



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE



7 Cardinal Shehan Center unwraps a campaign for kids



29 A day of joy: six deacons ordained

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Mission statement and principles approved

My friends

Much has been written in this issue of the *Fairfield County Catholic* on the results of our Fourth Diocesan Synod. The general sessions of the synod concluded on May 30 with the approval of a set of initiatives and proposals that will guide the diocese in the years to come.

I want to first, on behalf of all Catholics in this county, thank the 350 synod delegates and observers who participated so faithfully in this process. From the listening sessions in the spring and summer of 2014, through the delegate formation program, followed by the six general sessions, the delegates and observers have put their heart, soul, prayers, and faith into the study of the challenges facing our diocese and the discernment of potential solutions. The Holy Spirit was truly with us as we developed into a community of faith.

The delegates have challenged and inspired our guest speakers, our study committees, and me, to make sure that we accurately identified the issues and began to lay the groundwork for responding to those challenges. We owe a great debt of gratitude to all of them.

Mission Statement and Principles

At the heart of everything we are going to do in the years ahead is a spiritual renewal of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Helping to animate all that we do will be the mission statement and guiding principles approved by the delegates. The Synod Mission Statement reads:

Our common mission is to foster personal conversion and deepen each disciple's relationship with the



BISHOP CAGGIANO ADDRESSES the 350 synod delegates: "We must help our sisters and brothers come to know and love Jesus in a stronger and deeper manner."

Lord Jesus in the community of the Catholic Church.

We must help our sisters and brothers come to know and love Jesus in a stronger and deeper manner. Are our programs helping to do that? Do our words and attitude help to do that? The second component of the mission statement is "in the community of the Catholic Church." We are a community and we need that community; we cannot do this on our own.

There are ten principles that will serve as markers on the highway as we continue down the road of renewal and revitalization.

Principle of Continuity—build on all that is already being done well in our parishes and schools.

Principle of Subsidiarity—there is a role for the diocese, and a role for our parishes and schools.

Principle of Accompaniment—walk with individuals as they journey on

their faith path.

Principle of Sharing and Collaboration—share and collaborate with all our gifts.

Evangelical Outreach—we're all called to share our faith.

Principle of Unity in Diversity—celebrate the cultural and ethnic diversity in every aspect of our ecclesial life. Work to build bridges within our faith communities, to other Christian faiths, and among all people of faith.

Principle of Creativity—respond creatively to the changing demographics in Fairfield County and the changing ways in which people receive information.

Empower the Young Church—recognize that they are not the "Church of the future," but are present now.

Principle of Accountability—ongoing evaluation is necessary using quantitative and qualitative benchmarks to measure our progress.

Principle of Transparency—decision-making on every level

must be clear and based upon facts, data and ongoing communication.

Initiatives and Proposals

Many of the initiatives and proposals are designed to focus on the structural changes that need to be addressed by the diocese, such as establishing strategic and pastoral planning in our curia



The life of the parish priest has changed dramatically over the last 50 years, and we need to address many of the concerns raised by our priests to provide the necessary support and formation to them.

We will strengthen and focus our outreach to families; to couples as they look to be married and to those who find their marriages have been broken. We will hold out a hand and identify ways to support families that are confronting stressors such as financial difficulties, discrimination, addiction issues, mental and physical health challenges and immigration status questions.

This task may look daunting. 'Bishop, how can we ever achieve all that you are asking us to do?' We must take the long view. Not everything we do will work. We will fail at some attempts, but if we work together, trusting in God, we can soar!

Synod Mass

I want to invite all to attend the Synod Mass on September 19, 2015 at Webster Bank Arena. Our parish and school coordinators, working in collaboration with their pastors, are doing a magnificent job in disseminating information about the Mass. We will have the opportunity to come together as a diocesan family, to give thanks to God for all the blessings he has given us, singularly and collectively, and to look to a dynamic vibrant future for the Diocese in Fairfield County. You can register at www.2014synod.org/tickets.

Sincerely your in Christ,

Frank Caggiano

Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

ON THE COVER

CLASS OF 2015, ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL—(l-r) Graduates Teresa Salzillo and Nicholas Sanzone pictured at St. Joseph High School Commencement Ceremony held in Trumbull on May 30. More than 1,200 students graduated from Catholic elementary and high schools this spring. Above the fold: (l-r) Matthew Laveneziana and Alexandra Quatrella enjoy the ceremony. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------|---|
| 5 | WE'RE GOING! 160 register for World Youth Day | 14 | APPALACHIAN FAIR At Holy Spirit Parish |
| 6 | BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS Celebrating Scholars and Athletes | 18-24 | VALS AND SALS Recognizing our top students |
| 9 | ENERGY-SMART STUDENTS At Cathedral Academy | 26 | REMEMBERING CARDINAL EGAN A Mass in celebration of his life |
| 11 | ECCLESIAL MOVEMENTS Life in the Spirit | 31 | SPORTS WITH DON HARRISON Notre Dame has a new coach |



Breaking News

A path forward for the diocese

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano received a standing ovation after rallying synod delegates around a vision for the future of the Diocese of Bridgeport and a path for revitalizing the local Church.

The sixth and final general session of Synod 2014, held on May 30 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, came to a high-spirited and joyful conclusion when more than 250 delegates showed nearly unanimous approval for the major initiatives and action plans outlined by the synod.

"Now it's on to implementation," said Bishop Caggiano to cheers before formally gaveling the session to a close. "This is an extraordinary moment in a

remarkable journey."

Bishop Caggiano said the synod should go forward in a spirit of creativity, humility, and flexibility. He said he didn't expect that all of the proposals will be successful, but felt strongly that the diocese should move forward with energy and commitment to renewal based on the work of the synod.

He told delegates that there are many paths to achieving the goal of the synod, which is "to foster personal conversion and deepen each disciple's relationship with the Lord Jesus in the community of the Catholic Church."

"If we do that, everything else will fall in place and the diocese will experience deep and long-lasting renewal," the bishop said.



CALLING DOWN THE HOLY SPIRIT: synod delegates pray together in thanksgiving and in expectation of divine guidance.

In a 30-minute address that visibly inspired many delegates, the bishop said that the synod will help create a Church that is

more faithful, diverse and welcoming, while it both upholds traditional teachings and also moves forward with new ways

to evangelize.

The bishop began his talk by thanking the delegates for their candid comments, hard work and spirit of unity but said that, as bishop, he felt the need to further address issues that were not resolved during the discernment phase.

In particular he singled out peace and justice, the sexual abuse crisis and diversity as ongoing challenges.

"We've also not been very comfortable talking about the need for healing in our Church on many levels, including for our sisters and brothers whose lives have been damaged and even destroyed by sexual abuse," he said.

The bishop said that the synod

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

No 'opting out' of environmental stewardship

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis' much anticipated encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si* (Praised Be), a line from St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of Creatures," was released by the Vatican Press Office on June 18.

Laudato Si is the introductory phrase to eight verses of St. Francis of Assisi's famous prayer thanking God for the gifts of creation. "Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom you give us light," one of the first lines says.

"Today, Pope Francis has published his powerful encyclical *Laudato Si*. In it, the Holy Father has challenged us to remember that God has given the earth to man, and that we are morally responsible to take care of it," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. "We are morally obligated to respect nature not just because it is our home, but also because we are ourselves a fundamental aspect of it. According to the Holy Father, these are not mutually exclusive; in order to cultivate and care for our world, we must also cultivate and care for each other."

The bishop said he under-



IN PERHAPS THE BOLDEST MOVE YET in what has already been a bold papacy, Pope Francis has promulgated *Laudato Si* (Praised Be), his encyclical on the environment.

stood that some people wrestle with the science and politics of "global warming," but that the Holy Father has elevated the discussion to higher ground with its focus on stewardship and concern for the poor.

"The Holy Father has emphasized our moral obligation, given to us in Genesis, to care for creation. We are called to care for, steward and love creation. God has given us our earth, our neighbors and everything around us simply because he loves us. We are protectors of all of his creation, which, of course,

includes our obligation to care for our fellow man," said the bishop.

"Above all, the Holy Father is calling on us to shed our culture of indifference and to embrace the challenge of stewardship. If we are to take on this monumental task, we must live in solidarity and love with our world," said Bishop Caggiano.

The encyclical acknowledges the strong scientific consensus on the link between human activity and the climate. The U.S. military and the business community agree that climate change is

happening, and they're preparing for it.

However, it asks those who disagree to consider the moral case for acting to protect the created world.

In the encyclical, Pope Francis speaks about "integral ecology." This idea tells us that the way we relate with one another and how we relate to the environment are intimately connected. Integral ecology means that "natural ecology"—the environment, our natural resources, the precious gift of creation—is decidedly linked to "human ecology"—how we respect life, treat one another, regard the poor, structure our economic decisions and policy, mold and shape our society.

The encyclical also takes on what the Pope has defined in the past as the "throwaway culture, both of material goods that we buy and use for a few months and then throw out, and also throw-away people."

It urges people to understand that overusing resources, from forests to fish to water, results in scarcity that can both increase and be exacerbated by climate change, reminding people of the responsibility of caring for God's creation.

Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said the document highlights climate change as "a moral issue," pointing out that the poor suffer the most from consequences of improper care of the environment, even though "they have contributed least to climate change."

He noted that Pope Francis is not speaking out as a scientist or a politician on the issue but as a shepherd. The archbishop also added that the U.S. bishops "aren't novices" on this topic either, since they issued a statement on the environment in 1991 and a climate change statement in 2001.

The Pope has been "challenging us to resist the throwaway culture and build a culture of solidarity and encounter. He will surely continue to ask the world to abandon practices that casually discard both people and the gifts of the earth," Archbishop Wenski said.

During the USCCB Spring General Assembly, in St. Louis this month, Archbishop Wenski told his fellow bishops that they can't "opt out" of conversation on caring for the environment. ■

Annual Catholic Appeal

Appeal nears 90 percent of goal

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—With the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) nearing 90 percent of goal, leaders are hopeful that the campaign, which funds the major programs and ministries of the diocese, will reach its \$11 million goal by the end of June.

“We are grateful for the outpouring of generosity from parishioners this year and that so many consider the diocese and its ministries such a worthy investment,” said William M. McLean, chief development officer of the diocese.

To date the appeal has received nearly 20,000 gifts totaling more than \$9.6 million. Twenty parishes have gone over goal, while a total of 38 are at 75-99 percent of goal. To date, St. Leo’s Parish in Stamford is leading the way at 142 percent over goal.

“The response has been encour-

aging and enthusiastic, and we’re very grateful to our chair-couple, Julie and Rowan Taylor; our priest leaders of the pastors’ advisory committee, chair, Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz and vice chair Father Reginald Norman; and to all of our parish leaders.”

McLean said that 32 percent of donors increased their pledge form last year and that 21 percent of those who have participated are new donors. The average gift is over \$500.

Pam Rittman, ACA director, said that she thinks the new parish appeal leaders have also given a boost to this year’s appeal.

“One of the highlights this year was having appeal chairs in every parish. They played a prominent role in making the case known by supporting the pastor and working with other lay people,” she said. “They set a strong example and encouraged

people to give.”

Likewise, Rittman credits Julie and Rowan Taylor for “giving of themselves wholeheartedly to lead the appeal and inspire others to give. In addition to making a leadership gift, they hosted a reception at their home and attended major receptions across the diocese, eager to share the story of their faith and their commitment to the appeal. They also brought a sense of fun as well as purpose to the campaign.

“The Taylors have very strong feelings about younger couples getting involved in the diocese and they worked to create a foundation for their participation in the appeal.”

Rittman believes this year’s appeal was energized by the opportunity to support two new initiatives, including the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund and World Youth Day in Poland in 2016. The bishop has set a goal of



THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL helps support local soup kitchens that help feed the needy 365 days a year. Some soup kitchens funded by the appeal serve breakfast, lunch and dinner to those who would otherwise go hungry.

bringing 300 youth from the diocese to Poland and he has asked for support to make that a reality.

Most important of all, based on calls and letters that come into the development office, she says that people “appreciate this bishop’s energy and spirituality and see that reflected in the many new initiatives he has put forward. They are giving to affirm his vision of renewal in the diocese.”

The appeal serves as the primary means of funding for numerous diocesan ministries and offices that sponsor religious, humanitarian and educational programs to those in need from all walks

of life. While the public phase of the campaign will come to an end on June 30, pledges are accepted through December 31, 2015. Rittman said. For tax and personal reasons many donors prefer to give at the end of the year.

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

(For more info, email 2015ACA@diobpt.org or call: 203.416.1470. Give online www.2015ACAbridgeport.com.)



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June 2015

World Youth Day

Over 160 signed up for World Youth Day

By JOHN GROSSO

More than 160 young men and women across the diocese have already signed up for the World Youth Day pilgrimage, set for the summer of 2016 in Krakow, Poland.

"The experience of World Youth Day is incredibly powerful," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. "It will directly contribute to many who are discerning vocations to the priesthood, religious, or married life."

The bishop, who has led delega-

from all economic backgrounds will be able to attend. My goal is to make attending this trip as easy as possible," he said in a Facebook post. "I cannot emphasize enough how much I believe in World Youth Day. I wish I could send every eligible young adult in our diocese."

The Facebook and other social media bishop's posting diocesan efforts

Kraków WYD 2016

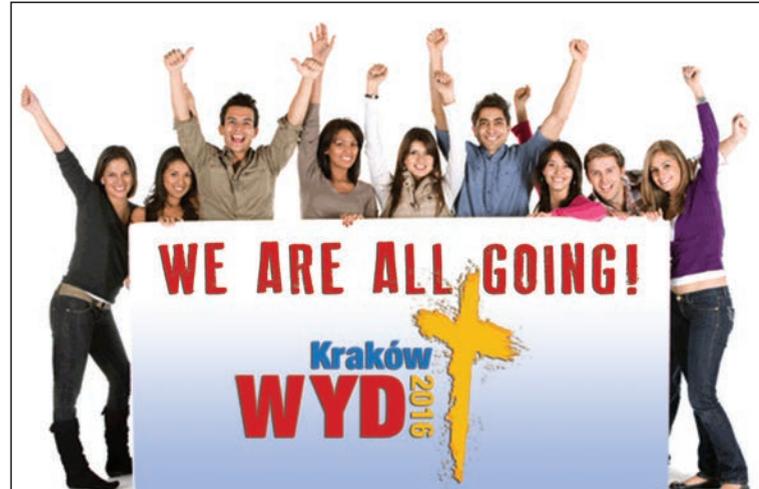


tions to several World Youth Days and spoken at international Catholic youth gatherings, has seen the day transform lives by inspiring young people and helping them to deepen their faith in the company of others.

"It is my hope that people

people, continuing for the Julie Rogers, director of youth ministry for the diocese, led diocesan youth to previous World Youth Days in Brazil and Spain, and recently traveled to Poland to

have sparked an interest on the part of young people who are to register event.



tour the site and begin to set up the itinerary for 2016.

From the start of Bishop Caggiano's ministry in the Diocese of Bridgeport, the empowerment of youth and young adults has been a major objective. Central to this mission is the pilgrimage to World Youth Day. Bishop Caggiano has set the goal of bringing 300 pilgrims to see the Holy Father in a 12-day pilgrimage (July 22-August 2, 2016) that includes stops at Czestochowa, Auschwitz, and Wadowice, the birthplace of St.

John Paul II.

In an effort to ensure that people from all economic backgrounds in our diocese can attend, Bishop Caggiano has established a needs-based scholarship program. Funds for the first round of scholarships will be distributed in June, and scholarships will be available to those who continue to register on a rolling basis.

Alongside the scholarship program, Bishop Caggiano also created an incentive program,

which ran until June 8. Pilgrims who registered by that date were eligible for up to \$1,500 off the total cost if they recommend two people, and those people sign up. Though that program has since closed, the bishop's goal of making the trip as accessible as possible to all youth and young adults in the diocese remains.

"The experience is so incredibly moving and powerful, and it is my hope that the 300 people our diocese sends will come out of the trip enriched, fulfilled, and on fire for the Lord," said the bishop.

Young people can now sign up without a deposit, and they do not have to make that deposit until after the scholarship funds are distributed. Spots are still available for the trip but are filling up fast. All those registering for the pilgrimage are encouraged to apply for scholarships. There are also spots available for those who wish to chaperone the trip.

(To register, learn more about the trip, or to inquire about scholarships and chaperoning, go to <http://wyd.bridgeportdiocese.com>.)

FIFTH GENERAL SESSION FROM PAGE 3

talked about and included the cultural racial and ethnic diversity within the diocese, but there is much more work to be done.

He said the Church must always be a prophetic voice for justice in the world and to challenge structures that leave many people dependent on charity. "These are issues that I as bishop will pursue to bring greater healing to the Church. They will always be a priority if we are to deepen our personal conversion. And to the best of my ability, I will lead us forward in these areas."

Looking back over his reasons for convening the synod, the bishop said that he and the delegates have come to terms with the fact that "it's a different world" in which much of what was done in the past has to change if the diocese is to respond to where people are in their life and faith journeys.

"The synod has not been a discussion about what we believe,

but about how we are going to live our discipleship as the world around us changes and becomes more privatized and more indifferent; as religion becomes more suspect while spirituality is still alive, and as people search for God but are ambivalent about whether or not they need us in the process. We are back to missionary times, and we have to ask, 'what would we do differently than what we are doing in our parishes today? That's part of the discernment we need to make through the synod journey.'"

In a vigorous question and answer session with delegates prior to voting, the bishop said he did not think the diocese was taking on too much, because ultimately the synod was not about programs but personal conversion and loving parish communities.

The final general session capped a process that began in February 2014, when the bishop issued a formal proclamation to convene the synod. It was

followed by a series of listening sessions across the diocese last spring, a series of six general sessions, and consultations in between with youth, clergy and religious, and the Hispanic community.

Describing the synod as "a road map but not the road," the bishop said no one has all the answers and that Catholics must always wrestle with Jesus' question, "Who do you think I am?" He said the answer drives personal conversion and stronger parish communities.

The bishop announced that the synod office will formally close this fall after the Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, September 19, at 10 am at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, and he urged all delegates to attend.

(For more info on the Mass of Thanksgiving and to read the major directives approved by synod delegates, visit the Synod 2014 website: www.synod2014.org.)

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

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Breakfast of Champions

Celebrating scholars and athletes

BRIDGEPORT—“This morning, we are here to celebrate the best of news,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in his opening remarks at the Breakfast of Champions, held at the Catholic Center each year to recognize students who display academic excellence and live the values of their faith. In his welcoming speech, Bishop Caggiano called the students “champions, scholars, and role models.”

The Breakfast of Champions St. Thomas Aquinas Award recognizes one student from each school who has shown excellence in academics and exemplifies the Gospel values fostered through



CHAMPIONS, SCHOLARS AND ROLE MODELS! In the arena and in the classroom! After eating their “Wheaties,” award-winning Catholic school students from throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport (Fairfield County) gathered for a photo at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport. (PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)



A YOUNG SCHOLAR from Greenwich Catholic School can't hold back his smile during the festivities.

Catholic education. In addition, the St. Sebastian Award is given to individuals who have shown

leadership in high school as captains of athletic teams that achieve success on the state level.

Fifty-two students representing 35 schools throughout the diocese, along with their parents, principals, pastors and school chaplains turned out for the awards breakfast. Thirty-four were presented the St. Thomas Aquinas Medal for academic excellence and the practice of virtue. Eighteen received the St. Sebastian Medal for their achievements as scholar-athletes.

Bishop Caggiano, assisted by Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, PhD, superintendent of schools,

presented the awards individually to each student.

The students' comments reveal not only their intelligence but the values that led to their selection.

“When I got the letter inviting me to the Breakfast of Champions, I was really surprised,” said eighth-grader Charles Asetta, the St. Thomas Aquinas Award winner from St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown. “There were so many people in my class who deserved the award.”

Charles plans to attend St. Joseph High School in Trumbull in the fall, where he hopes to play

on the soccer team.

His parents, Richard and Susan, gave high praise to the education their son received at St. Rose. “He's been here all the way since preschool,” they said. “It's a wonderful school.”

One student, St. Joseph High School senior Matthew Laveneziana, earned both the St. Thomas Aquinas and the St.

His parents, Joseph and Sue, have high praise for the value of Catholic education. All three of their children went to St. Jude School in Monroe. “When it came to high school, from a parent's point of view, academics was the first thing,” said Joseph. “But when you have a gifted athlete like Matthew, St. Joseph's made the perfect choice.”



FIFTY-TWO STUDENTS representing 35 Catholic schools throughout the diocese, along with their parents, principals and school chaplains turned out for the awards breakfast.

Sebastian awards. Although he was the only one to achieve such recognition, “I'm just like everyone else here,” he said.

Matt, who was captain of St. Joe's football team, thoroughly appreciated the education he got there. “I love it there,” he said of the school atmosphere. “It's going to be hard leaving.”

He's headed to UCONN this fall, where he hopes to play on the baseball team.

Matt, in turn, credits his success not only to his education but the strong backing of his parents. “They made me who I am,” he said.

Echoing the theme of the breakfast, each table had as its centerpiece a box of Wheaties, the original “Breakfast of Champions.” In the spirit of the day's awards, these centerpieces were donated to Catholic Charities for distribution to local soup kitchens and food pantries. ■

SAVE THE DATE

SYNOD CLOSING MASS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 • 11:00 AM

WEBSTER BANK ARENA AT HARBOR YARD, BRIDGEPORT

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Youth Choir Auditions

Talent and faith come together

By FATHER COLIN MCKENNA

When Mary Bozzuti Higgins accepted the job as director of the diocesan youth choir, she knew she would be wearing a lot of hats—from music director to promoter. And you can throw in the diocesan version of American Idol as well, with the recent series of auditions that found her shuttling throughout Fairfield County to identify and encourage young music talent in the diocese.

Whether she is able to create virtuosos, she has already done a good job recruiting young people for C4Y (Choir for Youth). She had a great assist from John Grosso, new social media leader of the Diocese of Bridgeport. With a mix of daily tweets, Facebook entries and videos, Grosso was able to use social media to create enthusiasm for the choir and boost the number of students who came to audition.

To date, 75 young people have signed up to begin summer rehearsals.

Bozzuti Higgins is delighted

and looking forward to getting her choir ready for its first public performance on September 19 at the Synod Closing Mass at Webster Arena in Bridgeport. The choir may find that its first performance is “sold out,” with as many as 9,000 people expected for the Mass.

In fact, the Youth Choir has its roots in the synod listening sessions, when Catholics throughout the diocese told Bishop Frank J. Caggiano that they want the young more involved in the Church and they hope for a revitalized music ministry.

After the Synod Closing Mass, the choir will sing at the first annual C4Y Christmas Concert, to be held December 18 at Norwalk Concert Hall.

Getting a 75-member youth choir together on such short notice is a tall order, but Bozzuti Higgins is ready to hit the ground running. C4Y rehearsals begin on June 22 and run throughout the summer.

Because of the brief amount of time available to prepare a new choir for two upcoming concerts,

Bozzuti Higgins will need to prepare C4Y concurrently for the synod and Christmas concerts. “We are going to start practicing Christmas songs right away,” she said.

In addition to their first two already scheduled “command performances,” Bozzuti Higgins is informing her singers that “Bishop Caggiano will be calling on C4Y for various events throughout the year and we must be ready with a basic repertory for Masses and special celebrations.” The bishop hopes that in time, C4Y can be more than 100 members strong, ready to perform at a moment’s notice.

In addition to serving the needs of the Church, C4Y members will also have a positive item to add to their college applications. Experts state that college admission boards are very receptive to applicants who practice their faith and who express interest in religion, as statistics show that college students who attend religious services during their college years tend to do better academically than stu-

dents who do not practice religion while in college.

In order to build up her ranks of singers, Bozzuti Higgins has been willing to travel throughout the diocese to meet individual singers for auditions. If you are interested in auditioning, contact her at C4Y@diobpt.org. Once rehearsals begin on June 22, auditions will officially be closed until after the Synod Closing Mass on September 19.

After the Synod Mass, interested singers can once again audition for C4Y as it prepares for its December 18 Christmas Concert.

The C4Y summer rehearsal schedule, beginning June 22, is as follows:

Mondays – 4:30-6 pm – Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton

Tuesdays – 4:30-6 pm – The Catholic Center, Bridgeport

Tuesdays – 7:00-8:30 pm – St. Joseph H.S., Trumbull

Wednesdays – 4:30-6 pm – Trinity Catholic H.S., Stamford

Thursdays – 4:30-6 pm – Immaculate H.S., Danbury

Members of C4Y are expected to attend one rehearsal each week



AUDITIONS garnered vocalists for C4Y choir.

throughout the summer. Singers who are planning extended vacation time away from home this summer should discuss details with Bozzuti Higgins before rehearsals commence.

“Any singer who wants to attend more than one rehearsal session each week is more than welcome,” Bozzuti Higgins said. “Those who are going to miss rehearsals because they will be away can have the opportunity to catch up on their return by attending extra rehearsals.”

(For more information on the Diocesan Youth Choir, go to www.c4ysings.com, email c4y@diobpt.org or Twitter: [@c4ysings](https://twitter.com/c4ysings).)

Shehan Center unwraps \$2 million campaign

BRIDGEPORT—The Cardinal Shehan Center has announced the launch of a capital campaign to raise \$2 million for facilities improvement and educational scholarships to local Catholic Schools.

The announcement was made on May 6 on the grounds of the Cathedral Academy Upper Campus (on the campus of St. Augustine Cathedral), one of the four Catholic schools in Bridgeport sponsored by the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano joined Shehan Center Executive Director Terry O’Connor, Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch and other community leaders for the announcement of the first Shehan Center Capital Campaign in its 50-year history.

“As a city and a Church we need to invest in young people,” said Bishop Caggiano. “If we attend to their needs and help them develop, they will blossom into future leaders.



SUPPORTING YOUTH and the Young Church: Bishop Caggiano is joined by Shehan Center and community leaders on May 6, along with some of the youth who use the Shehan Center and look forward to its coming upgrades.

The Cardinal Shehan Center is unique in its ability to reach out.”

O’Connor said that \$500,000 would go toward upgrades to Shehan Center’s historic facility on Main Street in downtown Bridgeport, and an additional \$500,000 will be added to the Shehan Center endowment fund to ensure long-term viability.

A key initiative of the cam-

paign will be the creation of a \$1 million fund to help pay tuition for Shehan Center members who need financial assistance to attend a Catholic school in Bridgeport.

O’Connor said the Shehan Center has helped its high-school-age members with financial assistance to Catholic schools since 1995 through the David Liptak Fund. The new scholarship assis-

tance fund created by the capital campaign will benefit students who seek to enroll in Catholic elementary schools or who need assistance to remain in one.

“If the father of one of our members already enrolled in a Catholic school loses his job and can no longer make tuition payment, the fund will kick in,” O’Connor explained.

Those on hand for the announcement overwhelmingly endorsed the Shehan Center as a unique institution serving Bridgeport youth as well as those from surrounding towns.

“Thousands of kids depend on this facility,” said Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch, who noted that his own children took swimming lessons at the center. “It’s an example of how to do it right.”

“The Shehan Center is a fundamental institution at the heart of the city. It makes a difference every day,” said Robert Panza of Trumbull, a member of the investment committee that

launched the campaign.

Twelve-year old Joseph Vu, who enjoyed having his photo taken with the bishop, told the gathering that he is a member of the Shehan Center and is in the sixth grade at the Cathedral Academy, and that he loved being at both places.

The bishop reminded those in attendance that the Shehan Center was named for Cardinal Lawrence J. Shehan, the first Bishop of Bridgeport. “He understood the importance of youth to the future,” said the bishop. “And our recently completed Diocesan Synod has also put youth and the young Church at the center of everything we do. They are not our future, they are here with us right now in the Church.”

(The Cardinal Shehan Center, located at 1494 Main St., serves young people of all faiths. For more info or to make a gift to the capital campaign, call 203.336.4468 or visit www.shehancenter.org.)

Consecrated Life

Meet Father Bret Stockdale, SJ

During the Year of Consecrated Life, *Fairfield County Catholic* has been featuring members of a number of religious orders. To this point, everyone featured has been a woman. To better round out the assembly,

Years in Vowed Profession: Took first vows in 2005; ordained to the priesthood 2013. (NOTE: Father Bret has not yet taken his final vows. In the Jesuit Order, final vows are taken several years after ordination, making Jesuit

love for Christ and the Church, and was very proud of her brother, who had been a priest in the Diocese of Worcester.

A Connecticut place I especially like: The CT wine tour in the fall. It is a beautiful drive through the hills of CT when the foliage is changing.

If I could have lunch with a saint it would be: St. Ignatius—He is the founder of the Society of Jesus and I would love to talk with him about his own conversion experience and his Spiritual Exercises.

What “rocks my world” today: Pope Francis. The first Jesuit Pope, and as I saw in World Youth Day in Brazil, one

never seems to know what he will do next!

Something I most appreciate about community life: The sense of common purpose and mission. At Fairfield we are a mixed community of those working at the university and the prep school as well as some retired; there is a great sense of diversity among the community members, and we all care for one another.

An interesting fact about me: As a Jesuit I have been blessed to be able to study in Rome and Beijing.

I really like this author: Joseph Ratzinger and his writings on the liturgy and worship. (NOTE: Joseph Ratzinger later

became Pope Benedict XVI.)

Slogan that I would give my life: AMDG—For the Greater Glory of God—It is the motto of the Society of Jesus and one I try to live my own life by.

What I would say to someone considering choosing consecrated life: Be patient, persevere, pray and find a good spiritual director to help you with your discernment.

CORRECTION:

In the previous profile, Sister Maureen Ulatowski's religious name was listed incorrectly. When she taught second grade at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Stratford, her name was Sister Joanne Marie.



FATHER BRET STOCKDALE, SJ

we thought it would be good to include a man in religious life.

The largest order of religious men in the Diocese of Bridgeport is the Society of Jesus (Jesuit Order) who run Fairfield University and Fairfield Prep. Father Bret Stockdale, SJ, is the ideal candidate to profile, since he has taught at Prep, has been serving in campus ministry at the university, and has been assigned again to Prep for the coming school year.

Name: Father Bret Stockdale, SJ

Hometown: Worcester, Mass.

Order/Institute/ Congregation: Society of Jesus

formation among the longest of any of the religious orders.)

Ministry, now or formerly: Fairfield University Campus Ministry. I taught at Fairfield Prep and am heading back to Prep this fall.

A favorite image or title for Jesus that resonates with me: Jesus the Good Shepherd. It's an ancient image of Jesus and speaks to me of his love and care for those who follow him.

Person who influenced my faith life: My grandmother. She was very devout, and I can remember as a kid watching Mass on TV with her. She had a great

Consecrated Life celebration



WESTPORT—The May 19 diocesan celebration of consecrated life, held in May every year, gained added emphasis this year. Coming as it did in the middle of the Year of Consecrated Life proclaimed by Pope Francis, the event at St. Luke Parish gave religious women and men the chance to gather, pray and socialize together.

The theme for the day, “Bringing light to meet the darkness,” was taken from the parable of the five wise virgins in the

Gospel of Matthew (Matt 25:1-13).

“This is an annual event to celebrate the vowed life of religious, consecrated societies and individuals,” said Sister Nancy Strillacci, director of religious for the Diocese of Bridgeport. “Our centerpieces, small terra cotta oil lamps of the kind used in Gospel times, echoed the theme. Our intention, as vowed religious, is to bring light to the world.”

Msgr. Andrew Varga, pastor of St. Luke's, was the host for the afternoon, which was attended by 160 Sisters, Brothers, and order

priests from nine congregations. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrated Mass, joined on the altar by ten priests.

During the Mass, the bishop recognized 28 jubilarians, from one marking 80 years of vowed life to those observing the golden jubilee of their vows.

The religious in this diocese are involved in a variety of ministries, from teaching and nursing to pastoral care, counseling, prison ministry, working with immigrants, pro-life ministry and social justice advocacy.

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Energy Challenge

Student winners recognized for energy smarts

By PAT HENNESSY

Two first-place winners from the Cathedral Academy lower school at St. Raphael campus in Bridgeport, along with students from two other diocesan schools, were among the 32 Energize Connecticut winners welcomed by Governor Dannel Malloy in Hartford on June 5. More than 700 entries were received for this year's eesmart's Student Contest.

Energize Connecticut is an initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the State, and local electric and gas utilities. The eesmart's (energy efficiency smarts) contest invites students in grades K-12 to create projects about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and

sustainability.

"Each grade level had a specific task, and they had to come up with the idea themselves," explains Sister Deborah Lopez, ASCJ, St. Raphael's principal. The students in grades K-2, including St. Raphael's first-place winners, were asked to submit a poster on an energy-related theme.

"I drew a TV with an X on it and a picture of someone playing outside with a dog," says first-grader Kaylin Figueroa. "Don't watch TV—unplug it! Go play outside. I play outside with my dog, and sometimes I take it for a walk with my dad."

Second-grader Lourdemia Andre, following a similar theme, came up with a poster showing

an iPad tablet, a charger, and a window. "I like going on my tablet. I got it for my birthday, and the charger came with it," says Lourdemia. "But you shouldn't play on the tablet so many times. If you don't look out the window, you might miss something you want to do like people playing tag or playing basketball." While she really enjoys her new tablet, Lourdemia likes to play basketball outside with her brother and cousin.

Kindergartner Jayne Voskey, from Holy Spirit School in Stamford, won third place in the poster contest at her grade level.

At the fifth-grade level, Kiera Garry of Holy Spirit won second place. The challenge for her grade was to write a book review for



"SAVE ENERGY—PLAY OUTSIDE!" Independent ideas and depictions earned first-grader Kaylin Figueroa (l) and second-grader Lourdemia Andre first-place at their grade levels in the statewide energy contest. (PHOTO BY SISTER DEBORAH LOPEZ)

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss. In his book, the Lorax is a creature who speaks for the trees. Students were challenged to explain how the book helped young children understand the importance of conserving natural resources.

Eighth-grader Royce Maxwell from St. Gregory the Great

School took home a third place for his public service announcement, a marketing plan to promote LED bulbs. "His entry was just like a commercial," says Principal Mary Fitzgerald.

In fact, the public service winners, including Royce, will see

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Morin to lead Catholic Charities development

BRIDGEPORT—Bill Morin of Fairfield has been named director of development for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Bridgeport. His appointment was announced by Al Barber, president/CEO.

Morin brings 10 years of Fortune 100 brand marketing and 15 years of nonprofit development leadership to the new post at Catholic Charities, a regional family and community service agency that serves people of all faiths throughout Fairfield County.

He will be responsible for major fund-raising initiatives and special events that support Catholic Charities programs, including family and community services, adoption, counseling and mental health, nutrition, immigration, housing, homeless outreach and other services.

"I am pleased to welcome Bill Morin to the diocesan family as a member of Catholic Charities," said Barber. "Bill brings great energy and capability to his post, particularly



BILL MORIN

as we move toward celebration of our 100th year of service in Fairfield County."

In his career, he has been fortunate to see first-hand the transforming impact of community-based programs both locally and globally. "He has a passion for the work and an understanding of the need to develop resources for the mission," Barber said.

Morin will direct all Catholic Charities development efforts, including planned giving and the creation of a Catholic Charities Foundation. He will also help

oversee the successful completion of the New Covenant House of Hospitality capital campaign in Stamford.

Among its major initiatives, Catholic Charities serves more than 1.5 million meals each year through four major nutrition programs, including inner-city soup kitchens and a senior nutrition program. It also provides 15,000 counseling hours to individuals and families who would otherwise not be able to afford therapy.

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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All Saints School

A chance encounter changes many lives

By **NORMA DARRAGH**

In 2010, Brenda Renzulli, a nurse practitioner with Bridgeport Hospital's Center for Geriatrics, embarked on a mission trip with the Hope for Orphans of Ethiopia (HOE) organization. Although she had devoted her spare time on prior trips to Third World countries, little did Renzulli know that not only her life but those of many others would be altered by one chance encounter with ten-year old Feven Alemu, as they served food together one day in the village of Korah.

Founded as a leper colony on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, Korah has grown into one of the world's poorest urban slums. Built adjacent to the city's dump, Korah's population of close to 130,000—equivalent to Hartford—is crowded into only 1.5 square miles, an area only one-fifth Hartford's size. "You cannot imagine the extreme poverty there," Renzulli explains. "Homes have mud walls. Multiple family members live

together in what we would consider one room. Life is one of hardship, disease and massive unemployment."

Renzulli believes that Feven—which rhymes with "heaven"—was indeed "God sent," explaining that "I knew then that if she could just get out of that village and obtain a good education, she could change her life, and the lives of others."

After she returned home, Renzulli remained committed to ensuring a brighter future for Feven, providing financial support for her education. Learning that HOE representatives were returning to Korah the following year, Renzulli conveyed her intentions to bring Feven to



FAR FROM HER VILLAGE of Korah, which had little running water, Feven Alemu and her sixth-grade classmate Veronica Pinho (l-r) pose next to an All Saints School water fountain—an everyday convenience enjoyed by American students.

the United States and was overcome with joy when Feven replied that, "I want you to be my Mom in America."

Integral to Feven's successful transition from Ethiopia to life in Connecticut was finding a nurturing, challenging and accepting



WALKING THE JOURNEY with Feven Alemu, who arrived at the age of thirteen from Ethiopia eighteen months ago, are (l-r) Brenda Renzulli, her American mother/guardian; fifth-grade teacher Linda Lombardi; Feven; sixth-grade language arts teacher Brittany Rich; and All Saints Principal Linda Dunn.

academic environment. Renzulli's research led her to All Saints Catholic School in Norwalk. Principal Linda Dunn was immediately open to the idea.

"I felt that this was a way we could touch a life and change it forever," she says. "This was an opportunity that would be good for all of the students. Up to this time, we had collected money to send to organizations that benefited others but this gift would be tangible, with a potential to impact all our lives."

Over the next months, Principal Dunn and Renzulli kept in touch. After bureaucratic paperwork and three trips to the U.S. Embassy, Feven was able to secure a student visa in December 2013.

Principal Dunn met with All Saints students to share the "wonderful news." Their enthusiasm was evident in their preparations. Students like Victoria Pinho embellished "welcome" posters, adding stickers and pictures daily. Fifth-grade teacher Linda Lombardi recalls that "none of us could imagine the place from which she was coming. The children, faculty and parents welcomed her with open arms and provided gifts, clothing, and most of all, love."

Feven's home in Westport is a world apart from the life and family she left behind. She loves math, dance, grammar and new adventures—riding a bike, swimming and dance lessons, the Air and Space Museum in Washington, a high school musical, the pageant and upcoming *Sound of Music* school production, the Museum of Natural History and the excitement of Times Square. Simple things—ice cubes, mirrors, the "clicking of Ms. Rich's shoes," pasteurized versus powered milk, snow and running water in school fountains—are

novelties that provide her a great deal of joy!

Sixth-grade language arts teacher Brittany Rich commends "Feven's drive, which is 'unteachable,' her willingness to ask questions and her determination which has earned her High Honor Roll status during her sixth-grade year! She is a cheerleader for her peers, encouraging them to do their very best."

To her friend and classmate Victoria, Feven simply embodies "happiness."

"School is very different here," notes Feven. Her peers in Ethiopia will have to pay and travel long distances to continue their education beyond eighth grade, hardships in a country where the daily wage is less than \$1.00.

Committed to pursuing higher education, Feven wants to pursue a career helping others, although she is a typical teenager who one day aspires to be a teacher, then the next day a police officer or orthodontist. When queried as to her dreams for Feven, Renzulli replied that she wants her to "be happy and get a green card!"

"Every once in a while, someone comes into our lives that makes an impact greater than we could have ever imagined" notes Lombardi. "When Feven came to us, she was reluctant to dance along. Today, she leads the dance! Along the way, she has, and continues, to dance upon my heart."

As the All Saints community—administrators, faculty, students and parents—celebrate the school's 25th anniversary, their commitment to "Faith in Action" and their impact on Feven's future prove an inspiration to all.

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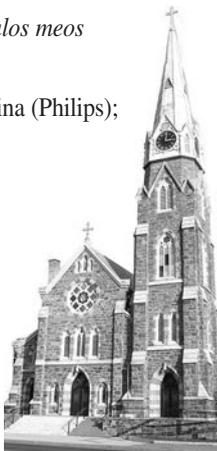
June 21: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas* (Taverner); *Illumina oculos meos* (Monte); *O nata lux* (Tallis); organ music of Byrd and Bach

June 28: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa super Ecce quam bonum* (Hassler); *Salve Regina* (Philips); *Unam petii* (Byrd); organ music of Howells

July 5: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Mass for Four Voices (1641) (Monteverdi); *Benedicam Dominum in omni tempore* (Schütz); *O quam tu pulchra es* (Schütz); festive music for violins, trombone, and organ
This Mass will be celebrated in thanksgiving by the newly ordained Fr. Carl McIntosh

July 12: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Pater cuncta* (plainsong); *Laudate Dominum* (Andrea Gabrieli); *Caro mea* (Monte); organ music of Tournemire

July 19: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Se la face ay pale* (Dufay); *Flos florum* (Dufay); *Salve Regina* (from the Annaberg Choirbook)



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Ecclesial Movements

Celebrating Life in the Spirit

BRIDGEPORT—"I sense a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit on our diocese," says Fran Karpiej, OFS (Order Franciscan Secular).

With the beginning of the Diocesan Synod in 2014, the diocese has witnessed the movement of God's Spirit as new initiatives have been presented after months of listening and dialogue. One particular initiative has been the gathering of the ecclesial movements within the diocese, which began last year on September 7 at St. Augustine Cathedral.

The Third Order of St. Francis includes men and women living ordinary lives in the world. They, like members of other ecclesial movements, are usually married. To respond to the many married men and women who wanted to join him, St. Francis developed a rule animated by the Franciscan spirit. Other religious leaders soon followed his example.

All ecclesial movements, following the spirituality of their founders, are based on a variety of charisms, forms and goals. With a predominantly lay membership, they are people on a faith journey.

For the first time at the gathering last September, the various ecclesial movements in this diocese came together in prayer and exhortation. "For me, it was a joy to know that recognition was being given to those who have committed themselves to

the work of God through these movements," says Karpiej. "The Cathedral was nearly filled to capacity as we came together to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and to see the various charisms energizing spiritual renewal throughout our Church."

This year, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano invited all the ecclesial movements to the Cathedral once again to celebrate Mass on the Vigil of Pentecost, May 23.

"Word spread that we would call upon the power of the Holy Spirit as a fire to ignite and unite us with renewed faith and a call to mission," says Karpiej. "This was certainly the case as we gathered that evening."

The Mass began with the processional hymn of "One Spirit, One Church," and the Liturgy of the Word was proclaimed in four languages in addition to English. Music was also shared bilingually and participants were blessed by the Haitian Catholic Community of Stamford, who presented a traditional, spirit-filled offertory procession to help lift minds and hearts to Christ.

During his homily, Bishop Caggiano shared his reaction to a time when, during the Jubilee Year 2000, he was in Rome with his mother. They were visiting the Sistine Chapel, which had just been renovated. The color and the details of Michaelangelo's "Creation of Adam" were bril-



RED VESTMENTS SYMBOLIZE the Holy Spirit, who moved powerfully through the Vigil of Pentecost Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral on May 23, at a special gathering of all of the various ecclesial movements in the diocese.

liant; he was particularly inspired by the finger of Adam reaching out to the finger of God. These fingers do not touch, but the longing of Adam to receive life, and the desire of God to give life, is evident in this masterpiece.

"Bishop Caggiano asked the congregation to reflect on the fulfillment of God's promise in Jesus to unite all mankind; and then the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit who, by our Baptism, resides with us and within us," recalls Karpiej. "Pentecost continues today as our faith is set aflame, which was represented at

the Mass by the candle each participant received upon entering the church. We were reminded

that different as we may be, we are called to be faithful within our families, in our parishes and to our respective ecclesial movements. As one body, we were called and given a mission this evening. It is a mission of evangelization, not as single entities, but with one heart and one mind in Christ."

During the concluding exhortation, Bishop Caggiano touched his two fingers together and indicated that God has touched every person and has given them life in the Spirit.

"We are to go forth as a new creation empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring that life to the whole world," says Karpiej. "A mighty challenge, but we left confident that it will be done. We in the ecclesial movements call upon the Holy Spirit, looking forward to the Church of the future and not of the past." ■

ENERGY CHALLENGE FROM PAGE 9

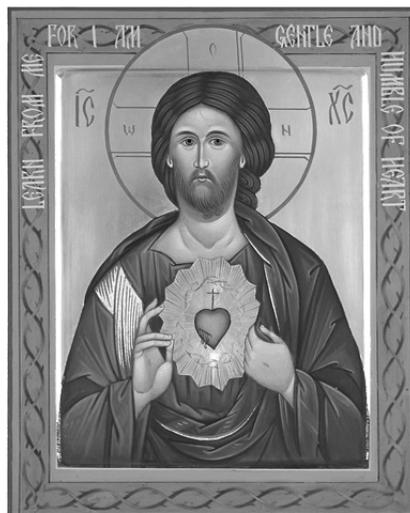
parts of their efforts in upcoming energy announcements. Royce's was clear and to the point: "LED bulbs are effective, energy efficient, and highly economical."

"Connecticut's clean energy future relies on the education of our students," said Governor Malloy in his remarks to the winners. "By providing students with the opportunity to learn about and appreciate the importance of energy efficiency and renewable energy, the eesarts program positions them for a lifetime of environmentally-conscious thinking, which will benefit our state and beyond." ■



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Priest Profile

Father McDevitt celebrates 25 years of priesthood

By FATHER COLIN MCKENNA

This spring, Father James McDevitt celebrated his 25th anniversary as a priest with a high pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Agnes Church in Greenwich. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the principal celebrant, and nine other priest concelebrants joined Father McDevitt. Deacon John Linsenmeyer, assigned to St. Agnes, performed diaconal duties.

About 200 hundred parishioners, family and friends attended Mass and enjoyed a brunch reception in the Carriage Room afterwards.

Father John Bambrick, a classmate of Father McDevitt's from seminary, was the homilist, and his homily was filled with humorous anecdotes about "Father Jim," as he is known by his parishioners.

On the first day of classes in 1986 at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University, Father Bambrick recalled that Father Jim arrived

late to their first class, spilling his mug of coffee and looking disheveled. Not one to judge, Father Bambrick figured that Father Jim would last about a month in seminary. Nearly 30 years later, the two remain close friends and seminary classmates.

Father McDevitt was ordained by Bishop Edward M. Egan on May 26, 1990, at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. He has served as parochial vicar at St. Ambrose Parish, Bridgeport, and St. Mary Parish, Stamford.

In 1996, Father McDevitt was released from diocesan ministry to serve as a full-time chaplain in the Federal Prison System. After seventeen years in prison ministry, Bishop William E. Lori asked Father McDevitt to return to parish work in the Diocese of Bridgeport and in 2012, appointed him pastor of St. Agnes.

At the reception, Father William Carey, who resides at St. Agnes, had attendees in hysterics with his description of the fondness that he and Father Jim share for Carvel Ice Cream. Even in the dead of winter, these two

can be found huddled together in their vehicle (sometimes with the heater running), eating Carvel hot fudge sundaes. Father Carey has concluded that they are both "addicted" to Carvel Ice Cream.

His reference to addiction was made in jest, but Father McDevitt has been very open during his priesthood about his own struggles with alcohol addiction, and he has made it a "ministry within his ministry" to help serve those who suffer the effects of substance abuse.

Bishop Caggiano recently appointed Father McDevitt to the diocesan priests' council because of his expertise in dealing with those in the grips of addiction. It is hoped that Father McDevitt can be of assistance to fellow clergy who may struggle with addictive behaviors and also help establish programs to serve all who suffer from addictions and perhaps help prevent others from falling into addictive behavior. Father McDevitt is a popular retreat master for people involved in twelve-step spirituality.

In addition to Carvel Ice



"FATHER JIM" with his young dog, Teddy, a dog he rescued from a shelter in the South. After he was adopted, Teddy required an extensive surgical procedure. Teddy suffered abuse as a pup before father Jim rescued him, but now he is really blossoming into the warm, friendly and loving dog that he was always intended to be!

Cream, Father McDevitt expresses great and unconditional love for his rescue dog, Teddy, who has quickly become "parish mascot." Teddy is a happy and athletic boy who is given to sprinting into and through the church, sometimes at inopportune times.

The gracious parishioners of St. Agnes laugh heartily at Teddy's antics, especially when Father Jim is in hot pursuit, try-

ing to corral him!

In only a few years at the helm as pastor, Father McDevitt has already seen an increase in the number of young families who are attending and joining St. Agnes Parish. Some might say that they are coming to see Teddy, but Father McDevitt and his staff have worked hard to make St. Agnes a welcoming community for all. ■

MORIN FROM PAGE 9

Morin comes to Catholic Charities from Concordia College, N.Y., where he served as director of development. In the past he has also served as director of major gifts for Save the Children in Westport and the Global Hope Network International in Geneva, Switzerland. His work in the not-for-profit sector also included a tenure as director of student projects for Agape France, a Christian non-profit organization.

His marketing background includes a post as brand manager for Nabisco, Inc. (Kraft Food, Inc.) and experience at New York advertising agencies including Saatchi & Saatchi.

Morin holds a BS cum laude in math and economics from Saint Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., and an MBA in marketing/management from the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, in Evanston, Ill. He met his wife, Virginie, in France; their three children were born in that country. The Morins are active in the community and are members of Covenant Church of Easton.

(Catholic Charities offers more than 30 programs across Fairfield County, serving thousands of needy and vulnerable of all backgrounds and faiths. Their corporate office is located at 238 Jewett Ave., Bridgeport. For more info, phone: 203.416.1503 or visit www.ccfairfield.org.) ■

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Sacred Music at Carnegie Hall

Premiere of the ‘Mass of the Divine Shepherd’

By **PAUL CHU**

For composers like Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Vivaldi, the Mass inspired the highest musical and spiritual expression. Where is that inspiration now?

This year, on June 29, the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, it is at Carnegie Hall—and on a monumental scale. Over 650 performers from around the world will gather for the world premiere of Julian Darius Revie’s *Mass of the*

Divine Shepherd—the first major setting of the Mass in the revised English translation.

“The Mass as an art form has largely been lost for over a century,” Revie notes. “The Church, by sponsoring new Mass settings, was once directly involved in cutting-edge culture in a leadership capacity. Perhaps the time to renew this has come.”

Mass of the Divine Shepherd serves as the focal point and culmination of Alleluia!,

an evening of sacred music sponsored by St. Thomas More Chapel at Yale University as an opening gala for its new Center for Music and Liturgy. The event enjoys the honorary patronage of Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York; Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, the ordinary of Yale’s home Archdiocese of Hartford; Bishop David M. O’Connell of Trenton, NJ; and Bridgeport’s own Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. British conductor Stephen Layton will lead a full symphony orchestra, a 400-voice International Festival Chorus (including the 150-voice National Children’s Chorus) and 200 handbell players, along with two soloists, tenor Stuart Neill and mezzo-soprano Karolina Wojteczko.

This musical bounty will not be reserved for the stage: “The sheer number of musicians, and their placement around the hall, will engulf the listeners in a sonic whirlwind,” he adds.

However, for the composer, the voices of the children provide the most powerful imagery: “The children sing from the balconies, behind and above much of the audience; the children begin and end the piece; their dialogue with the adult chorus and orchestra, on stage, defines the Mass as a whole.”

“At first, the adults lead,” he continues, “But as the piece

proceeds, the children assume a more and more central role, with the adults eventually following them—until ultimately, for the final *Grant Us Peace*, the children sing and the adults are left silent. This silence—a call to fill the void, to respond to the prophetic voice of the children—is the point of the piece,” Revie explains. “After all, the end of the Mass—*Ita missa est*—means, ‘Go, you are sent.’”

This is where Mass of the Divine Shepherd meets the Mass

as Sacred Liturgy. “Pope St. John Paul II envisioned the ultimate potential of the whole cosmos as Eucharistic, a heavenly Liturgy in which, as he said, ‘the whole universe is called to recapitulation in Christ the Lord,’” program manager Val Tarantino says.

For his part, Revie is eager to take Mass of the Divine Shepherd itself beyond the concert hall; he intends to release simplified settings of the Mass parts for choral use in parishes.

➤ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 32*

Saint Pius X Parish

Rev. Samuel Kachuba, *Administrator*; Rev. Robert Crofut, *Parochial Vicar*,
Rev. Msgr. Ernest Esposito, *Priest in Residence*
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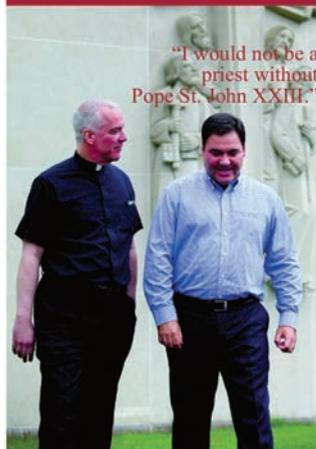
*Thank you, Fr. Sam Kachuba,
Fr. Robert Crofut and Msgr. Ernest Esposito
for saying “yes” to the call to Priesthood.*

We are forever grateful for your dedicated service to the People of God. May all those who are discerning the call to Priesthood, Religious Life, or the Permanent Diaconate be inspired and encouraged by your faithful example.

*Thank you,
The St. Pius X Parish Family*



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Appalachian Fair

Take a drive to Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman

By PAT HENNESSY

The very first Appalachian Craft Fair at Holy Trinity Parish in Sherman drew throngs of visitors 25 years ago. "That was the first time there had ever been a traffic jam in Sherman!" says Dolores Brush, who volunteered then—and ever since. This July marks the 25th anniversary of the fair, "Helping Others Help Themselves."

Perched at the tip of the irregular triangle that forms Fairfield County, Holy Trinity is the northernmost parish in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Encouraged by its first pastor, Father David Riley, since the time of its founding the parish has energetically assisted some of the poorest areas in Appalachia.

Poverty rates there are among the highest in the country. "The coal mines have closed

or are moving out," says Amy Bocompani, who chaired the fair for the past five years. "There's not a lot left."

Like most successes, the fair came about through an inspired twist of time and place. In 1989, Mary McKeon and Chris McDermott volunteered to drive a truck packed with clothes, baby items, and household goods down to Hurley, an Appalachian town near the Virginia/West Virginia border.

"We stayed at the home of the nuns working there, and they showed us some crafts they had collected locally," says Chris McDermott. The Sisters were trying to create a marketplace for the crafters. "On the way home, Mary said to me 'This truck is never going back empty again!'"

As good as her word, McKeon chaired the first Appalachian Fair at Holy Trinity the following

year. Then, as in every year since, the fair was held the first weekend after the 4th of July.

That first fair made more than \$50,000. All of the proceeds go back to the individual crafters. Holy Trinity keeps none of it; donations from parishioners cover the cost of the truck rentals and fuel.

Throughout the year, 40 parish volunteers work on the fair, doing everything from contacting individual crafters to sorting donations for the trip down to flipping hamburgers at parish picnics to raise funds for the trip. This year U-Haul gave Holy Trinity a gift certificate of \$400 toward the cost of the truck rental.

"If I write a check for a charity, it goes away and I don't think about it again," says Dennis Hovland. "This is an opportunity to see what happens with what we give." That opportunity led Hovland into driving a truck to Appalachia, a round trip of 1,600 miles, for over 20 years.

After delivering their truckload of clothing and household items, drivers pick up the designated craft items. Fair-goers will find split-wood oak baskets, hand-pieced quilts, one-of-a-kind jewelry, handcrafted wooden toys, stained-glass, leather goods, and a number of items found nowhere else.

"Poison ivy soap is a popular item," Bocompani says. Her words are followed by a chorus of "It really works!" from Holy Trinity's enthusiastic volunteers.



SPLIT OAK BASKETS like the one displayed by Ann Marie Kastilahn, along with hand-pieced quilts, pottery, jewelry and other crafts draw visitors to the Appalachian Craft Fair held each July at Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman. (PHOTO BY PAT HENNESSY)

"Hand-thrown pottery is probably the fair's biggest draw, especially the work of Keith Lahti," says Ann Marie Kastilahn, chair of this year's fair. "It sells out fast."

Their pastor, Father Richard Gemza, who was new to Holy Trinity last year, had an intense introduction to the fair. "It was the weekend I moved in," he remembers. "I had heard about the fair, but it was abstract until it appeared on my doorstep."

Literally. Kastilahn wheeled a truck full of crafts into the driveway just as Father Gemza was moving in. "He came to see what was happening, and I said 'I need to store these in your garage.' In the middle of everything else, he ended up helping us unload."

This year, Father Gemza has had the chance to see the fair's preparation in depth. "We have a mandate to help 'the least of our brethren,' as our Lord put it," he says. "Over 25 years, parishioners here have gotten to know the crafters, and they know that all the proceeds go directly to them. There's no better way to put faith into action and live out the Lord's mandate."

And they learn firsthand what a difference the fair can make. "The Sisters showed me a new house a family had built," recalls driver Ron Blois of one trip down. "It was the first thing this family had owned. It had no electricity, no indoor plumbing. They were so proud of it."

With proceeds from the work of their own hands, crafters in Appalachia can put plumbing in their house, pay for heat for the winter, or buy shoes for their school age children. "One man needed hearing aids because he had to cross a railroad track to get to his house. Without them, he couldn't hear a train coming," says Dolores Brush.

Right now, Dennis Hovland is gearing up for his next three-day, 1,600 mile trip. He's looking forward to the trek. "If you can help someone," he says by way of explanation, "why wouldn't you do it?"

(Holy Trinity Parish is located at 15 Route 37, at the intersection of routes 37 and 39 in Sherman. The Fair will be held: Fri., July 10, 12 noon-6 pm; Sat., July 11, 10 am-6 pm; and Sun., July 12, from 12 noon-5 pm. For more info, email or call the parish: 860.354.1414.)

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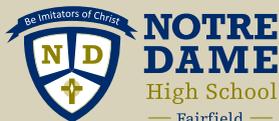
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The Office of the Superintendent of Schools congratulates the 575 members of the Class of 2015 from our diocesan high schools on their acceptance to over 375 colleges and universities around the country. We welcome you to an international network of Catholic school alumni and entrust you to carry the legacy of Catholic education forward. We are especially grateful to the 1,100 administrators, faculty and staff working in our schools who have helped our students achieve this milestone. Their passion and dedication to the mission of Catholic education makes our work meaningful.

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2015

EDITORIAL

Bishop's invitation
to World Youth Day

"The theme for World Youth Day (scheduled for July 26-31, 2016 in Krakow, Poland) comes from Matthew 5:7: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive Mercy" and it fits perfectly into the Jubilee Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has invited the whole church to celebrate. WYD will be a blessed opportunity to explore the richness of mercy because it is the country where St. Faustina was born and lived—the woman who gave the Church the Divine Mercy Chaplet. It is also the city which was the home of Saint John Paul II—where he was influenced as a young man and where he grew to love young people so deeply.

St. John Paul II started the first World Youth Day so that he could walk in pilgrimage with the youth and young adults of our Church and to share their hopes and dreams. This same desire to accompany young people in their journey of faith remains at the heart of every World Youth Day experience ever since the first one. It is my desire to walk in faith with our young people that will bring me to Krakow in 2016.

I renew my invitation to every young person and young adult to make the decision to join this extraordinary pilgrimage of faith. Let us explore the great mystery of mercy together as we travel in the footsteps of St. John Paul II. I cannot emphasize enough how much I believe in World Youth Day; I wish I could send every eligible young adult in our diocese. The experience is so incredibly moving and powerful, and it is my hope that the 300 people our diocese sends will come out of the trip enriched, fulfilled, and on fire for the Lord!"

(Editor's note. The bishop's reflection first appeared on Facebook at "Bishop Caggiano." You can also follow the bishop on twitter: @bishopcaggiano. To register for the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Poland, go to www.wyd.bridgeportdiocese.com.)

Diocese is on the move...

What an extraordinary year we've had under Bishop Caggiano's leadership! A synod to plan the renewal of the diocese has completed its public phase and moves toward a major diocesan event this fall, when we expect 9,000 to fill the Webster Bank Arena to ratify its work in praise and worship. A new Diocesan Youth Choir has been formed with 80 members and rehearsals set to begin this summer, and already more than 150 have signed up for World Youth Day. The diocese is moving ahead in every area: with plans for a new seminary residence, expansion of retired priests residence and the new Bishop's Scholarship Fund, which will help to put Catholic education in reach of every family, especially those with more than one child enrolled in one of our schools. The best way to affirm this vision and to join so many others is to make a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your gift supports all of these initiatives and so much more. Go to 2015ACA@diobpt.org.

Stay young, Stay faithful!

With graduation ceremonies in 35 of our schools came many fine and even memorable speeches, but this year we call attention to one in particular, the commencement address delivered by Dr. Bill Fitzgerald, president of St. Joseph High School. In a talk mixed with humor, faith, wisdom and gentle generational prodding, "Dr. Fitz," as he's known by the students, challenged the graduates to grow in life and faith.

"My advice? Don't live in your dreams. Nothing ever happens in the future. The future is a consequence of what you do, not what you dream."

"Stay fresh. Stay young. Have a high tolerance for frustration... And never forget how to laugh," Dr. Fitzgerald told the graduates.

"There are 7 billion people in the world; all of them trying to make their dreams come true, and you will collide with them, like atoms in a particle accelerator. You won't always get your way."

"Be open. We live in a highly connected world. This is going to be a challenge. You have encountered a fair bit of cultural and economic diversity here at St Joe's. You are about to meet a whole lot more."

And last but not least, "Don't ask 'What Would Jesus Do?' You are not Jesus; don't make that mistake. Instead, ask, 'What would Jesus have YOU do?' Then, just do it."

Sound advice for all of us. Have a great summer!



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

PASTOR

REVEREND JHON GOMEZ, Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Greenwich, to Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Norwalk. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND ROLANDO TORRES, Parochial Vicar, Saint Joseph Parish, Shelton, to Pastor, Saint Mary Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date is June 30.

DIRECTOR

REVEREND SERAPHIM ROHLMAN, Parochial Vicar, Saint Andrew Parish, Bridgeport, to Director of the Office of the Propagation of the Faith, Catholic Center. Effective date is June 30.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

REVEREND ROLANDO ARIAS GALVIS, Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Bethel, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Greenwich. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND CARL McINTOSH, newly Ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Theresa Parish, Trumbull. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND CHRISTOPHER PERRELLA, Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Bethel, to Parochial Vicar, Saint John Parish, Darien. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND ANDREW VILL, Graduate Studies, Rome, to Parochial Vicar, The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Stamford. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND TERENCE WALSH, Administrator, The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Stamford, to Parochial Vicar, Christ the King Parish, Trumbull. Effective date is September 1.

REVEREND ROBERT WOLFE, Graduate Studies, Rome, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Bethel. Effective date is June 30.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

REVEREND CYPRIAN LAPASTINA, to Spiritual Director, Saint John Fisher Seminary, Stamford, succeeding Reverend Monsignor Edward Surwilo. Effective date is June 30. Father LaPastina will remain as Pastor of Saint Mary Parish, Greenwich.

REVEREND MARTIN deMAYO, to Spiritual Director, Legion of Mary. Effective date was May 31. Father deMayo will remain as Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Parish, Stamford.

DEACON SANTOS GARCIA, to Spiritual Director, Spanish Cursillo Movement, The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date is June 30. Deacon Garcia will remain as Deacon, The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport.

CHAPLAIN

REVEREND SAMUEL KACHUBA, appointed to serve as Chaplain for the Serra Club of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Effective date was April 30.

REVEREND MARIUSZ OLBRYNS, Parochial Vicar, Saint Stephen Parish, Trumbull, to Chaplain, Saint Joseph's Manor, Trumbull. Effective date was April 15. Father Olbrys will remain as Parochial Vicar at Saint Stephen Parish, Trumbull.

DEACON

DEACON ANTHONY CARALUZZI, Newly Ordained, to Deacon, Saint Mary Parish, Bethel. Effective date was June 13.

DEACON JORGE CASIANO, Deacon, Saint George Parish, Bridgeport, to Deacon, The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date was May 15.

DEACON ANTHONY CASSANETO, Deacon, Saint Theresa of the Infant Jesus Parish, Bronx, NY, to Deacon, Saint Lawrence Parish, Shelton. Effective date was May 24.

DEACON ANTHONY CONTI, Deacon, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Bridgeport, to Deacon, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton. Effective date is June 20.

DEACON DAVID FLYNN, Newly Ordained, to Deacon, Saint Jude Parish, Monroe. Effective date was June 13.

DEACON JEFFREY FONT, Newly Ordained, to Deacon, Saint Joseph Parish, Brookfield. Effective date was June 13.

DEACON ERNEST JEFFERS, Newly Ordained, to Deacon, Saint Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford. Effective date was June 13.

DEACON RONALD LANDRY, Deacon, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull, to Deacon, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton. Effective date was May 15.

DEACON THOMAS McMANUS, Deacon, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton, to Deacon, Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Weston. Effective date was March 2.

DEACON WILLIAM MIRANDA, Deacon, Saint George Parish, Bridgeport, to Deacon, Saint Joseph Parish, Shelton. Effective date is June 20.

DEACON PATRICK SHEVLIN, Newly Ordained, to Deacon, Saint Edward the Confessor Parish, New Fairfield. Effective date was June 13.

DEACON PATRICK TOOLE, Deacon, Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, Fairfield, to Deacon, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull. Effective date is June 30.

DEACON JOHN TUCCIO, Newly Ordained, to Deacon, Saint Jude Parish, Monroe. Effective date was June 13.

RETIREMENT

REVEREND GILBERT D'SOUZA, Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Norwalk, to retirement. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND FRANCIS POSLUSZNY, South American mission work as Pastor, Saint John the Apostle, Chiclayo, Peru, to retirement. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND GUIDO MONTANARO, Pastor, Holy Family Parish, Fairfield and Administrator, Saint Emery Parish, Fairfield, to retirement. Effective date is September 25.

RESIDENCE

REVEREND PETER DeMARCO, Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford, to Middlebrook Farms at Trumbull. Effective date was May 18.

REVEREND MATTHEW KRANKALL, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Westport, to reside at 6388 Main Street, Trumbull. Effective date was April 20.

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL

REVEREND JAMES McDEVITT, Pastor, Saint Agnes Parish, Greenwich, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Presbyteral Council. Effective date is September 1.

Reverend Ian Jeremiah,
Episcopal Vicar for Clergy
June, 2015

Editorial



A New Catholic's Reflections on Holy Docility

GUEST COLUMNIST

BY CARLENE JOAN DEMIANY

Carlene Joan Demiany is a parishioner at St. Thomas More, the Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University.

“Happy Feast Day, St. Catherine of Siena,” is my silent greeting to a towering statue of a beautiful, blonde woman with long, wavy tresses and a delicate crown. This statue of St. Catherine, which adorns a Dominican parish in my neighborhood, is one of my favorites. I slide excitedly into the pew closest to her statue and look forward to celebrating daily Mass in honor of my beloved saint and Doctor of the Church.

I watch as the priest climbs the stairs to the high pulpit—a pulpit that puts some Congregationalist

churches to shame. I smile at St. Catherine as I listen to his homily praising the brief but unforgettable life of this young saint. My pleasant expression remains until I hear a word that doesn't seem to quite fit my view of her. The word is docile. I struggled to understand why this Dominican would use docile to describe a fiery saint who chopped off all her blonde hair to avoid marriage and had no qualms about writing letters to popes. I look quizzically at St. Catherine as though wanting her to refute this description. But she remains silent, and my curiosity is peaked.

I come home from Mass and

google the etymology of docile. As I begin to learn about the word, the passive connotation I have always associated with it dissolves quickly. Coming from the Latin word *docere* meaning to teach, the adjective *docile* is not used to describe someone who is passive; rather, it is used to describe someone who is teachable. The word captivates me for a moment, until I return to my daily routine. This knowledge is pushed to the back of my mind, and I forget all about my new understanding of the word.

I am not reminded of the word again until Bishop Frank Caggiano's “Genesis” reflection held at (of all places) the family center of St. Catherine of Siena's parish in Trumbull. During his opening remarks for the fifth session of the synod, Bishop Caggiano presented four spiritual qualities for our prayer and consideration. Set against the backdrop of Adam and Eve's follies in the Book of Genesis, his spiritual qualities stand in contrast to those demonstrated by the first two human beings.

It is his second spiritual qual-

ity, “Holy Docility” that captures my heart. Unlike Adam and Eve, who had no desire to be taught by God but instead ate fruit in the hopes of learning knowledge, holy docility calls upon each of us to do the opposite. According to Bishop Caggiano, the sin of Adam and Eve is the sin of pride—“Lord, I think I know a better way.” Instead of waiting patiently to learn from the Lord, Adam and Eve thought they had found a better way to consume knowledge in just one quick bite.

The desire present in Adam and Eve to eat some fruit and be filled with knowledge no doubt exists somewhere in all of us—perhaps that is why the story is so timeless. If a talking serpent appeared to me and told me I could take a bite of fruit and learn, before digestion, knowledge about my vocation, it would be hard not to salivate and desire that quick knowledge. But this is not God's way. The story comes as a spiritual reminder that knowledge is rarely acquired

in one bite. Instead, we acquire knowledge by developing a spirit of holy docility—a spirit that patiently desires to embark on the slow process of learning from God each day.

As a teacher, I appreciate docile students—students who come with a posture of humility and a patient desire to learn. This is a posture I am trying to adopt in my prayer life. I now enter my prayer times trusting that this is the classroom where God is my patient, inward teacher. As I become more docile, God begins to teach me more about my vocation.

This is how I am embracing holy docility. My prayer is that God will make me as docile as St. Catherine, whose mystical text *The Dialogue* leaves readers with the sense that St. Catherine lived each moment of her life knowing that God had something to say to her—something to teach her. I pray that I might live my life not desiring quick knowledge but slow wisdom that comes when God is the inward teacher present to our docile hearts. ■



‘That’s Where the Crazy Guy Lives’

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

I'm not an angry guy, but I did an angry thing.

It's early on a Sunday afternoon. I'm driving home. I've got two kids in the car. Pulling into the driveway, I see my wife in the backyard. She waves. I wave back.

Just then, a large, white SUV appears in the rear-view. It's close. Too close.

I shoot the driver a dirty look. The large, white SUV brakes to a stop. The guy in the passenger seat holds up his hand as if to say, “Whatsamattayou?”

I open the door and step out, eyes locked on the idling SUV. Concerned, my wife asks,

“What's going on?”

“Don't worry,” I say. “I got this.”

My Irish is up. I cross the lawn toward the reckless tailgater. The window rolls down to reveal the passenger, a twelve-year-old boy, and the female driver, not a day over seventeen.

“Did you wave at us?” the young girl asks. She's wearing that teenage look of vague disdain that suggests to the world an injustice is being perpetrated. These spoiled, reckless kids need a good lesson, I think to myself. And I'm just the guy to give it to them.

“No, you waved at me,” I say, rising to my full height.

“No, we didn't.”

“Yes, you did,” I say. “You came up fast and were like, ‘Why are you driving so slow?’ Well, let me tell you why. I was driving slowly because I live here with my four small children and I don't want them getting run over. Can you understand that?”

“I'm so sorry,” she says. “It's a misunderstanding. We're sorry.”

“Okay,” I say with all the smug satisfaction I can muster. I dismiss them with a kingly wave of the hand. The window goes up and they slink off down the street. “What was that about?” my wife wants to know.

“Oh, a couple of young kids driving crazy and trying to start something with me,” I say. “I sorted them out.”

“Did they think I was waving at them?”

“Nooooooo,” I say. “C'mon. They were teenagers. Driving crazy. Trying to start something.”

“Are you sure? Because I think that's why they stopped. That's why the kid was holding his hand up. He was like, ‘Do I know you?’”

“Really?” I say, no longer feeling quite so kingly.

“Yeah. Really.”

It made sense. My wife was waving at us, but those kids in the SUV wouldn't have known that. From their angle, it must have seemed as if she was flagging them down. I replayed the whole interaction in my mind. The kid holding up his hand wasn't saying “Whatsamattayou.” He was asking, “Why are you waving at us?”

They weren't reckless kids driving crazy and trying to start something. They were good kids, wondering why this nice lady was waving at them. Rather than driving on by, they stopped to see what was up.

And how had the nice lady's husband treated them? Like an ornery old cuss.

I was mortified. I wanted to chase them down and apologize, but they were long gone. For the rest of their lives, they'll drive past and think, “That's where that crazy guy lives.”

In my defense, our street has a longstanding problem with speeding cars. It's one-way, shoulderless, and narrow. Something about it creates the impression of being

on a closed track. Conditions are ripe for acceleration.

Many of our neighbors have pushed the town to do something. Little has come of it. Last year the highway department painted some yellow lines. This not only hasn't stopped the speeders, it has somehow added to the racetrack vibe.

I always make it a point to drive at least a few miles per hour below the speed limit. When someone comes up behind me, I like to make a long, slow, obnoxious turn into the driveway, just to make a point.

What point exactly? Good question. Maybe I need to figure that out.

On the off chance that the two young people in the large, white SUV happen to read this: I apologize. You were right to look at me that way. An injustice was being perpetrated.

Despite what you must think, I'm not an angry guy. I'm just a dad who worries everyday about something bad happening to his kids.

One day, maybe you'll understand. In the meantime, I promise to chill out. ■

Vals and Sals

Congratulations and Farewell

It's that time of year again. Graduates have switched the tassels on their mortar boards from the right to the left, and then some have sent them flying! *Fairfield County Catholic* wishes Godspeed to all graduates of public, private and diocesan schools, pre-K to PhD!

In this issue we recognize valedictorians and salutatorians in diocesan and private Catholic high schools from Fairfield County.

"Along with all our educators and staff, I offer congratulations to the class of 2015," says Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, PhD, diocesan superintendent of schools, who attended every diocesan high school graduation. "I am impressed not only by their academic achievement but by their kindness and their service to others. The way they live their

Catholic faith is an example we can all be proud to follow."

Immaculate, Danbury

The 81 graduates of Immaculate High School in Danbury held their graduation in St. Mary Church, Bethel, on June 3. Total enrollment at Immaculate is 419 students from 20 different towns in CT and eight towns in neighboring New York State. The school also has 40 International students from Brazil, China, France, Germany and Lebanon.

In addition to her academic activities, valedictorian Andrea Rivera-Luna, a parishioner at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield, is an altar server, lector, and religious education assistant. She has participated in the Danbury High School Marching Band and Jazz Band for her entire high school career and was given the title "Captain at Large." An active participant in Immaculate's drama program and an officer of Tri-M Music Honor Society, she was the driving force behind the annual Parochial School Coffeehouse, which invites middle school students from area parochial schools to perform side-by-side with high school students.



IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL, DANBURY – Andrea Rivera-Luna, valedictorian; Maeve Reilly, salutatorian



She was the editor-in-chief for the school newspaper, *The Immaculate Times*. Andrea has received several honors for her musical ability, including being accepted into Western Regionals for both classical alto sax and vocals. In addition, she has a third-degree black belt in Taekwondo and is an instructor at Hammerhead Martial Arts. Andrea will be attending the University of Notre Dame next year with a double major in music performance and pre-health.

"Andrea excels in every activity in which she takes part," says Principal Joseph Carmen. "Most notable have been the accolades that Andrea has received through her music. She was recognized as an All-State and All-New England saxophonist."

Salutatorian Maeve Reilly has been president of the National Honor Society and class vice-president. Involved in campus ministry, she is also a religious education teacher in her home parish, St. Mary's in Bethel. She has been active in the Key Club and in the school production *West Side Story*. Beyond Immaculate, she has volunteered for Rake N Bake, the Relay 4 Life, Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities Morning

Glory breakfast program, and the Midnight Run.

Maeve was a member of the varsity soccer, cross-country, indoor track, ice hockey and lacrosse teams winning multiple team and individual state championships. She was captain of the All State CT Girls Lacrosse and All State CT Girls Ice Hockey teams, and was named MVP of both girls' ice hockey and girls indoor track. She was the recipient of the CIAC Academic Scholar award, earned both the Ridgefield Girls Ice Hockey Team Scholarship and the Hartford Whalers Booster Club Scholarship, and will be continuing her hockey career at the College of the Holy Cross next year, where she will major in mathematics.

"Maeve has been the embodiment of a student-athlete while here at Immaculate, carrying her success in the classroom on to the fields of play and into extracurricular activities," says Principal Carmen.

Notre Dame, Fairfield

Notre Dame High School in Fairfield held its 55th graduation ceremony on May 29. The Class of 2015 is comprised of 95 graduates, representing 32 cities and towns, as well as China and South Korea. Notre Dame has a total enrollment of 452 students this year. The school has co-valedictorians: Rebecca Stefanatos of

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Vals and Sals



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Adonnis Andrade and Rebecca Stefanatos, co-valedictorians

Norwalk and Adonnis Andrade of Bridgeport.

“It’s hard to believe, but for the first time in 55 graduations at Notre Dame, the top two students in the senior class ended with identical GPAs,” says Chris Cipriano, Notre Dame’s principal. “This is most appropriate, though, as these two students, Becky and Adonnis, have set the standard for excellence the past four years. They have worked tremendously hard in and out of the classroom and excelled in all that they have done, from academics to service to athletics.”

Adonnis Andrade, who comes

from Bridgeport, is a Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Scholar. He is a member of both the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society, and has held high honors throughout his four years at Notre Dame. His wide-ranging interests led him to membership in the Chess Club, Campus Ministry, the Appalachia Club and the Game Design Club. On his own initiative, he took a summer course in the computer programming language Java. He’s also been a member of the JV bowling team.

Adonnis has been active in the

wider community. He is a library volunteer at the Black Rock Public Library and has been an afterschool teacher’s assistant at Cesar Batalla School.

He is going to Boston College this fall, where he plans to major in either biology or psychology with a concentration in neuroscience.

Rebecca Stefanos lives in Norwalk, where she is a member of St. Matthew Parish. President of both the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, she received the School of Engineering of Fairfield University Excellence in Mathematics and Science Award. She has been a member of the All-Patriot Division Softball and the All-Southwest Conference Softball Teams, and participated in summer travel softball for eight years, including traveling to the 2013 Babe Ruth World Series in Wilson, N.C. She was captain of varsity softball and varsity ice hockey and was recognized as a

CIAC scholar-athlete. Rebecca has received the Lancer Society of Honor. In other activities, she has been a Freshmen Orientation leader, active in campus ministry, and a member of the Key Club. Rebecca has volunteered for several years at the St. Matthew food pantry.

She will attend the University of Connecticut (UConn) this fall as a biology major on a pre-med track.

Kolbe Cathedral, Bridgeport

Kolbe Cathedral High School celebrated graduation for their 72 graduates on June 4 in St. Augustine Cathedral. Fully one hundred percent of the Class of ’15 is college bound, earning 15.2 million dollars in scholarships & grants. There are 297 students enrolled in Kolbe this year.

Valedictorian Elizabeth Marrero, a graduate of St. Andrew Academy in Bridgeport, is a member of both the National Honor Society and Spanish

Honor Society and has been a peer tutor and a teacher assistant in the summer reading program. In addition to academic contributions, Elizabeth has participated in the school’s annual “passing on kindness” community service project to crochet winter scarves for those in need. She has been involved in the BuildOn Club, volunteered at food pantries and served meals to retired veterans. Most recently, Elizabeth began volunteering at St. Vincent’s Medical Center to gain experience in her area of interest. She will attend Fairfield University’s School of Nursing on full tuition scholarship. Elizabeth is a parishioner of St. Andrew Parish in Bridgeport.

Salutatorian Lauriana Soto, a graduate of St. Raphael’s Elementary School (now part of the Cathedral Academy), is a member of the Honors Program. She is a faith-filled young woman who has been part of Cathedral

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



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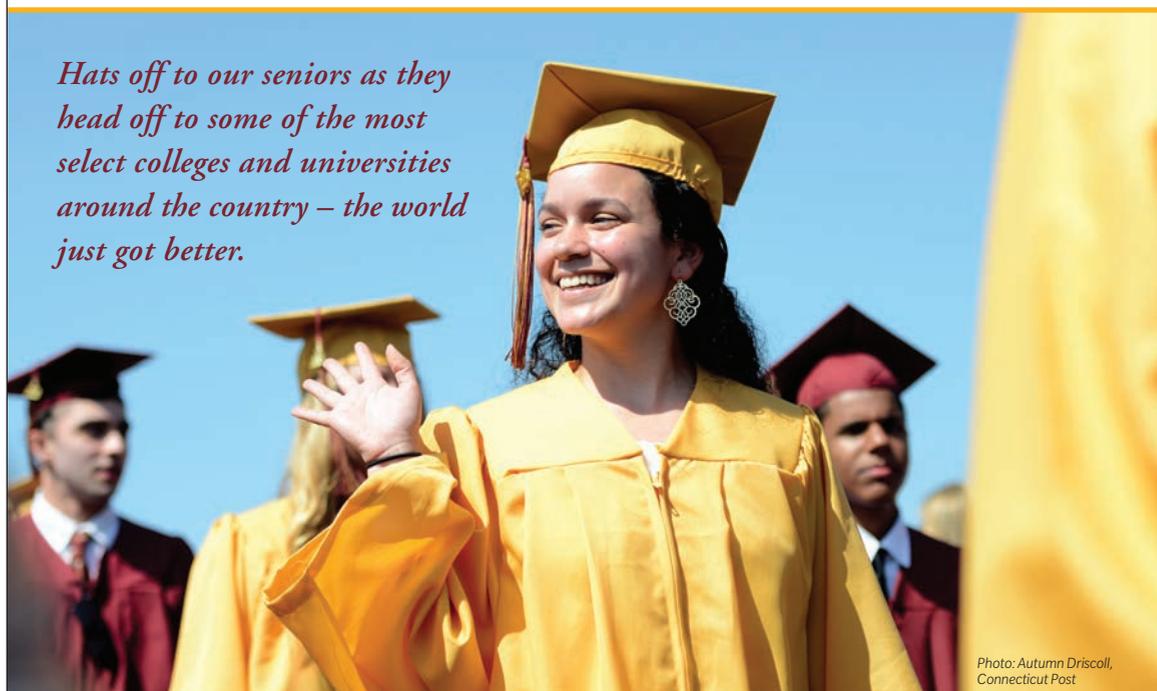


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Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS
FROM PAGE 19

of Faith Pentecostal Church choir and dance team for many years. She also volunteers as a teacher's aide for the children's church. Lauriana is a teacher's assistant in Kolbe's summer reading program. She also serves as a Cougar Team leader, where she leads a group of students in discussions ranging from Catholic values to the culture and climate of the school at monthly sessions. Lauriana is a peer tutor and a large contributor to the "Passing on Kindness" community service project, crocheting an average of twenty scarves per season.



KOLBE-CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL, BRIDGEPORT – Elizabeth Marrero, valedictorian; Lauriana Soto, salutatorian



Lauriana supports the school teams and leads the student body in demonstrating school spirit as a committed KCHS cheerleader.

Lauriana will attend UCONN-Storrs in the fall on a full tuition scholarship, where she plans to major in engineering.

"These two young women are wonderful examples of the excellence of Catholic Education. Both are products of Catholic Schools in Bridgeport, excelling in the classroom, the community and their Church. We are proud of their commitment to the values and standards of excellence that our schools nurture and promote," says Kolbe's president, Jo-Anne Jakab.

Trinity Catholic, Stamford

Trinity Catholic High School celebrated graduation for the 111 members of the class of 2015 on May 30. The school had an enrollment of 443 students this year from Stamford, the surrounding towns, and China.

Ryan Francis Wolfe is the Valedictorian of the Trinity Catholic High School Class of 2015. Ryan, a member of St. Cecilia Parish in Stamford, previously attended St. Cecilia Elementary School and Trinity Catholic Middle School. Ryan was president of the National Honor Society, co-editor of *The Crusader*, the TCHS school news-

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Vals and Sals

paper, and was active in campus ministry and the political science club. Ryan has been a member of the Trinity Catholic golf team and earned the CAS/CIAC Scholar Athlete Award. Among other honors, he received the Excellence in Mathematics and Sciences Award from Fairfield University and Sikorsky Aircraft, the Young American Award from the Western CT Military Officers Association, and the Outstanding Academic Excellence Award from the President's Education Awards Program. Ryan volunteers at Smith House Health Care Center, a nursing home and rehabilitation center in Stamford.

Kachuba, says, "Ryan has been a great example among his peers in striving to live his Catholic faith every day."

Ryan will be attending Fordham University in New York this fall, where he will pursue a degree in biology. He hopes for a career in the sciences, most likely in medical research.

The 2015 Salutatorian is Marybelle Raymond, a parishioner at Sacred Heart Parish in Stamford, where she volunteers frequently at parish events. She previously attended St. Cecilia Elementary School and Trinity Catholic Middle School. Marybelle is the last member of her family to graduate



TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, STAMFORD – Ryan Francis Wolfe, valedictorian; Marybelle Raymond, salutatorian

from TCHS.

Marybelle has been active in the Multicultural Club, where she held a leadership position, and tutored as part of the National Honor Society. She was a member of the Art Club, Book Club, Debate Team, the Political Science Club, Drama Team, Crusaders for Life and Poets and Writers. She has volunteered at the Ferguson Main Library every year since she was in the sixth-grade.

Trinity's AP English teacher, Tom Kriz says, "Marybelle loves a challenge and never looks for the easy way out. She is very involved in her school and her

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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University of Arizona
Assumption College
Auburn University
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Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
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Members of the Fairfield Prep Class of 2015 were accepted at these Colleges and Universities

Gettysburg College
Harvard University
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
College of the Holy Cross
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Indiana University
Iona College
Ithaca College
James Madison University
John Carroll University
Johns Hopkins University
University of Kansas
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
LeMoyné College
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Lynchburg College
Lynn University
University of Maine

University of Missouri
Monmouth University
Montana State University Bozeman
University of Montana
Mount Saint Mary College
College of Mount St. Vincent
University of New England
New England College
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
The New School for the Liberal Arts
New School for Architecture and Design
New York University
New School of Architecture and Design
Niagara University
Nichols College
University of North Carolina Wilmington
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
University of Notre Dame
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pace University, New York City



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Preparatory School

A Jesuit, Catholic School of Excellence

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Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 21

community, taking the leadership role, not willing to leave the work to others”

This fall Marybelle will be attending Boston University, where she plans to major in mechanical engineering.

St. Joseph, Trumbull

St. Joseph High School in Trumbull graduated 210 students on May 30. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was in attendance. The largest diocesan high school, St. Joseph's had 810 students enrolled this year.

Emily Robertson, a member of St. Mark Parish in Stratford, is this year's Valedictorian. Among her numerous activities, she is a religious education teacher at St. Mark's. Emily is a member of both the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society, while still finding time to be a member of the State Championship Girls' Basketball Team. Winner of the Robert Trotochaud Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the CT State Council Knights of Columbus, she has enrolled in the honors program at the University of Connecticut and will study biology.

“Emily embodies all the best of St. Joseph High School. We are extremely proud to recognize her as our valedictorian,” said Principal Ken Mayo.

Tyler Falk, a member of St. Ann Parish in Milford, has been named salutatorian. In addition to his academic achievement,

Tyler is a licensed pilot, coaches a youth basketball team, and is vice-president of the Frisbee Club.

“Besides being academically accomplished, Tyler is a fine young man and will be successful in any endeavor. We are proud to have him represent us as salutatorian,” says Principal Mayo.

Winner of a President's Scholarship, Tyler will continue his education at the University of Maryland, where he will major in electrical engineering.

In addition to the five diocesan high schools, many students from the Diocese of Bridgeport attend private Catholic schools, both in Fairfield County and in nearby towns. We honor these scholars, too, for their academic and faith-filled achievements.

Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich

Eighty-two young women graduated from the Convent of the Sacred Heart at its 166th commencement on June 5. CSH has a co-ed early childhood program and an all-girls K-12 school. Total enrollment is 752, with 314 girls in its upper school, grades 9-12. This year the school had co-valedictorians, Sarah Banker and Grace Isford. Both are from Greenwich. Salutatorian Sheila Moran comes from Rye, N.Y.

Co-valedictorian Sarah Banker is an AP Scholar with Distinction and a National Merit Commended Student. She was



SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, TRUMBULL – Emily Robertson, valedictorian; Tyler Falk, salutatorian



recognized by the Society of Women Engineers and received an Excellence in Engineering certificate in June 2014. She completed an internship with Redniss & Mead, a Stamford-based civil and environmental engineering firm, studying the effectiveness of rain gardens in removing pollutants from run-off water.

Sarah was a mentor to middle school girls as part of the Big and Little Sisters program and served as a peer leader. She was editor-in-chief of both *Perspectives*, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Award-winning literary magazine, and *Green Years*, the yearbook. A member of Christ Church in Greenwich, Sarah has logged more than 200 hours of community service volunteering with CSH Summer Academy and Summer Enrichment, as well as with

Greenwich Hospital and Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

Sarah sang as a mezzo with both Madrigals and A Ca Bella, and is an avid dancer, performing ballet/pointe, jazz and modern with the Allegra Dance Company.

She will attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall, where she intends to major in engineering.

Co-valedictorian Grace Isford, a member of St. Paul Episcopal Church in Greenwich, was



generate happiness percentages at colleges, then wrote an article on her findings that was published in *The Washington Post*.

She was captain of the debate team, and was one of only 15 students nationwide chosen to participate in the 2014 University School “Sunvitational” Debate Tournament in Plantation, Florida.

Grace has been part of the YWCA Dolphins competitive swim team and has been CSH swim team captain. She has served an internship with Congressman Jim Himes.

Grace will attend Stanford University next year, where she is considering their interdisciplinary major in Science, Technology and Society.

Salutatorian Sheila Moran, a member of the Church of the Resurrection in Rye, N.Y., is an AP Scholar with Distinction and a National Merit Commended Student. She spent a summer as a research intern at the Weill Cornell Medical School. The editor-in-chief of the yearbook, *Green Years*, she was the recipient of the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award and the Mimi Rafferty Excellence in Writing



CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, GREENWICH – Sarah Banker and Grace Isford, co-valedictorians



Catholic High School Open House and Entrance Exam Schedule 2015

Planning for high school starts with marking your calendar today...



| Date | Location | Time |
|------------|--|---------------|
| October 15 |  Trinity Catholic High School www.trinitycatholic.org | 6pm-8:00pm |
| October 18 |  Immaculate High School www.immaculatehs.org | 11am-1:30pm |
| October 18 |  St Joseph High School www.sjcadets.org | 1pm-4:00pm |
| October 22 |  Kolbe Cathedral High School www.kolbecaths.org | 6:30pm-8:30pm |
| October 25 |  Notre Dame High School www.notredame.org | 2pm-4:30pm |

All locations will be administering the High School Placement Test on October 31 and November 14 at 8am-11:30am. Visit our high school websites to learn more about upcoming events and the admissions process including Financial Assistance and new for the 2016-2017 school year, the Bishop's Scholarship Fund is available for qualified high school students.

named a National Merit Scholar, winning a scholarship. She was nominated as a World Affairs Forum Future Global Leader. She was editor-in-chief of the school's online newspaper, *King Street Chronicle*, which won a gold medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. She served as broadcast journalism liaison, overseeing the video contributions, and was instrumental in bringing the video content production in-house. She developed a “college twitter happiness index” that harnessed Twitter to

Award.

Sheila will attend Brown University this fall.

Fairfield Prep

The 73rd Commencement Exercises of Fairfield College Preparatory School (Prep) were held on May 31, in Alumni Hall at Fairfield University. 215 young men graduated, dressed in white dinner jackets, which is a longtime tradition in Jesuit high schools throughout the country. Prep had about 890 students enrolled this year

Vals and Sals

While Prep does not name a valedictorian or salutatorian, *Fairfield County Catholic* takes this opportunity to recognize two top scholars, Simon Whiteman and Thomas Wiig.

Simon Whiteman is a standout athlete in soccer, indoor track and baseball, all at varsity level. A National Merit Commended Scholar, he was a member of the National Honor Society and served as a peer tutor. He has served the wider community by his support of the Top Soccer program through which he assists mentally handicapped children to learn and play the sport of soccer. Simon has also committed his energies and care to support the Kennedy Center bowling pro-

managing the responsibilities of learning at the highest level," says Canuel.

A member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Fairfield, where he is active as an altar server, Thomas was a member of Prep's Cardinal Key Society. He participated in Prep's crew and hockey programs and shared his athletic skill as a volunteer with Storm Hockey, an organization which teaches mentally challenged children to play hockey. He also volunteered at the Jewish Home for the Elderly. Thomas traveled with Prep students and faculty on a service mission to Jamaica to volunteer in a special needs orphanage.

He will attend the University



FAIRFIELD PREP HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Top scholars Simon Whiteman and Thomas Wiig

gram each week during his senior year. He is active as a lector in St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, his home parish, and in the liturgical community at Prep.

"Simon's transcript shows the strongest course of study offered at Prep, as well as excellent natural skills coupled with an unparalleled work ethic," says his honors chemistry teacher, Tony Canuel.

Simon will go to Yale University, where he will continue both his intellectual growth and his baseball career.

Thomas Wiig has taken all available core courses at the AP or Honors level. A summa cum laude scholar, he has achieved a place in the National Honor Society and has shared his academic gifts through the peer tutor program. Thomas is a National Merit Commended Student. He has been active in Prep's Business Club, Stock Market Club and Engineering Club.

"Thomas is the consummate professional in his approach to

of Pennsylvania in the fall.

Lauralton Hall, Milford

Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Lauralton Hall in Milford, held its 110th commencement ceremony on May 30. This year, the school graduated 113 young women from towns across Connecticut, with students dressed in traditional white caps and gowns. Lauralton has a total enrollment of 475.

Valedictorian Emily Discepolo of Shelton received President Obama's Recognition of Educational Excellence Award; the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford Medal; and the William J. Moffett American Legion Post 34 Award. She was an officer in the National Honor Society, a peer tutor and peer mentor, a member of the French Club and the French Honor Society, Speed Puzzling, Historical Club, Environmental Club and Instrument Ensemble. Emily is



LAURALTON HALL, MILFORD – Emily Discepolo, valedictorian; Olivia Maffei, salutatorian; Jaelyn Brewster, McAuley Award

also a Girl Scout, competitive dancer, and a member of the high school league Nutmeg Curling Club. Emily has volunteered both at school and at Griffin Hospital, St. Joseph's PNCC, Lauralton Hall Science Olympics, and she regularly volunteered at Lauralton events. In addition, Emily has participated in the UCONN Explore Engineering

Program.

"The mass and acceleration are our core values and the breadth and depth of our academic knowledge," Emily said during her commencement address.

"The more we learned as we progressed in Lauralton's classrooms and on the sports fields, the more academic acceleration and moral momentum we gained. We, the

Class of 2015, are now a force, a force of good to change the world."

Emily, a member of St. Joseph National Catholic Church in Stratford, will be attending UCONN in the fall and received the UCONN Presidential Scholars Award.

Salutatorian Olivia Maffei, a
➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

CONGRATULATIONS

Lauralton Hall Class of 2015



\$21.7 MILLION

28,700 HOURS

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Christina Marie Augustzin
Dominika Jessica Baginska
Sophie Marie Benedetti
Mariel Kathryn Berger
Emily Taylor Besaw
Lianne Xia Bisch
Caitlyn Marie Black
Sarah Gray Boynton
Theresa Anne Bravo
Jaelyn Mary Brewster
Marissa Sinead Browne
Tara Elizabeth Brunner
Annelise Mary Butler
Rachel Louise Campbell
Vivian Mei Cheng
Taylor Choe
Tanisha Tiana Clark
Haley Noelle Congdon
Emily Elizabeth Crimmins
Lori Elizabeth Currihan
Sofia Thieu D'Amico
Alexa Victoria Dawid
Olivia Katelyn DeFeo
Cailin Elizabeth Dendas
Allison Celine Devine
Faye Eleanor DiBella
Emily Constance Discepolo *

Meghan Ann Dougherty
Kara Anne Duggan
Khema Ebron
Gillian Katherine Ellis
Marissa Lynn Favano
Claire Elizabeth Feeney
Sarah Alexandra Fitch
Robyn Lindsey Gaines
Margaret Mary Gallagher
Nicole Wilma Grabe
Alexandria Mary Grabler
Farrell Ann Granath
Morgan Elizabeth Hansen
Shannon Marie Hargitt
Sarah Dyann Haselkamp
Cheyenne Hedley
Christine Mary Heisler
Megan Anne Hurley
Amy Elizabeth Izzo
Bernice Mallaika Jean Louis
Amelia Mary Justo
Olivia Einstein Kaufman
Lara Antonina Kazmierczak
Caroline Mariah Ketcher
Kimberly Theresa Knipstein
Sarah Frances Kubelka Peck
Madison Elisabeth Kustom
Margaret Frances Landry
Suzanne Alexandra Lema
Makayla Nancy Leroux

Kelly Ann Linsenmeyer
Kelsey Caitlyn Llewellyn
Olivia Maria Maffei **
Laura Elizabeth Maiorano
Mishell Alexandra
Manrique Moreno
Briana Kathleen
Marcinauskis
Elizabeth Anne Martinez
Keely Grace McCarthy
Diamante Scarlett McKay
Lindsey Marie Meyers
Jordyn Louise Miller
Alexandra Rose Moleski
Mia Eydie Moyer
Uma Grace Moyle
Sophie Grace Murray
Yvonne Xuan-Thao Nguyen
Corey Hall Patchkofsky
Julia Marie Patnaude
Gloria Celeste Perez
Alice Lee Perrigo
Amanda Christine Piechota
Angela Marie Provenzano
Anne Elizabeth Prusak
Lorin Elizabeth Pucel
Christiana Grace Ready
Tierney Marie Riccitelli
Caroline Grace Rogers
Minyue Ruan

Maggie Ann Salandra
Emma Rose SanFilippo
Caitlyn Elizabeth Scagliarini
Remi Alyn Smith
Melissa Serrano
Laura Elisa Shafer
Jillian Victoria Shugrue
Caitlyn Julia Siegman
Isabelle Adair Smith
Remi Alyn Smith
Taylor Ann Sojka
Lindsey Marie Spitz
Victoria Jane Stapleton
Katrina Pavlinsky Stepan
Vivienne Ruth Strmecki
Daniella Joan Swaby
Claire Michelle Sweeney
Melissa Rose Tighe
Gabriella Christine Torres
Devon Kate Valera
Jessica Vanam
Danielle Elizabeth Veith
Elise Mary Vincent
Shannon Alexis Wade
Nadine Marie Wagner
Megan Caroline Watts

*VALEDICTORIAN
**SALUTATORIAN

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Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 23

parishioner at St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk, was a member of the National Honor Society, the National Latin Honor Society and the Latin Club. Olivia was a recipient of the President Obama's Recognition of Educational Excellence Award, the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford Medal and the Academic Award of Excellence. In addition, she has attended the Brown University Summer Class on Economics.

She was a member of the Key Club, Environmental Club,

Youth and Government Team, Student Council, and choir and was the Junior Class treasurer and Freshman Host. When not in school, Olivia has been active playing violin and performing with the St. Matthew Youth Choir. She also co-directs the St. Mathew Bible Camp.

Olivia plans to attend Lafayette College in Pennsylvania in the fall.

Jaclyn Brewster, a parishioner at St. Ann Parish in Bridgeport, is the recipient of Lauralton's highest honor, the McAuley Award. Named after Catherine McAuley,

the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, the McAuley Award is given annually to a student for her dedication and commitment to Lauralton Hall's mission.

While at Lauralton, Jaclyn participated in the National Honor Society and the French National Honor Society and was co-president of the Engineering Club. She was also a peer tutor and peer mentor, and a member of French Club and the choir. She was captain of the field hockey and captain of the softball teams, was a CIAC Scholar Athlete and won the CT High School Scholar Athlete Award and the News 12 Scholar Athlete of the Week. She

helped with Lauralton's Science Olympics, volunteered at the Lauralton Hall Summer Program and was a freshman host. She also volunteered at Smilow Burroughs Boys and Girls Club, Wakeman Boys and Girls Club and was an altar server at St. Ann's.

Jaclyn's awards included the Sikorsky Aircraft/Fairfield University Math/Science Award, Citizenship Award, Frances Warde Service Award, Black Rock Community Civic Award and the President Obama's Recognition of Educational Excellence Award.

"Many of our younger students have looked to her as the

ideal of what they can achieve. She represents the very best of our student body," President Antoinette Ladarola said.

Jaclyn will attend College of the Holy Cross in the fall to major in math and physics.

Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden

The 121 young women of the Sacred Heart Academy graduated on May 13. Sacred Heart alumna Mary Ellen Potash Gustainis '83, sales and marketing director, North America/South America/Europe for E.I. DuPont de Nemours, Inc. was this year's commencement speaker. Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden, an independent Catholic college preparatory school for young women in grades 9-12, was founded in 1946 by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. There are currently 500 students enrolled from New Haven, Fairfield, Middlesex, Hartford and New London counties.

Lauren Davis, the 2015 Sacred Heart valedictorian, is a member of St. Coleman Parish in Middlefield. She will attend Bentley University and major in mathematics and business in the honors program. Lauren has earned a full four-year academic scholarship to Bentley.

Salutatorian Isabella Madeleine Siegel of Hamden will be attending Haverford College, where she was accepted early decision, and plans to major in biology and minor in fine arts.

Every year, one senior is presented with the Mother Clelia Merloni Award. Named for the foundress of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, it is given to the senior who exemplifies the ideals of love, service and reparation—the three hallmarks of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Abbey Lawler, an altar server at St. Bridget Parish in Cheshire, was presented the award at the Honors Convocation. Abbey will attend Fairfield University as a nursing major, and hopes to become a geriatric nurse.

"The Class of 2015 will long be remembered for their love for Sacred Heart, school spirit and academic excellence," says SHA president, Sister Sheila O'Neill, ASCJ, PhD, '71. "They were wonderful role models for the rest of the student body. They will be greatly missed."



Graduates of Kolbe Cathedral High School, Bridgeport, CT

Graduates of Notre Dame High School, West Haven, CT

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St. Catherine Academy

Celebrating St. Catherine's first student

By PAT HENNESSY

When James Barry stepped off the bus on the opening day of school at St. Catherine Academy on August 30, 1999, he was the first student to be welcomed into the new school. With his graduation on June 8, his years at St. Catherine's came to fulfillment.

St. Catherine's is the only Catholic school in Connecticut for children with special needs. "Our program begins with strong emphasis on academics, and through the years that percentage reduces to make time for vocational skill development," says Helen Burland, St. Catherine's executive director.

James, who has Down syndrome, reflected recently on his years at St. Catherine's. "Math is my best subject," he says of the academic program. "I'm a math whiz. That and history. I

love history."

Classes at St. Catherine's have led to a life-long love of learning. James became a devoted follower of the History Channel, building an even wider knowledge of the recent and ancient past. "James excelled in this subject area," says Burland.

While a strong academic program is central, St. Catherine's focuses on preparing students with special needs for life, ranging far beyond academic subjects. The curriculum meets each individual at their own level and works on developing the life lessons needed for independence and, when students need it, development of social and interpersonal skills.

That last item is one James definitely never lacked. "He's a happy-go-lucky fellow, always pulling jokes," says Sister Cheryl Driscoll, RSM, his language arts



A SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION—James Barry, who graduated from St. Catherine Academy in June, receives congratulations from Sister Mary Grace Walsh, superintendent of schools.

teacher. "And he's very, very kind to other students."

Brian Farrell, director of education at St. Catherine's, agrees. "He goes out of his way to welcome new students," he says. "His ability to bring everybody

together makes him a leader for the school."

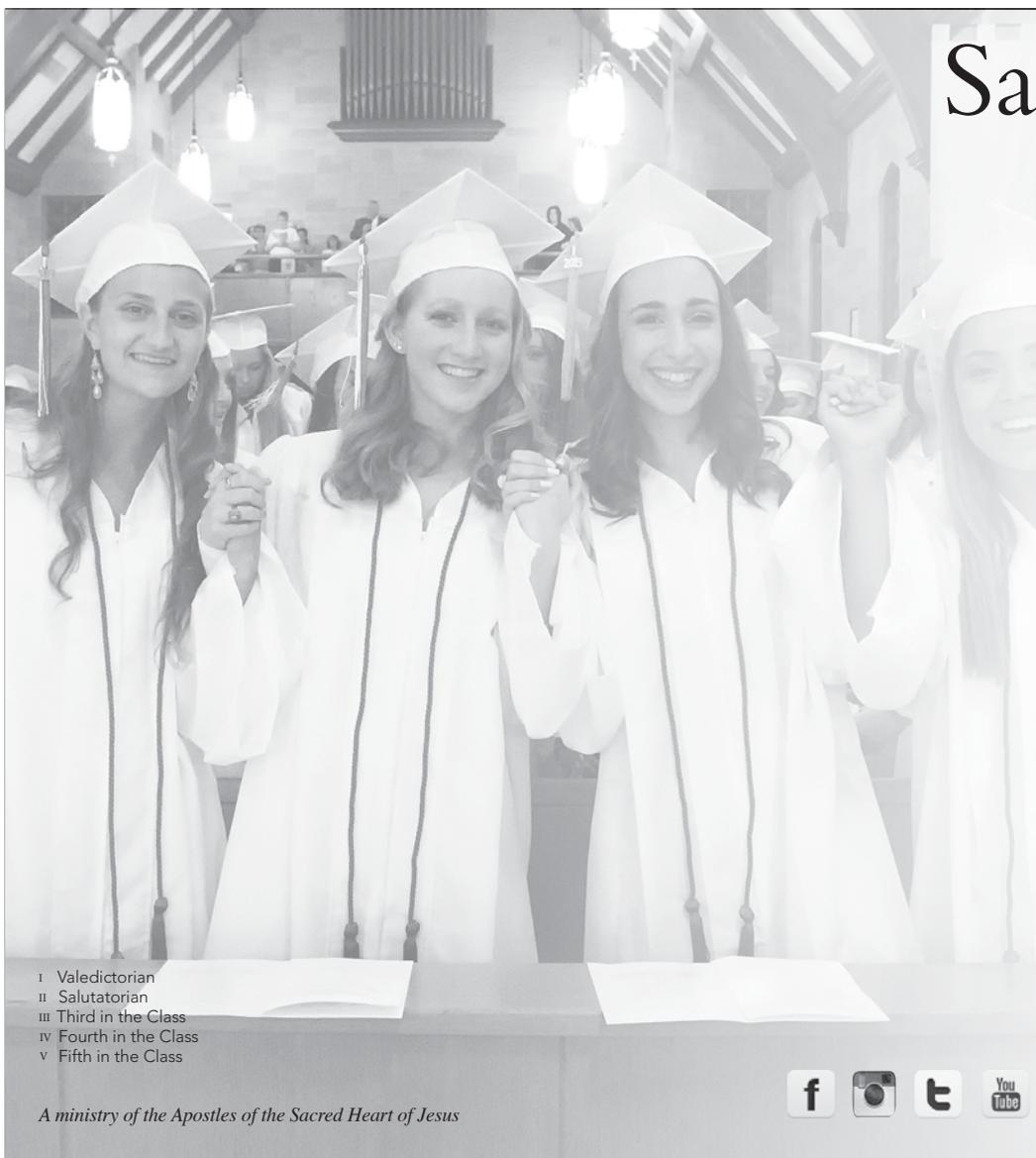
As James describes his path from kindergartner to young adulthood at St. Catherine's, the school's plan of overall development becomes clear. Over the

years the vocational skill development has taken an increasingly important role. Functional academics emphasize reading and math—lessons on timesheets and money management. "Academics are always part of the curriculum, but emphasis shifts to the vocational component," explains James' homeroom teacher, Joanne LaPorta.

The vocational program develops job skills and also job habits—workplace behavior, dress, attitude. "James likes to work," says LaPorta. "He's conscientious and focused on his job. In every work situation, he learns exactly what he's expected to do."

In the last few years, James has worked at Taco Loco Restaurant in Black Rock, potted plants at Gilbertie's Herb Farm in Westport, served lunch to the kids at Caroline House in

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Sacred Heart Academy

CONGRATULATES *the CLASS of 2015*

25 MILLION AWARDED IN MERIT, SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

15% GRADUATED AS 4.0 SCHOLARS

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| Claire Anderson | Warner Dixon | Alison Kenney | Tiffany Purvis-Torello |
| Molly Andrus | Katherine Donohue | Bijal Khunti | Christine Radwill |
| Nicole Antinozzi | Paige Dostie | Chelsea King | Callia Ricozzi |
| Meaghan Barrett | Brianna Duff | Jaime Kleindienst | Kiana Rocco |
| Danielle Beam | Sara Fagan | Hannah Krasnow | Alexandra Ryan |
| Shannon Bissell | Haley Falls | Jillian Laggis | Emma Rybacki |
| Nicole Bosta | Jenna Fortunati | Kathleen Laucks | Andrea Sanchez |
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| Alisha Brabham | Victoria Galushko | Megan Leum | Rachael Sawicki |
| Carson Bracale | Ashley Garcia | Abbey LiPuma | Natalie Sheehan |
| Lauren Browning | Anneka Ginz | Jane Lockery III | Isabella Siegel II |
| Megan Call | Jessica Giulietti | Brooke Lotto | Mercedes Silva |
| Nicole Campbell | Meghan Glynn | Princess Madu | Deanna Sintay |
| Anibelle Carbo | Moira Godman | Shaylene Maldonado | Abigail Stevens |
| Colby Carlo | Sara Golbazi | Casey Marak | Taylor Stickles |
| Kaitlyn Carlson | Lauren González | Magdalena Marcus | Alexandra Stupakevich |
| Analiase Casey | Casey Goulden | Rebecca Marks | Marie-Elizabeth Telfort |
| Amanda Collision | Maria Granquist | Lydia Metcalf | Mary Thomas |
| Hannah Corcoran | Gina Guarnieri | Elena Milone | Cassidy Tobin IV |
| Carissa Corraro | Erinn Halasinski V | Margaret Mirabella | Emily Tucker |
| Phoebe Costello | Elizabeth Hammerberg | Nicole Modell | Talia Vendetto |
| Caitlin Cotter | Briana Hankey | Amanda Montano | Jordan Veneri |
| Lennox Cuffy | Kayla Hansen | Kacey Neubauer | Mary Verneris |
| Carissa D'Agostino | Madison Harris | Jessica Nobitz | Natalie Vitello |
| Lauren Davis I | Ashley Heidtmann | Katherine O'Rourke | Mackenzie Walsh |
| Kaleigh DeBowes | Savannah Higgins | Charissa-Joy Okang | Sofia Walsh |
| Hayley DeFilippo | Chloe Hovhannissian | Malkia Okech | August Warhall |
| Mary Catherine DeLuca | Gabrielle Hummel | Hayley Orifice | Rachel Wells |
| | | | Alexandra Zoarski |

I Valedictorian
 II Salutatorian
 III Third in the Class
 IV Fourth in the Class
 V Fifth in the Class

A ministry of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Memorial Mass

Cardinal Egan: Extraordinary leader and personal mentor

By FATHER COLIN MCKENNA

A memorial Mass for Edward Cardinal Egan, the third Bishop of Bridgeport, was held at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, May 16. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the principal celebrant, and Father Michael Jones, pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton, was the homilist.

Fifteen priests concelebrated the Mass, assisted by four deacons and four seminarians from Fisher Seminary who served as altar-servers. About 100 congregants attended the celebration, which was scheduled in part for those who were unable to attend the cardinal's funeral Mass in March.

Bishop Caggiano repeatedly

referred to Cardinal Egan as a personal "friend and mentor," and as a friend of the Diocese of Bridgeport during and after his tenure as Bishop of Bridgeport. When Bishop Caggiano was named the fifth Bishop of Bridgeport, Cardinal Egan invited him to his Manhattan residence and said, "The Diocese of Bridgeport is a great treasure; take good care of it."

Father Jones began his homily by saying that "Cardinal Egan did not like eulogies," and then proceeded with lively humor to eulogize the bishop who ordained him and who became a lifelong friend. The two remained so close that Father Jones had spoken to Cardinal Egan on the phone in

the morning, within an hour of his cardiac arrest. Despite the stresses of the position and the responsibility of commanding the "most important pulpit" in the United States, "Cardinal Egan was very happy as Archbishop of New York," Father Jones said. "But the Diocese of Bridgeport was a vineyard that he never forgot."

In his last phone call with Cardinal Egan, the cardinal was lining up donors to help with the relocation and construction of the new St. John Fisher Seminary in Trumbull. Many consider the founding of Fisher Seminary to be Cardinal Egan's signature achievement, and he was concerned about its legacy



EDWARD CARDINAL EGAN PREACHES during the Fisher Seminary 25th Anniversary Mass, June 20, 2014, at Assumption Church in Westport. In the background, a portrait of Bishop St. John Fisher, who was beheaded by King Henry VIII, and Fisher seminarians who served as altar servers for the anniversary Mass. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

until his last breath.

"Cardinal Egan loved priests," Father Jones said, and in his nearly thirty years as a bishop, he had the privilege to ordain many men to the priesthood. His love of priests is one reason he founded Fisher Seminary.

Regarding Cardinal Egan's abilities as a fundraiser and fiscal manager, Father Jones said, "As a steward, there was no one better with the resources of others, and no one more generous with his own."

Father Jones was present at Cardinal Egan's episcopal ordination in Rome in 1985. The Cardinal's thirtieth anniversary as a bishop would have been May 22. "Cardinal Egan believed that life is a journey," he said. Now

that Cardinal Egan's journey here on earth has come to an end, the people of God will continue to remember him in prayer, with thanksgiving for his extraordinary leadership in the Church.

Bishop Caggiano emphasized that in Cardinal Egan we now have a great friend and intercessor in heaven, who can continue to help the good works of the Diocese of Bridgeport with his prayers from on high.

(Gifts in thanksgiving for Cardinal Egan's service to the Diocese of Bridgeport and the Church can be given in his memory to support the ongoing works of St. John Fisher Seminary: 894 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, CT, 06905. For more info, visit www.bridgeportvocations.org.) ■



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| American International College | Loyola University at New Orleans | The Catholic University of America |
| American University | Lynn University | The College of Saint Rose |
| Appalachian State University | Manhattan College | The Ohio State University |
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| Assumption College | Marist College | The University of Arizona |
| Auburn University | Marquette University | The University of Georgia |
| Austin Community College | Marymount Manhattan College | The University of North Carolina at Wilmington |
| Babson College | Miami University, Oxford | The University of Scranton |
| Becker College | Michigan State University | The University of Tampa |
| Belmont University | Mount Saint Mary's University | The University of Texas at Austin |
| Bentley University | New Jersey Institute of Technology | Tony & Guy Hairdressing Academy |
| Binghamton University | New York Institute of Technology-Old Westbury | Towson University |
| Boise State University | New York University | University of Bridgeport |
| Boston University | Newbury College | University of British Columbia |
| Bryant University | Nichols College | University of Chile |
| Buffalo State College of SUNY | Northeastern University | University of Connecticut |
| California State University at East Bay | Norwalk Community College | University of Connecticut at Hartford |
| Castleton State College | Oklahoma State University | University of Connecticut at Stamford |
| Central Connecticut State University | Pace University, New York City | University of Dayton |
| Clemson University | Pace University, Westchester Campus | University of Delaware |
| Coastal Carolina University | Pennsylvania State University, University Park | University of Hartford |
| College of the Holy Cross | Plymouth State University | University of Kentucky |
| Creighton University | Porter and Chester Institute | University of Maine |
| Curry College | Providence College | University of Maine at Farmington |
| Dean College | Purdue University | University of Maryland at Baltimore County |
| DePaul University | Quinnipiac University | University of Massachusetts at Amherst |
| Duquesne University | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute | University of Miami |
| East Carolina University | Richmond the American International College in London | University of Mississippi |
| Eastern Connecticut State University | Rivier University | University of New Hampshire |
| Elon University | Rochester Institute of Technology | University of New Haven |
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| Ferris State University | Saint Joseph's University | University of Rhode Island |
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| Franklin Pierce University | Salve Regina University | University of South Carolina |
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Fairfield U Commencement

Fairfield University welcomed two distinguished members of the Society of Jesus to its 65th commencement ceremonies May 17. Father James Martin, S.J., a *New York Times* bestselling author, editor, national and international media contributor, spoke at the undergraduate ceremony; Father Greg Boyle, S.J., founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, Calif., delivered the commencement address.

The 2015 commencement ceremonies took place on Bellarmine Lawn. The university awarded 916 bachelor's degrees, 374 masters, 18 certificates of advanced study, and 21 doctorates. Honorary degrees were bestowed upon both speakers and three other honorees: John C. Meditz '70, Sharon Robinson and Clea Newman Soderlund. ■



College News

St. Vincent's graduates largest class in 110 years

BRIDGEPORT—On May 29, a record-breaking class of 198 students graduated from St. Vincent's College. Bachelor of Science degrees in nursing and radiologic sciences and Associate degrees in nursing and radiography were presented to the graduates.

During the ceremony, all listened intently to the message of commencement speaker Juanita James, President and CEO of Fairfield County's Community Foundation. In addition to urging the new graduates to remain life-long learners, James shared her personal experience with health-care providers when her son was born prematurely. "Individuals who become healthcare professionals go above and beyond



ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE graduating class of 2015.

every day," James said. "You will create miracles with the importance of the work you will be doing."

After an invocation by Bishop

Frank J. Caggiano, President Martha K. Shouldis, Ed.D, conferred an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree on Martin Sbriglio, who has distinguished himself through contributions to his profession and to the community

Graduation awards included: Frank Scifo, MD, Award for Excellence; Carolina Contreras of Fairfield, Rafael Squitieri, MD, Award for Excellence; Stephanie Simmons of Oxford, Anne T. Avallone, EdD, Leadership Award; Madelyn Marte of Bridgeport, President's Award; Geraldine Ciampi of Naugatuck,

Prince Manu of New Britain, Chynna Quinn of Derby, Leah Tucker of Trumbull, All USA-Academic Team: Stephanie Simmons of Oxford and Amber Thomson of Ansonia.

After congratulating the award recipients, Dr. Shouldis stated, "Your hands are sacred instruments, through which you will provide care. This degree will change your life and the lives of those you touch with your care forever."

Honorary degrees are traditionally awarded by colleges to those who have distinguished themselves through their contri-

butions to their professions, to their communities, and/or to others. Martin Sbriglio, RN, NHA, has distinguished himself in all three categories and was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters.

Sbriglio is a 1977 graduate of St. Vincent's School of Nursing, where he completed requirements for licensure as a registered nurse. He was selected to serve on the St. Vincent's College Board of Trustees for two separate nine-year terms, initially serving from 1997 through 2005 as a member of the Board Capital Campaign Steering Committee and Finance Committee. Sbriglio returned to the Board in 2006 and will complete his second nine-year term on June 30, 2015. He currently serves as the Chair of the Board.

In 1982, the Sbriglio family created a full scholarship awarded each year to one qualifying senior nursing student. Over the past 30 years the family has given more than \$200,000 in scholarships to nursing students.

(For info on enrolling in St. Vincent's College at the Bridgeport and Stamford locations, call 203.576.5235 or visit www.stvincentscollege.edu.)

SHU's 49th

FAIRFIELD—More than 1,900 Sacred Heart University students set off into the world after receiving diplomas and words of advice from business and political leaders, scholars and classmates.

University President, John J. Petillo, reminded the graduates that he was inaugurated as president at the same ceremony four years ago where they were installed as freshmen. "At your installation, I strongly suggested that you use these four years to discover and be curious—about the liberal arts, your prospective profession and, most importantly, yourself. Today's celebratory event should be a point of reflection for each of you," he said. "Today's passage is a gateway for you to continue to be curious. Be hungry for learning; build on what you have learned here. The books that you have used here should be kept as a reminder not only of what you have learned, but of what is still out there to be understood."

George Mitchell, former U.S. senator from Maine and former senate majority leader, received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree before addressing the class of 2015. Mitchell provided the students with some background on U.S. history before noting that with the collapse of Communism and the Berlin Wall, "American ideals are now valued worldwide. The United States was a great nation long before it was a military or economic power," he said. "No person or county is perfect, but we are lucky to live in this society with all its imperfections."

He concluded by advising the students to give back throughout their lives. "You have an important role to play in preserving and improving our way of life... There are many ways to gain respect, but none is more important than public service. The more successful you are, the more money and status you achieve, the more evident it will become that there is more to life."

During the graduate commencement, the keynote speaker was Mark Thompson, president and chief executive officer of *The New York Times* Company.



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Nuestra Voz

El Sínodo Diocesano llegó a su fin

Por KARINA BOHORQUEZ

El pasado 30 de mayo en el McClinch Family Center de la Parroquia de Santa Catalina de Siena en Trumbull, se llevó a cabo la sexta y última sesión general del IV Sínodo de la Diócesis de Bridgeport.

Luego de un rápido recuento de lo que transcurrido desde el inicio del sínodo, el Obispo Frank J. Caggiano se dirigió a los delegados con palabras fuertes y llenas de entusiasmo. En su charla de 30 minutos, el obispo inició agradeciendo el compromiso, comentarios y duro trabajo de los delegados. Expuso que concluida esta etapa de discernimiento, se iniciar la nueva etapa de implementación. "Hay muchos caminos para acrecentar la conversión y ahondar la relación personal de cada discípulo de Cristo en la comunidad de

la Iglesia Católica. Si se logra avanzar en esto, todo lo demás va a caer por su propio peso y la diócesis va a lograr experimentar una profunda y perdurable renovación, ya que en el corazón de la necesidad más urgente de la diócesis, se encuentra la necesidad de una renovación espiritual" dijo, y citando el pasaje del Joven Rico, invitó a todos los presentes a hacerse la pregunta "¿Qué más debo hacer para ganar la vida eterna?"

El obispo es muy consciente de que esta renovación va a ser exigente y que para enfrentar los retos es necesario un amor sacrificial que permita que cada área asuma la misión de la mejor y más exigente manera.

La sexta sesión del Sínodo Diocesano llegó a su fin luego de una breve exposición de las iniciativas y propuestas sobre las que se les pidió a los delegados



MUCHOS DE LOS HISPANOS de la Diócesis de Bridgeport participaron tanto de las sesiones de deliberación para hispanos así como delegados para las sesiones generales de sínodo. (FOTO POR AMY MORTENSEN)

Many Hispanics added their voices, both to the Spanish-speaking consultation sessions and as delegates to the general sessions of the synod.

votar. Hubo un total de 14 votaciones, cuyos resultados estu-

vieron casi en su mayoría sobre el 90 por ciento a favor.

Durante las conclusiones finales, el obispo anunció públicamente que el Señor Patrick Turner va a ser el presidente del comité de Planeación Estratégica junto con el Padre Michael Dogali. Así mismo aprovechó para extender la invitación a todos a la Misa de Clausura del Sínodo que se llevará a cabo el sábado 19 de septiembre en el Webster Bank Arena de Bridgeport.

(Karina Bohorquez, MCR, es la actual superiora de la Fraternidad Mariana de la Reconciliación (Fraternas) en Trumbull.)

NOTE: This report by Karina Bohorquez, MCR, echoes in Spanish the concluding session of the Diocesan Synod. The report in English by Brian D. Wallace can be found on page 3. Bohorquez is the superior of the Marian Community of Reconciliation (Fraternas) in Trumbull.



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

ST. CATHERINE ACADEMY FROM PAGE 25

Bridgeport, and worked on boxes and bows at Bigelow Tea Co. Fulfillment Center in Fairfield. "We balance the experiences to give them a variety of experience," says Burland.

His favorite location was at Fairfield University food service, where he worked in salad prep and set up tables in the cafeteria. "I like the kids there," says the gregarious James. As he looks past graduation, this is one of the employment opportunities he would most enjoy.

As a Catholic school, academics and life skills both include instruction in the faith. James received the sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at the bishop's first Mass for Children with Disabilities, celebrated at Holy Cross Church, which is adjacent to St. Catherine's Academy.

Putting faith into action, James has participated enthusiastically in the "Peanut Butter and Jelly Project." Once a month students make sandwiches for the guests at Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport. Other service projects included sending carts to veterans and helping with the Town of Fairfield's 350 Years celebration, among others.

James has played many different roles over the years in the Christmas pageant: Joseph (several

times), Jesus as an adult, one of the Three Kings. He actively participated in the school's weekly prayer service, and learned American Sign Language to become the signer for "This Little Light of Mine" in all



MSGR. ROBERT WEISS, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown and chaplain of St. Catherine Academy, congratulates James Barry on his graduation.

school liturgies.

James planned his graduation Mass, picking the readings, petitions, readers and songs. Msgr. Robert Weiss, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown and chaplain of St. Catherine's, celebrated the Mass in Holy Cross Church.

St. Catherine Academy is now part of the St. Catherine Center for Special Needs, which includes pastoral care in parishes and support for Catholic schools. St.

Catherine's is adding an adult program, in which James may enroll.

When he looks back on his years at St. Catherine's, at the Halloween parties, St. Patrick's Day floats, field trips and fun (he

swam in the CT Special Olympics, medaling in both backstroke and breast stroke), struggles and challenges, one thing has consistently meant the most to James.

"It's my friends," he says. "My friends and my family and my teachers. That's what's most important."

(St. Catherine Academy is located at 760 Tahmore Drive, Fairfield. For more info, go to info@stcatherineacademy.org or call 203.540.5381.)

Chosen for the Order of Diaconate

Joy for newly ordained and their families

BRIDGEPORT—“We come here with awesome joy,” Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said just before he ordained six men as deacons for the Diocese of Bridgeport. “Our hearts are filled with joy because you have said ‘Yes’ to the Lord.”

More than 500 priests, brother deacons, family and friends filled St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Fairfield for the ordination of

Newtown, who have spent five years preparing for their day of ordination.

“On this beautiful morning, we gather to pray for our six brothers, that the Holy Spirit come upon them in the image of Christ. No one is worthy of ordination. I am not worthy, but in ordination we are made worthy through the mystery of God’s love for us,” the Bishop said.

There were two standing ovations during the Mass; one for the newly ordained deacons and another for their wives, who were called forth to the altar and gifted with crosses in gratitude for their support of their husbands’ vocation.

The bishop called for blessing on the deacons’ wives and children, and for all the priests and others who helped in their formation. “All of you come here after celebrating the mystery of marriage, and you know what it is to love another person wholly and completely,” the bishop said to the men.

The bishop said that the diaconate is “a mystery of service,” and called upon the men to surrender all you have in self-sacrifice in order to

build up others. “As you decrease, the Lord gives back one hundred-fold,” the bishop said. “You are called upon to be counter-signs in to the world that no longer



NEWLY ORDAINED DEACONS and their wives pose with Bishop Caggiano after the ordination Mass.



ORDINANDI PROSTRATE THEMSELVES before the altar during the ceremony as a sign of docility to the Holy Spirit.

Anthony Caraluzzi of Bethel, Jeffrey Font of Brookfield, John Tuccio of Monroe, David Flynn of Monroe, Ernest Jeffers of Stamford, and Patrick Shevlin of

understands what service means.”

At the start of the ordination, Deacon Tony Detje, director of the diaconate program, called out the names of the six men to be ordained. When he said “We choose you as brothers for the order of diaconate,” the congregation burst into spontaneous and prolonged applause.

The bishop noted that ordination fell on the feast of St. Anthony of Padua and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Saint Anthony had said that preaching “was just words” if the gospel is not lived in a person’s heart. And he told the newly ordained to remember that “praying to Our Lady” will always lead them to the Lord.

“You will do great things, one day at a time,” the Bishop said before the recessional hymn. “Let us all pray for a spring-time of renewal in the life of the Church!”

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Obituary

Sister Mary John O'Rourke

DANBURY—Sister Mary John O'Rourke, OSU, principal of St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury for the past twenty-two years, went to her eternal reward the morning of May 22 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Sister Mary John had been on medical leave and recently announced her plan to retire effective June 30. A member of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, she died peacefully at St. Ursula Center in Blue Point, N.Y., on Long Island.

Geraldine O'Rourke was born in Ozone Park, N.Y., and entered the Ursuline Sisters community of Tildonk in 1954. With a bachelor's degree in education and a masters degree in history, she taught in Queens and on Long

Island and was principal in nearby New York State. She was principal at St. Thomas the Apostle School in West Hartford before coming to St. Gregory the Great School in 1993.

"She was an exceptional Catholic school educator who was a mentor to many and a leader in the diocesan curriculum mapping process and technology initiatives," said Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, PhD, superintendent of schools. "She proudly worked with the entire school community to earn St. Gregory's the distinction of being a 2010-2011 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence from the U.S. Department of Education."

Sister Mary John, in turn, credited the dedication of the teachers

and staff of St. Gregory's, as well as the support of the parents and the hard work of students. "Education is about empowering our students to be successful leaders in the 21st Century," she said, on receiving the award. "Schools honored with the Blue Ribbon award are committed to achievement and to ensuring that students learn and succeed."

"She carried her love for children and education in her heart at all times and in all places," says Sister Jane Quinlan, OSU, who lived with Sister Mary John in the convent of St. Gregory the Great. "She was my principal and friend for over 15 years. She always had a positive outlook. For me, Sister Mary John was a forward-looking woman who



SISTER MARY JOHN O'ROURKE, principal of St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury, shows the Blue Ribbon award the school received to first-graders on November 17, 2010. (PHOTO BY MICHAEL DUFFY, NEWSTIMES.COM)

exemplified the words of our foundress, St. Angela Merici, who said, 'Love and harmony are a sure sign that one is on the right road and pleasing to God.'"

The wake and funeral Mass for Sister Mary John were held at St. Gregory's on May 28. St. Gregory the Great School was closed for the day.

The gymnasium, which was recently refurbished under her supervision, was dedicated to her at a June 7 ceremony, naming it the Sister Mary John O'Rourke Gymnasium for

Prayer, Performance and Athletic Excellence.

"When we talked to the students, we used terms that they could all understand," said Mary Fitzgerald, who has been acting principal since September, when Sister Mary John took a medical leave of absence. "We can say that, even though we're sad and we miss Sister Mary John, she went to eternal joy and peace."

(A scholarship fund has been created in Sister Mary John's name. For details, visit the school website: www.saintgregoryschool.org.)

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DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT: JUNE 21—JULY 25

JUNE

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------|
| 21 | Rev. Albert D. Talbot..... | 1962 |
| 22 | Rev. Xavier Renda..... | 2009 |
| 24 | Rev. Frankln J. Corrigan..... | 1974 |
| 25 | Rev. Albert A. Tomasko..... | 1978 |
| 27 | Rev. J. Barry Furey..... | 2012 |
| 28 | Rev. John J. Draper..... | 1966 |
| 30 | Rev. Arthur E. Norton..... | 2004 |
| | Msgr. Thomas P. Mooney..... | 1956 |
| | Msgr. John E. Tomis..... | 1986 |

JULY

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

High School Sports

Sadler takes charge at Notre Dame High School

By **DON HARRISON**

Notre Dame High School may lack the football pedigree of its two neighboring Catholic schools, St. Joseph of Trumbull and Fairfield Prep, but don't tell that to the Lancers' new head coach, Chris Sadler.

Sadler, 32, is accustomed to winning, having served as the defensive coordinator for four state championship teams in the past six seasons at St. Joe's, his alma mater. The Cadets captured the Class LL title in 2014, 2013, 2010 and 2009. He intends to bring some of that winning mo-jo to Notre Dame.

"The future of Notre Dame football is bright. There's more talent here than people think," says Sadler, who accepted the position in late March. "It's obviously a challenge, but it's an opportunity to turn the program around."

The Lancers were an aggregate 2-20 the past two years under Sadler's immediate predecessor, Tom Boynton, and they've endured seven straight sub .500 seasons since Jason Hart coached Notre Dame to a 6-4 record in 2007.

For Sadler, the decision to leave St. Joseph wasn't easy. Chris played three seasons of varsity football for the Cadets, at linebacker and offensive guard, and was an All-FCIAC selection as a senior. His two brothers, Mike and Zach, were also ath-



CHRIS SADLER

letes of note at the school.

And he had spent the past decade there as an assistant coach under Joe Della Vecchia, for whom he played and the architect behind St. Joe's consistent excellence in recent years.

"I have a great deal of loyalty to the school, for obvious reasons," Sadler says. "I consider all of the coaches friends. But, it was time for me to take the next step in my coaching career."

Long-time Notre Dame supporters are well-aware of the Lancers' successes on the gridiron. Athletic Director Rob Bleggi points to the 2002 squad, coached by Jeff Bevino, which was the runner-up in the Class S state championship game. And another Bevino team that went 9-1.

During the pre-playoff era and Notre Dame's early years, the Lancers won the 1964 Waskowitz Trophy—emblematic of state

supremacy—and finished in the New Haven Register's Top Ten poll four straight seasons, 1961-64. Legendary Lou Saccone was the head coach and an All-State running back named Hank Andrzejczak, who later played at Army, was among the team's luminaries.

Sadler is just beginning to get acquainted with his first Notre Dame squad. Three seniors, he says, are proven commodities and will be the building blocks for 2015: Hakim Fleming, a running back and defensive lineman; Billy Kelly, a running back and outside linebacker, and Noel Santaella, a 217-pound guard and defensive tackle. Bruce Howard, a veteran assistant

coach, has remained on the staff and adds a measure of stability.

So, who is Christopher Sadler, the person? Well, he's married to Kimberly, his high school sweetheart, and they are the parents of a 2½-year-old daughter, Caroline. They live in Trumbull, the community in which he was reared. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Stonehill College, where he played three seasons of varsity football as a defensive end.

Says his godmother and aunt, Eleanor Sauers, PhD, the director of religion education at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield: "Chris has always been a compassionate person, even as a child."

It's worth noting that Sadler's personal schedule during the season will be challenging. He teaches calculus and pre-calculus at Weston High School, and he must remain on campus until 2:50 pm. So, the clock will be approaching 3:30 when he arrives at Notre Dame.

"The kids can put the extra time to good use by lifting weights, being in study hall," he says.

"I look forward to using my experience (as an assistant coach) to lead Notre Dame into a successful future. My goal here is to develop well-rounded student-athletes who will leave this program understanding the importance of hard work and teamwork. I'm excited."

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Column: Joe Pisani



Too smart for God

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

A woman I once worked with spent a large part of her day complaining about the Catholic Church. Needless to say, it was a long day.

The crazy thing is she was raised by very devout parents, but that didn't seem to matter. They say the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Well, sometimes it does.

Very often, I had to listen to her soliloquy about what was wrong with the Church and how she didn't go to Mass because blah blah blah and more blah. I heard it so many times I could cite chapter and verse, but I avoided arguing with her because that was like throwing gas on the fire.

However, the day eventually came when, out of desperation, I suggested that instead of obsessing over all these real and imagined deficiencies in the Church, she should concentrate on developing a personal relationship with Jesus. There was dead silence, a painfully long dead silence.

"Jesus? What did he have to do with anything?" she seemed to ask.

Looking back, I realize that nothing less than the Holy Spirit could take away her anger. In many ways, she reminded me of New Age atheists like the late Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins, who constantly regurgitate the same complaints about the bad practice of religion,

as if they somehow prove God doesn't exist.

Then there are atheists like physicist Stephen Hawking, a major proponent of a misguided scientism who has devoted his life to finding the "theory of everything" ... when it's staring him right in the face.

Hawking would prefer to believe the fundamental principle governing the cosmos isn't God but rather something along the lines of gravity. This leads my very ordinary brain (I never took physics and barely passed chemistry) to conclude geniuses can get tangled up in their close-mindedness, which blinds them to the Truth.

Or as Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."

When I was a teenager during the tumultuous '60s, I behaved like my former coworker, which means to say I had all the answers when it came to Vietnam, Vatican II, politics, faith, reason, and the Beatles' White Album. I thought I knew more than the President, the Pope, my high school principal, my pastor, my entire parish and, of course, my parents.

Every week when my mother and I drove home from Mass, she had to listen to my litany of complaints. My father, who was an alcoholic, didn't go to church, so why did I have to? And why did I have to associate with all those

"hypocrites"? ("Hypocrite" was a popular word in those days, sort of like "choice" is today.) I could spot a hypocrite across a crowded cathedral, and there were many, I thought.

My mother never graduated from high school because she went to work to help her family during the Depression, but she was a spiritual master, who

"I thought I knew more than the President, the Pope, my high school principal, my pastor, my entire parish and, of course, my parents."

could be disarmingly insightful. As she saw it, the people I was condemning were imperfect, like all of humanity—myself included. "We're imperfect," she said, "and that's precisely why we go to Mass."

Furthermore, instead of agonizing over the speck in someone else's eye, she suggested I pay more attention to the log in my own eye.

At the time, I didn't appreciate her simple logic. After all, she wasn't a great intellectual. She was only my mother, who was prone to nagging me when I put

my dirty socks under the bed, so I never expected the Holy Spirit would use her to articulate profound truths.

A friend recently told me her father is an active alcoholic who doesn't believe in God because he, with his "scientific mind," thinks faith is so much nonsense. He loves to take everyone else's inventory, just as I did.

It pained me to see this young woman suffering over a man who has tormented the family for years and drained their savings to pay for rehab programs. A so-called scientific mind may delude you into believing you have all the answers about God, but it won't get you sober.

I once saw a bumper sticker that offered a fundamental spiritual truth that could benefit my former coworker, the New Age atheist and this alcoholic father. It simply said, "No Jesus, no peace."

So many people spend their lives grumbling about the bad practice of religion, which they use as an excuse for not going to church or for denying God's existence.

When they come face to face with Christ, I imagine they'll try to justify their behavior by blaming everyone but themselves. However, that self-deception will dissolve instantly in the pure light of Christ's Truth.

My mother was right. We should spend more time concentrating on Christ and less time concentrating on what the other guy is doing ... or not doing. ■

Courtney

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MASS OF THE DIVINE FROM PAGE 13

This will be among the first ventures of the new Yale-based Center for Music and Liturgy. The creation of such new Catholic music is only one arm of the center's mission. According to the center's director, Richard Gard, "Our call is to renew and refresh the music of the Church. Thanks to today's inexpensive digital devices, it is feasible to publish and distribute music at virtually no cost. Our research uncovers public domain music; we support new compositions, and then distribute it all for free. Moreover, our teaching and training apps, such as Choir Prodigy, make a virtual music

teacher and accompanist available to anyone at any time."

This entire project is envisioned as a work of service, not only for the Church, but touching the whole world. Tarantino cites Benedict XVI's description of "liturgy's essence: to transpose the cosmos, to spiritualize it into the gesture of praise through song, and thus to redeem it." She adds, "The Church is to blaze a path which opens into the future, a destiny of glory to unite temporal and eternal. But it is only through humility, love and service that this happens, in the fully human effort of cooperation toward beauty."

This vision resonates with

Revie. "I have always seen the audience in this Mass as a critical, unnotated 'third voice'—a silent participant, engaged with the music not merely as spectators, but in active participation, in a liturgical spirit," the composer says. "This is why I am so eager to extend the audience for this premiere beyond the regular concert-goer to those who pray, who listen and live liturgically day to day, in their own lives of faith. I want them to be there, to participate, to share in the creation of this beauty."

(Tickets for *Alleluia!* at Carnegie Hall are available at www.carnegiehall.org or by calling 212.247.7800.) ■

Column: Thomas Hicks



Pay Attention

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

Rom. 1:19-21: “For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.”

An ancient theme was that there are two “books” by which God instructs his human creatures: the book of Scripture and the book of Creation. And all the religious traditions tell us that the “pre-contemplative” phase of prayer is to contemplate the tireless goodness in nature, to observe the marvels of existence. We ascend to God by reflecting on his traces in the sensible world.

The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote the famous lines that “the world is charged with the grandeur of God,” meaning that the world is shot through with the beauty of God as with an electric charge. The Sufis of Islam echo this idea with their idea that God has placed “sparks” in creation. Everywhere there are holy sparks, the sparks of love.

The writings of the American author, John Updike, are prolific with descriptions. His novels seem to bulge with the efforts of a man desperate to describe as much of the world as he can before it’s too late. Some criticized Updike’s fondness for comprehensive detailing of the stuff of daily life. Updike explained his style by asserting his conviction that the world was created, and thus merits the devotion of description. “Description expresses love.” His

prolific descriptiveness was done with a reverential attitude. It was his way to execute the ancient biblical function of praise, praise of the created world.

There’s a scene in one of Updike’s Rabbit novels. Rabbit now lives in Florida and his son owns the house Rabbit used to have in New England. On a visit back to New England, Rabbit finds out that his son had cut down a large beech tree (a tree with smooth

gray bark and edible nuts) outside the bedroom window where Rabbit used to sleep. Rabbit is saddened, and reflects:

“the sound of the rain in that great beech tree had been the most religious experience of his life.”

“Each passing moment masks a tender face; nothing has had to be, but is by Grace.” (Updike, *Midpoint*, p. 40)

We learn to praise God not by constantly paying Him compliments but by paying attention, listening to the sound of the rain in the beech tree. We are here to give praise, to pay attention, to wonder at existence, and to praise.

When I was a boy, as we rode on a train or bus, my mother used to announce, “What a glorious view!” I’ve come to learn that in truth all views have something glorious about them. And the act of seeing itself is glorious, and of hearing, and feeling, and tasting.

G.K. Chesterton wrote: “The world will never starve for want of wonders, but only for wonder.”

There is so much. There are things novelists and poets taught me to notice.

William Faulkner’s novel, *Light in August*, was titled such because there is a special kind of

light in August. All months have their special light. Every season has a certain tone of light. There’s that softening light of a September day at six o’clock. One can come to notice and love the fading light of a winter afternoon.

Psalm 104:2 speaks of the light as God’s garment, the thing in which we partially see him.

There are the special sounds of a winter morning. An oriole on a warm June day is one of the bright and happy phenomena of this world. There’s the voice of a fox on a September hillside in the moonlight.

One of my particularly sensitive friends once asked me as we were walking, “Have you ever noticed sunshine glowing behind the feathers of a flying pigeon’s outstretched wings as though the bird rides sun-rays?” At one time I would have joked about that observation, but not as I grow older. I’m now in my

amazed, insistent appreciation of the physical world with its scenery and weather. Now I do notice the sunshine behind a flying pigeon’s outstretched wings.

There are three great elemental sounds in nature: the sound of rain, the sound of wind in trees, and the sound of the outer ocean when you’re on a beach. And of the three elemental voices, that of the ocean is the most awesome, beautiful and varied, the sea has many voices. It is also constantly changing its tempo, its pitch, its accent, and its rhythm. There is the everlasting voice of the sea.

In the Scriptures, rain is the element most frequently associated with God.

Isaiah 30:23: “He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground

Lev. 26:4: “I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees

of the field their fruit.”

Jer. 5:24: “The LORD is our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season.”

The falling rain is a religious thing.

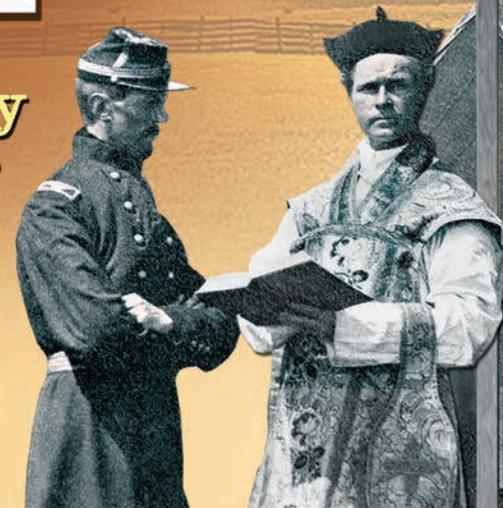
Beauty is everywhere, just as suffering is everywhere. There is that “riso de l’universo” of which Dante speaks, the laughter of the universe as it adores the Eternal Light; a joy in God, the LOVE that uttered the world into being. We are part of the generosity of God.

Jesus did not ask his disciples to speculate on the Divine Nature. He told them to consider the lilies of the field.

We are here to give praise, to pay attention, to look keenly at everything so that creation does not play to an empty house. “Look for a loveable thing and you will find it, it is not far—it never will be far” (Sara Teasdale, *Night*).

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Bits & Pieces

YOUNG ADULTS SUMMER KICKOFF (ages 21-30s) at Stony Creek Brewery, Branford, on Sat., **June 20**, at 1 pm. Food trucks available for meals. Bring friends, hang out, enjoy! Must be 21 or older to attend. For more info, email "Dominick" dominick.angioli@lo.3@hotmail.com or for event location go to: <http://stonycreek-beer.com/about>.

WORLD YOUTH DAY INFO MEETING Mon., **June 22**, from 6:30-8:30 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull, will include itinerary and registration/fee info; stories from youth who have youth have attended previous WYDs; and discussion time. All are invited to come and find out more about the journey. To attend, email youthministry@diobpt.org.

MASS OF HEALING & HOPE on Mon., **June 22**, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Father Larry Carew. For more info, call 203.268.8253.

"KIDSHINE" Performing Arts Day Camp at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside, for grades 3-8 (entering in fall of 2015) Mon.-Fri., **June 22-26**, from 9 am-3 pm with a performance on Fri. at 7 pm. Cost: \$175 (limit: 50 campers). For more info, call 203.637.3661, ext. 330.

PIZZA & GAME NIGHT for young adults (out of high school, ages 18-35) Join other young adults in the area for a night of fun, games, food. Tues., **June 23**, from 6:30-8:30 pm at St. Marguerite Parish, Brookfield. For more info, go to catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or call Maria Mullen: 203.798.6923.

EMMAUS 1-DAY RETREAT is a journey in faith for adults (18 years+), couples and singles, 7 am-8:30 pm on Sat., **June 27**, at St Aloysius Parish, New Canaan. Pre-registration required. Cost: \$30. For more info, or to register, email adult.emmaus@gmail.com to register.

FREE & LOW COST MAMMOGRAPHY screenings by St. Vincent's SWIM on Sat., **June 27**, from 10 am-2 pm at Redeemed Christian Church of God, 360 Grandfield Ave., Bridgeport and Sun., **June 28**, from 11 am-3 pm at the Eight Laws of Health Awareness Fair, Winfield Park, Bridgeport. Free for those who do not have health insurance, have financial limitations and qualify for assistance. For those who do not have insurance but do not qualify for free services, mammograms are discounted. Appointments required. If you do not have a physician's order, call 203.576-5505. For those with insurance, please

Golf Classic assists Catholic Academies

Thanks to members of the planning committee pictured here and many other generous individuals, the Third Annual Golf Classic to benefit the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport, held at The Country Club of Fairfield on May 11, was a great success. More than \$220,000 was raised, including \$70,000 for the Leaders of Tomorrow program, which will greatly benefit the nearly 1,000 children in these inner-city schools. (l-r) Dan Bumgardner, Jim Bailey, Marylou Queally Salvati, Brad Evans and Sister Joan Magnetti.



bring your card at time of visit. To schedule an appointment, call 203.576.5505.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton, held Mon.-Thurs., **June 29-July 2**, from 9 am-12 noon. For more, call the religious education office: 203.762.9080.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS are held throughout the diocese: Thurs., **July 2**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, at 7 pm; Thurs., **July 16**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, at 7:30 pm; and Mon., **July 20**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, at 7:30 pm. For more info, contact Anne Marie: amromano@att.net.

APPALACHIAN FAIR at

Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman, Fri.-Sun., **July 10-12**. Fri., 12 noon-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; and Sun., from 12 noon-5 pm. For more info, call the parish: 860.354.1414.

CARNIVAL at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside, Tues.-Sat., **July 7-11**. Tues. & Wed. 6-10 pm; Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 6-11 pm. Live entertainment, food, rides, a dunk-tank, a 50/50 raffle and raffle for 2015 BMW 228i. Free admission; bracelet nights Tues., Wed., and Thurs. For more info, call 203.637.3661 or www.stcath.org.

SUMMER SCRIPTURE STUDY "Finding God in Fragile Places" Saturdays, **July 11-Aug. 22**, 9:30-11 am at St.

James Parish, Stratford. Cost: \$15; includes study materials. Open to all. For more info, email Betsy Redgate: bredgate.stjamesparish@gmail.com or call 203.375.5887

DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT fundraiser by Cardinal Shehan Center, Bridgeport, on Wed., **July 15**, from 5:30-8:30 pm at Insports Center, 29 Trefoil Dr., Trumbull. Team entry fee \$650 for up to 9 players, men and women. First drink on the house! For more info, contact Lorraine Gibbons: 203.336.4468 or email lgibbons@shehancenter.org

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Bits & Pieces

the area. Fr. Shawn Cutler will talk at a local restaurant. Wed., **July 15**, (time & location TBA). For more info, go to catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or call Maria Mullen: 203.798.6923.

WOMEN'S TASTE & SEE SUMMER BOOK CLUB

"She Who Is Peace," Weds., **July 15-Aug. 12**, at 10 am at St. James Parish, Stratford. Megan McKenna explores the feminine face of God as revered in the major religions of the world. Cost: \$15 for book. For more info, email Betsy Redgate: bredgate.stjamesparish@gmail.com or call 203.375.5887

STEBENVILLE EAST youth conference for high school teens, Fri.-Sun., **July 17-19**, in RI. Open to all high school teens. For more info, contact Julie Rodgers, director of youth ministry: 203.416.1449, email youthministry@diobpt.org, or check out the website: www.steubenvilleconferences.com/youth/steubenville-east.

"COME & SEE" MASS: The Secular Franciscan Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Emery's Church, Fairfield, on Sat., **July 18**, at 9:30 am. Msgr. Ernest Esposito will celebrate Mass followed by a social and meeting. "Come and See" if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order. All

are welcome! For more info, call 203.255.8801.

GIANT TAG SALE & CRAFTS at St. Paul Parish, Greenwich, on Sat., **July 18**, from 9 am-2 pm. Come join the fun! For more info, call 203.531.8741.

WEEK OF DIRECTED PRAYER, July 18-25, sponsored by St. James Parish in Stratford. Find God in the ordinary events of your life by making a directed retreat without leaving home or workplace! Group gatherings on both Saturday mornings, 10 am-12:30 pm, and individual appointments from Mon. through Fri. arranged according to your schedule. Open to all. For more info, email: bredgate.stjamesparish@gmail.com or 203.375.5887

YOUNG ADULT DANCE PARTY: Come join young adults in the area and enjoy a night filled with music and dance! Bring a date or some friends! Tues., **July 28**, 6:30-8:30 pm, at St. Marguerite Parish, Brookfield. For more info, call 203.798.6923 or email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com. Facebook: Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP and social: Join Catholic Young Adults for a Praise and Worship Holy Hour. Social follows. Tues., **Aug. 4**, 7-9 pm at Sacred Heart Parish, Danbury. For more info,

email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or call Maria Mullen: 203.798.6923.

NEXT MASS MOB is set! Join the first-year anniversary Mass Mob at St. Mary Church, Bridgeport on Sun., **Aug. 9**, at 10:30 am. What is Mass Mob? It is a flash mob for Mass and much more. For more info, go to massmobfc.webs.com or email massmobfc@gmail.com.

TRIP TO CIRQUE ELOIZE at Foxwoods Resort by St. Vincent's Healthy Hearts Club on Wed., **Aug. 12**. Open to all. Bus leaves at 8 am from the new garage in front of the Medical Center, 2800 Main St., Bridgeport, returning 6:30 pm. Cost: \$65 includes transportation, lunch buffet, 2 pm matinee show, \$10 Kino and driver's gratuities. For reservations or more info, call Andy Gatto: 203.372.5097.

FAN THE FIRE youth rally for high school teens, Sat., **Aug. 15**, from 9 am-9 pm at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown. All teens grades 8-12 invited. Games, music, talks, Confession, Rosary, Adoration, Mass. Cost: \$40 includes lunch and dinner. For more info, call Julie Rodgers 203.416.1449 or email youthministry@diobpt.org.

LITURGY OF THE CHURCH, the newest SHARE (Sacred Heart Adult Religious Education) program, held Mon., **July 6, 13, 20 & 27**, from 10 am-12 noon. SHARE is a program in Catholic Studies is intended to help adult Catholics understand their faith. Dr. Joan Kelly will lead "The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy" at Notre Dame High School, 220 Jefferson St., Fairfield. Cost: \$140. To register or for more info, contact Gina: SHARE@diobpt.org or 203.416.1446.

"DEFENDING THE FAITH" conference: Equip yourself to properly defend the faith at a special apologetics conference on the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, Fri.-Sun., **July 24-26**. For more info, call 800.437.8368.

FOOD DRIVES: Person-to-Person from St. Jerome Parish, Norwalk, delivers food items from monthly food drives. They are in need of volunteers to help at its food pantry from 9 am-12:30 pm on Fri. For more info, contact Callie at Person to Person, 76 South Main Street, Norwalk: 203.939.1650 or calliejayne@p2phelps.org.

Calling all Lawyers!

SAVE THE DATE:

The 2015 Red Mass will take place on Sunday, October 4, at 9 am at the Egan Chapel, located at Fairfield University 1073 N. Benson Road, Fairfield.

Rev. Jeffrey P. von Arx, S.J., President of Fairfield University is the host of this event.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will celebrate the Red Mass and attend the breakfast immediately following the Mass and in the Oak Room.

ALL ARE WELCOME:

Bishop Caggiano has announced plans to re-invigorate the St. Thomas More Society, an association of Catholic attorneys, judges, legislators and other legal professionals in the diocese. The goal is to strengthen the union of Catholics in the legal field and to encourage collaboration, fraternity and service.

If you would like to receive a printed invitation or reserve a table or learn more about the St. Thomas More Society please email: dtietjen@diobpt.org or phone: 203.416.1385

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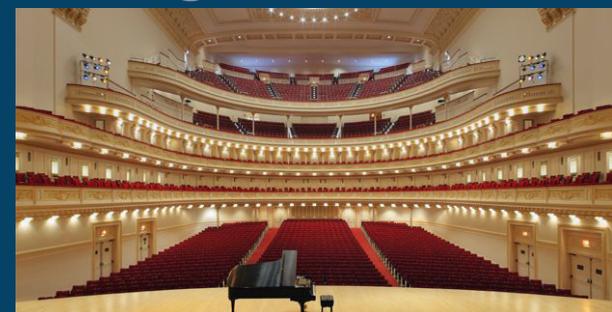
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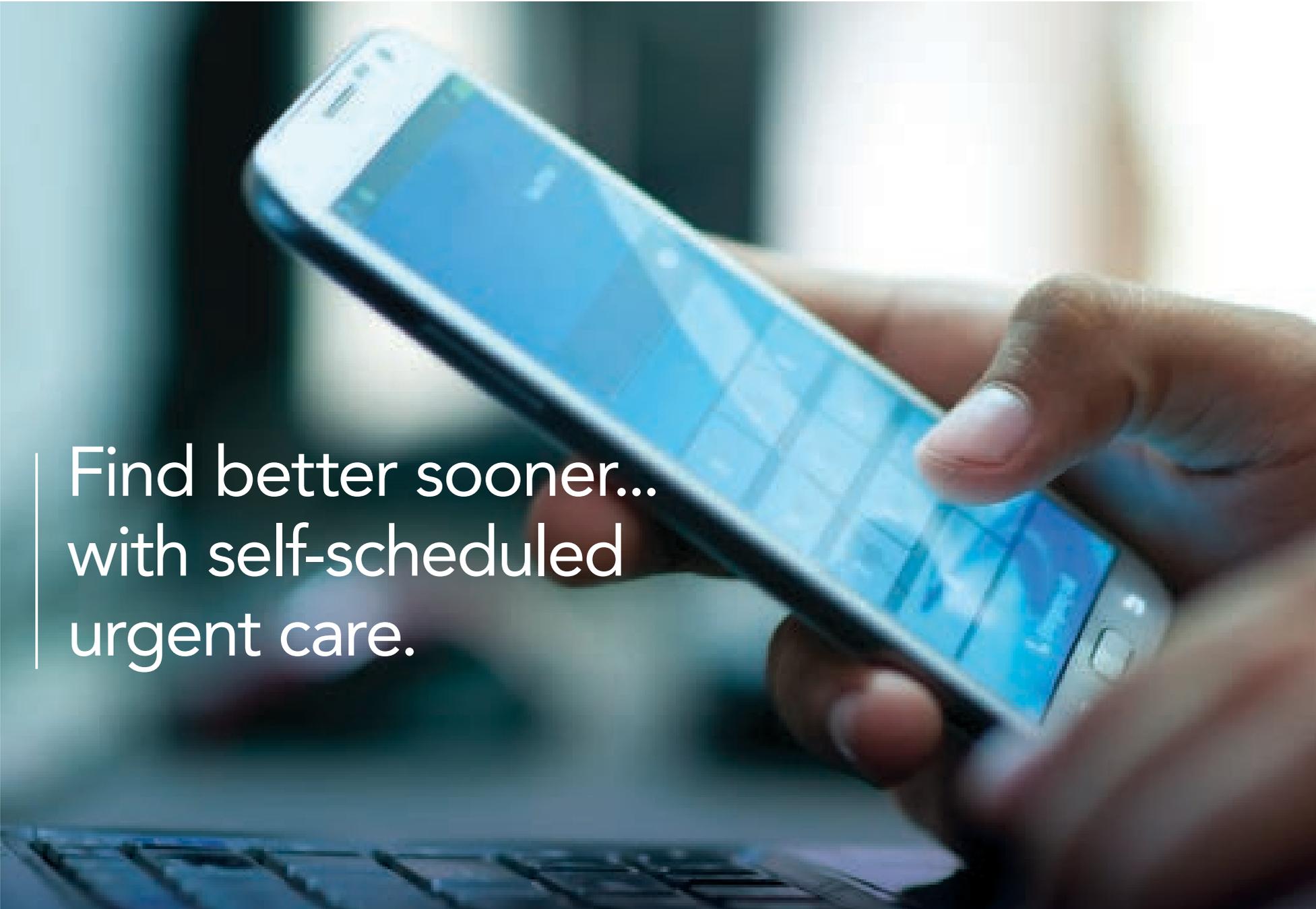
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