SALE will take place

at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, Bridgeport, on two weekends: **July 13-14** and **20-21**. Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 11 am-2 pm. Refreshments available on Saturdays. For more information, call 203.372.3740.

PILGRIMAGE TO ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA SHRINE and North American Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, NY, will take place Sun., **July 14**, St. Kateri's Feast Day. Bus departs Catholic Center, 238 Jewett Ave., Bridgeport, at 6:30 am. 10:30 am Mass at Shrine. Native Americans will be present at Mass with drumming, singing in Mohawk, and smudging. Tour of shrine with time for private prayer. Return at 8:30 pm. Cost: \$82/person includes lunch. For

more information or to register, contact Gina Donnarummo: 203.416.1446 or gdonnarummo@diobpt.org.

ANNUAL DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT for companies/organizations to benefit the Cardinal Shehan Center will be held Wed., **July 17**, from 5:30-8:30 pm at the Shehan Center, Bridgeport. Treat your employees to a competitive & fun night out! T-shirts & pizza provided. Team entry fee \$650; up to 9 players per team, men & women. For more information, call 203.336.4468.

BIBLE CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, for children from age four through grade 12 will be held the week of **Aug. 19-23** (register by Wed., **July 17**) from 9 am-12 noon at St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull. Skits, Bible stories, crafts and music! For more information or to register, call Michele O'Mara: 203.416.1502 or email momara@diobpt.org.

"FACING THE CHALLENGES IN MARRIAGE LIFE IN 21ST CENTURY," sponsored by the Catholic Fellowship of CT, invites all Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s, single or married, for 5 pm Mass on Sat., **July 20**, followed by talk at 6 pm at Assumption Parish, Westport. Social at a nearby venue will follow. For more information, email catholicfellowship@ymail.com or go www.assumption-westport.org.

VAZZY'S 19th ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT will be held Mon., **July 29**, at Mill River Country Club, 4567 Main St., Stratford, beginning with lunch at 11 am and tee off at 12:30 pm. Dinner, cocktails & silent auction. Proceeds go to Cardinal Shehan Center and the McGivney Community Center. For more information or registration, contact Terry O'Connor: 203.336.4468.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES on the lawn at St. Ann Parish in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport will be held on four Tues.: **July 30, Aug. 6, 13, and 20** from 6-8 pm (Wed rain date). An eclectic sampling of music from Classical to Blue Grass. Bring a picnic! Bring a Frisbee! Bring the whole family! Minimum donation: \$5/person; children under 12, free. For more information, call the parish: 203.368.1607.

LOOK GOOD FEEL



APPALACHIAN FAIR will be held at Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman, the weekend of **July 12-14**. Fri., 12 noon-6 pm; Sat 10 am-6 pm; and Sun., 12 noon-5 pm. Holy Trinity is at the junction of Routes 37 & 39. For more information, call the parish: 860.354.1414 or email appcraftfair@gmail.com

BETTER Program for women undergoing radiation and/or chemotherapy treatment will be held at St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport, on Thurs., **Aug. 8**, from 1-3. By promoting emotional recovery, the program helps women look and feel their best. Reservations required; lunch provided. For more information and for reservations, call 203.576.6158.

SUMMER INSTITUTE AT ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, Trumbull, will take place the

week of **Aug. 5-13** for grades 6-12. Designed to equip students with essential high school skills, and prepare advanced students for success. For information and to register, go to www.sjcadets.org/summer.

BASKETBALL CAMP WITH CHRIS SMITH will be held at Cardinal Shehan Center for ages 6-15, Fri.-Tues., **Aug. 12-16**, from 9 am-3 pm. Cost: \$130; extra \$ for early drop-off and/or pick-up. For more information, call 203.336.4468.

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Bits & Pieces

CARNIVAL OF FUN will take place at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside, Tues.-Sat., **Aug. 13-17**. For more information, call the parish: 203.637.3661.

TEENS! FAN THE FIRE YOUTH RALLY (grades. 8-12) will be held Sat., **Aug. 17**, from 9 am-9 pm at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown. Cost: \$40; registration required. Contact your pastor or call 203.416.1449. For all permission forms go to www.bridgeportdiocese.com/youth

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: a ten-week program will begin at Our Lady of Peace Parish in the Lordship section of Stratford, beginning Wed., **Sept. 4**. The group will meet the first and third Wed. of the month from 7 to 8:30 pm. Registration required. For more information or to register, call the parish: 203.377.4863, ext.10.

SACRED SITES OF ITALY a pilgrimage organized through St. James Parish, Stratford, will take place **Sept. 9-18**. Visit Rome, Pompeii, the tomb of Padre Pio, and Assisi. For the complete itinerary and pricing,

contact the parish: 203.375.5887, ext. 102.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND with Fr. Alfonso Picone, rector of St. Margaret's Shrine, Bridgeport, will take place **Oct. 21-30, 2013**. Register early. Call: Fr. Picone: 203.333.3161, or Pia Ramadanovic: 203.378.5408.

ITALY PILGRIMAGE with Fr. Norm Guilbert will take place **Nov. 6-16**. Visit Venice, Florence, Assisi and Rome. Cost: \$2849. Registration closes Mon., **July 15**. For more information, contact Vicki Alton: 203.322.8526 or VickiA@optonline.net.

JOURNEY OF HOPE for divorced, separated, or remarried Catholics meets every Tues. at St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield, from 7-8:30 pm. For more information, call Lilore: 203.894.9404.

MASSAGE THERAPY is offered for cancer patients/survivors at St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport. Program is open to patients in treatment or survivors who have finished treatment within the last six months. For more information, call 203.576.6158. ■

Year of Faith contest

To celebrate the Year of Faith, the "Fairfield County Catholics" Facebook page sponsored a contest "What My Faith Means to Me." In keeping with the concise nature of Facebook, contestants were required to limit their entries to 50 words or less.

The Communications Office has announced two winning entries, who each won a \$50 gift card. The winners are strikingly different in tone, format and age.

Kathleen Morton, a member of St. Jude Parish in Monroe, graduated from Luralton Hall in Milford. She currently attends St. Joseph University in Philadelphia:

"As I experience college, God has primarily been the ultimate friend to me. Faith gives me a purpose: to love God and to honor his teachings and lessons. I can work on this mission every minute



SEAN DONOHUE

of my life, regardless of where I am or what I am doing."

Sean Donohue, age 9, from St. Mary Parish in Bethel, cast his entry in verse:

"What My Faith Means To Me"

Faith guides my path,
shows me the way,
Lets me feel God's love
every day.
It has the strength



KATHLEEN MORTON

that relieves my stress,
It has the might to get
me out of any mess.

More powerful than
whatever you may
see in a day,
Faith is triumphant,
needless to say.

(Keep up to date on activities throughout the diocese at www.facebook.com/fairfieldcountycatholics.) ■

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COURSES OFFERED

LITURGY OF THE CHURCH

Location: Sacred Heart University,
5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield
Dates: Tuesdays, July 9, 16, 23 and 30
Time: 10am to 12noon
Instructor: Dr. Joan Kelly
Cost: \$140

Happy 50th Birthday! Dr. Joan Kelly will lead us on a four week celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. Promulgated by Pope Paul VI on December 4, 1963 the renewal of the liturgy was the first document written at the historic Second Vatican Council! In this course you will be engaged in a thorough historical overview of the sacred signs and symbols that manifest the glory and pageantry of Catholic ritual!

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Location: Sacred Heart University,
5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield
Dates: Saturdays, August 3, 10, 17 and 24
Time: 10am to 12noon
Instructor: Dr. Thomas Hicks
Cost: \$140

The fourth book of the New Testament and not one of the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John examines the life of Jesus from a Eucharistic perspective, highlighting Jesus' first miracle at the Wedding of Cana (turning water into wine), the Multiplication of Loaves, the Bread of Life Discourse, Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and the Last Supper. In this Gospel, we see more of an intimacy of Jesus and His Father by His prayers.



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