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Mother Dolores Hart to speak at CAPP breakfast

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Remembering Edward Cardinal Egan
April 2, 1932-March 5, 2015

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Discerning solutions to the challenges...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are halfway through with our diocesan synod!

At our February 7 session, the synod delegates approved the language of five global challenges that will be established as priorities for the coming years. As I said to the delegates, these are not the only issues that will be addressed in revitalizing our diocese, but will be our most immediate priorities. We know that there are many other challenges facing our youth, our families, and our communities throughout Fairfield County.

My friends, each challenge presents a number of questions. The synod will now turn to discerning solutions for them. The five challenges highlighted by the synod delegates include:

1. Liturgy and Worship—Every Catholic is called to full, conscious and active participation in the worship life of the Church.

How do we foster an attitude of welcome and hospitality in our parishes and schools? How do our priests and deacons prepare and deliver homilies that are relevant, inspirational, engaging and challenging to those who attend Mass? How do we create a culture that will reflect and celebrate the cultural and ethnic diversity of our communities? What needs to be done so that the celebration of the sacraments is revitalized?

2. Family Life—There is a need to strengthen and support family life and empower and assist parents to be the primary teachers of the Catholic faith.

How do we evangelize and form our parents to be able to share with their children their relationship with Jesus and the Church? What needs to be done so that the diocese and our parishes provide support and pastoral care to families that are facing particular stressors such as financial difficulties, employment issues, discrimination, immigration challenges, addiction, or marital breakup?

3. Evangelization—We must create concrete plans for evangelization in, with and through our parishes, schools, ecclesial movements and communities.

In reaching out, what strategies can be used to engage those Catholics who are marginalized to participate in the life of the Church? How do we create a culture of missionary discipleship? How do we, as Catholic Christians, effectively witness the Gospel?

4. Leadership—There is a need to continually call, form, and support clergy, religious and laity in active leadership roles in the life of the Church.

What is necessary to develop a culture that promotes and supports vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life in our diocese? How do we educate, form and support our clergy, promote holy and healthy living, and assist them in their leadership roles? What efforts are needed to assist Catholics to discern and share their personal gifts and talents with the larger community of faith in a spirit of stewardship? What structures and opportunities need to be created to support the ongoing training and formation of lay leaders in our diocese?

5. Catechesis and Education—We must renew the ministry of faith formation throughout our diocese, leading each person to a deepening relationship with the Lord Jesus in and through His Church.

How do we create opportunities for faith formation to be offered in holistic and age-appropriate ways that provide for a clear, authentic and faithful teaching of our Catholic faith? What can be done to more effectively reach our teenagers and young adults? How do we provide ongoing opportunities for all the baptized to grow in their prayer life?

Our delegates have a lot of homework! Now that the challenges have been clarified, they have been asked to provide the Synod Office and the Study Committees with information on best practices, models of ministry, programs, places, people or institutions that can exemplify solutions to these challenges.

I am also encouraging the delegates to reach out to all of you, through individual parish conversations, talks after Communion, or town hall meetings. It is very important that we discern solutions to these challenges and the questions they raise. After consultation, I have also made the decision to add an additional session of the synod in order to do all the work that is before us. I recognize the potential burden this places on our delegates and I thank them profoundly for their willingness to continue through this process.

I want to also remind all of us that as part of the synod process we will be gathering to celebrate the synod, our faith, and the renewal of the diocese on Saturday, September 19, 2015, at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport. I would encourage every family to begin to make plans to join us that day. Please look forward in the months ahead to details about the event, which will be available through your parish, on the synod website and through the Fairfield County Catholic.

I ask for your constant prayers for the success of the synod as we work together to bring the Good News of the Gospel to the people of Fairfield County.

+ Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport
Local News

New Diocesan Youth Choir announced

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has announced plans for the formation of a Diocesan Youth Choir that will sing in large diocesan liturgies with the bishop and at prayer services and other select performances.

The choir will draw from elementary, high school and college-age students throughout the diocese. Auditions for youth and young adults are expected to begin this spring.

“The Youth Choir will energize the entire diocese,” Bishop Caggiano said. “Not only will it involve youth in a formative activity but also celebrate their faith, their energy and the excitement they bring to the Church. Their voices will be a great gift to us and help to revitalize our liturgies as so many people have requested in our synod process.”

Deacon John DiTaranto, special assistant to the bishop, said plans call for the new choir to be previewed at the Closing Celebration Mass of the Synod on Saturday, September 19, at the Webster Bank Arena of Harbor Yard in Bridgeport. Pending execution of the venue contract, the full choir is scheduled to perform at a youth Christmas concert set for next December at the Norwalk Concert Hall.

The diocese is in the process of hiring a choir director who will be responsible for the musical programs and overall administration of the choir, he added.

“The Diocesan Youth Choir will foster awareness of music as an integral part of worship, and help to build self-esteem through successful group singing and instrumental accompaniment,” said Deacon DiTaranto, who noted that young singers will learn music and performance skills as they rehearse and sing for select liturgies.

“We hope that young people from all of our parishes and schools are represented in the new choir,” he said.

Auditions and open houses for the new choir will be held throughout the diocese in the Spring and Summer.

While the choir will be introduced at the Closing Celebration of the Synod, the first public performance of the full choir is set for the special Christmas concert in Norwalk. This concert has been named C4Y (Concert For Youth), as funds generated from it will be used to support diocesan youth programs including the new Bishop’s Scholarship Fund. It is expected that C4Y will become an annual showcase of the Diocesan Youth Choir. Rick Ryan of Black Rock is serving as overall management and marketing coordinator of the concert.

(For more info on the youth choir, or if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, contact Rick Ryan: 203.331.6858.)

Renowned speakers to discuss marriage & family

“Families are the Domestic Church where Jesus grows in the love of a married couple, in the lives of their children.” Pope Francis

NORWALK—The family is God’s gift,” says Father Peter Towsley, vicar for evangelization for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

“Everything has to start with the family.”

To help families understand and strengthen their role as the first teachers of the faith, his office and the Ministry of Marriage and the Family have invited famed Catholic speakers Dr. Scott Hahn, Kimberly Hahn and Dr. Alan Hunt to come to this diocese for a special engagement.

On April 18 at All Saint’s School in Norwalk, the speakers will offer inspiration, encouragement and creative solutions to the challenges of married life and parenting in today’s world as envisioned by Pope Francis. The event is from 9:30 am-5 pm and will include five talks, with one breakout session for men and women. The day will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano at 4 pm.

“Scott Hahn is the most sought-after Catholic speaker, not only in this country but worldwide,” says Father Towsley. “He tells people that evangelization has to begin in the family. Mom and Dad have to transmit the faith first and foremost.”

Bringing the presentation even more up to date, the speakers will include discussion of the role of grandparents, both in their increasing involvement with raising grandchildren and their ever-more crucial role in the faith formation of both their adult children and their grandchildren. A former Presbyterian theologian, Hahn—and later his wife Kimberly—became convinced by deep exploration of the Bible that the Catholic Church was “the pillar and the bulwark of the truth” described in the New Testament writings (1 Tim 3:15). He holds a Ph.D. degree in systematic theology from Marquette University. Since 1990, Dr. Hahn has served as professor of theology and Scripture at the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Kimberly and Scott are the parents of six children and have recently become grandparents. They have a deep reverence and understanding of the family as the “Domestic Church” through their own personal experience.

Dr. Alan Hunt, like the Hahns, is a convert to Catholicism. On July 1, 2007, after a 15-year spiritual journey, Dr. Hunt stepped aside as senior pastor at Mount Pisgah, a congregation serving more than 15,000 people in Alpharetta, Georgia, outside Atlanta. He, too, is married; he and his wife, Anita, have two grown daughters.

“They are all parents, they all have come to know Jesus on their spiritual journey,” says Father Towsley. “They use practical, funny anecdotal stories to express the joy of family life, and show parents and grandparents how they can be the first teachers in the way of faith.”

The heart of their presentation is to help adults to grow into a close, loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

“In our former way of teaching, the Church institutionalized, catechetalized and sacramentalized the faith—but never brought people into a relationship with Jesus. That’s what evangelization means,” Father Peter said.

“When adults become followers and friends of Jesus, they can share that relationship with their children. The heart of the family is in the home, and that’s where the heart of the faith begins. It all has to start with the family.”

(Cost: $45/person, $75/couple; includes a continental breakfast and full lunch. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com and search for “Pope Francis and the Promise of Family.”)
Farewell to Cardinal Egan


News of his death was received with great sadness in the Diocese of Bridgeport, where Cardinal Egan served as bishop from 1988 to 2000 and often returned to visit friends and support diocesan efforts.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, Fifth Bishop of Bridgeport, was among the bishops who concelebrated the funeral Mass with Archbishop Dolan. The delegation from the Diocese of Bridgeport also included many diocesan priests and laity, including those who had worked with him at the Catholic Center.

The funeral Mass, televised by the major TV networks, followed public visitation when thousands—from the famous to the everyday faithful—processed into the historic cathedral on 5th Avenue to pay last respects to the Cardinal.

Cardinal Egan’s love of music was echoed in the thundering drums and bagpipes that accompanied the procession, and in the voices of international opera stars who sang during the service.

During his homily, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan drew laughter when he noted that Cardinal Egan did not like eulogies. He said the Cardinal should be remembered for his love of the Church.

Cardinal Egan, who retired as archbishop of New York in 2009, died suddenly on March 5, after collapsing in his New York residence. The cause of death was cardiac arrest. He was 82.

Many in the diocese remember the pride and excitement that accompanied the announcement that Bishop Egan has been named the Ninth Archbishop of New York in 2000. In a farewell reception at the Catholic Center, he was gifted with a New York Yankees jacket, which he proudly sported.

He was also given a rousing ovation by 7,000 faithful when he returned to the Diocese of Bridgeport for its 50th Anniversary Jubilee celebration, held at the arena at Harbor Yard, in September 2003.

Area Catholics remember him for his unforgettable and resonant baritone voice, the eloquence of his homilies, and his personal kindness to all those he served. Though he became leader of one of the most high profile dioceses in the country, he was a private man who didn’t seek the spotlight and worked tirelessly to move the Church forward during a time of demographic change and transition.

Many tributes recognized Cardinal Egan for his leadership after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York City, when he anointed the dead and said funeral Masses, distributed Rosaries to workers, and told New Yorkers not to succumb to fear. During his tenure in New York, he was also credited making tough decisions related to reorganizing Catholic schools, realigning parishes, and improving financial practices.

After retiring from his post in New York in 2009, he often returned to the Diocese of Bridgeport for special liturgies and to support fund raising efforts and other major initiatives.

His Eminence
Edward Michael Cardinal Egan
1932-2015

Born - April 2, 1932
Ordained Priest - December 15, 1957
Ordained Titular Bishop of Allegheny and Auxiliary Bishop of New York - May 22, 1983
Installed Bishop of Bridgeport - December 14, 1988
Installed Archbishop of New York - June 19, 2000
Created Cardinal Priest of Saints John and Paul - February 21, 2001
Installed Archbishop of New York - June 19, 2000
Created Cardinal Priest of Saints John and Paul - February 21, 2001
Entered Eternal Life - March 5, 2015
Remembering a friend Local Tributes

“It is with great sadness that we learned about the death of His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of New York.”

Egan was the Third Bishop of Bridgeport, serving in that capacity from 1988 to 2000. His Eminence was a good friend and mentor to me as he was to our priests, particularly the many who were ordained by him. Cardinal Egan’s years of pastoral care for our diocese extended well beyond his time as Bishop of Bridgeport. It was only a few weeks ago that Archbishop Egan was present at Msgr. Bill Scheyd’s 50th Ordination Anniversary Mass, and just this past summer the Cardinal joined us in celebrating that day, 25 years ago, when he founded St. John Fisher Seminary.

Next month the Cardinal was to join us to help launch our new initiatives in Catholic education and conclude our fundraising for the new St. John Fisher Seminary. Now, instead, we pray for the repose of his soul and give thanks for what God has done for the Diocese of Bridgeport and the Church universal through the ministry of Cardinal Egan.”

Msgr. William Scheyd
Vicar General

“Cardinal Edward Egan was an outstanding leader of the Catholic Church. He was not afraid to take difficult positions when needed but didn’t want to hurt another person just for the sake of offending. My personal relationship with him revealed a very sensitive man who deeply cared about the Church and those entrusted to his care.

I personally think that he had a special love for the Diocese of Bridgeport and enjoyed coming back whenever he was invited. We will miss his wisdom and his great example as a man of the Church and a man of profound faith.”

Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni
Pastor, Basilica of St. John the Evangelist

“Cardinal Egan was a fine priest. He loved the Church greatly: being familiar with the Church’s long, rich and sometimes troubled history, he dedicated his life, not to an “institution,” but to the individual real-time persons who made up the Church during his own lifetime.

He was a brilliant, supremely talented man, with a sense of humor and warmth that attracted many to the Church. He was the best priest I have ever known.”

John Glover
Photographer

“I photographed Cardinal Egan dozens of times over several years prior to his assignment in New York. He always addressed me as “Mr. Photographer” during our brief interactions—he would let me know that he was ready by saying “I’m smiling.”

One day after a Mass and celebration honoring religious, he appeared at my elbow and asked that I join him at his table for lunch. This was the first of many opportunities I had to speak more than a quick greeting to this seemingly infinitely busy man. I was honored to be asked to photograph all of his public and private activities at the consistory in Rome in 2001, and over the following years greatly admired his great intellect, his good humor, his absolute passion for and focus on the Church, his life as a priest, and the great joy this life gave him.”

Dr. Joseph McAleer
Former Editor Fairfield County Catholic

“Cardinal Egan was a towering intellect who never forgot that a principal duty of the Catholic priest is to teach and impart the faith. He was a gifted preacher and writer, with a style akin to storytelling, profound yet approachable. In one of his many columns written for Fairfield County Catholic, he sounded a clarion call to young people about to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation: “What would happen if the thousands who are confirmed were to leave their parish churches and march into the world people of honor who never betray the trust, people of justice who never deny others their rights; people of purity who never forget they are images of divinity; people of charity who never turn their backs on those in need, people of prayer who never think of themselves as being out of the presence of their Creator?”

“Our friendship continued when he was elevated to Cardinal. He didn’t hesitate when I called and asked him if he would visit and pray with my wife and me on three separate occasions following surgery she had undergone at the Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan. He was always there for us.”

Ralph Lazzaro
Ad Manager Fairfield County Catholic
Annual Catholic Appeal

‘Snowbirds’ support the appeal

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

NAPLES, Fla.—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and members of the diocesan development office made their annual “Snowbird” trek to the sunshine state in late February to visit with area residents who winter in Florida and ask for their support for this year’s Annual Catholic Appeal.

Though the temperature moved from the 40s into the 80s by the end of their four-day visit, it was a “working” holiday for the bishop—as well as a reprieve from the bitter Nutmeg State weather.

While Bishop Caggiano, Father Michael Jones, new vicar of development and stewardship, and William McLean, chief development officer, crisscrossed the state from East to West Coast to meet with donors, Pamela Rittman, director of the Annual Appeal, went to Naples to help prepare for the bishop’s visit.

The centerpiece of the bishop’s trip was the Mass at St. Agnes Church in Naples, followed by a reception in the parish center. The event was hosted by Naples residents Connie and Vincent Von Zwehl, who are also members of St. Pius X Parish in Fairfield.

More than 1,600 people filled the church to capacity to hear the bishop deliver the homily, in which he spoke about the strong formative influence of Catholic schools in preparing students for a faith-filled response to life’s challenges.

After the Mass, more than 130 diocesan residents who spend part of the winter in Florida attended the reception to learn more about this year’s Annual Catholic Appeal and the bishop’s plans for the Church in Fairfield County.

“They asked questions about the school, and even expressed their concern for the Newtown community,” said Rittman.

“The bishop was grateful for the warmth and hospitality extended by his host, and very moved by the joyous expression of faith on the part of the people of St. Agnes Parish.”

Rittman said the Snowbird trip has become a yearly ritual that diocese supports to help those in need, and the services that continue to promote the Gospel and care of our children, seminarians and priests,” she said.

Von Zwehl added that many of those who attended the reception were impressed by the cost-cutting initiatives put in place by the bishop, who announced a $500,000 reduction in the appeal goal, along with a plan for moving the St. John Fisher Seminary to Trumbull into the large structure that now serves as the bishop’s residence.

“The bishop was grateful for the exceptional group of people gives so generously,” she said.

Among those at the reception was Msgr. Thomas Powers, who works in the Vatican Congregation for Bishops and is a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport. While in Florida, Bishop Caggiano also met with Thomas Monaghan, founder of Domino’s Pizza and chancellor of Ave Maria University.

“It’s clear from follow-up comments we received that people were inspired by the bishop’s visit and eager to participate in the appeal,” said Rittman. “We’re grateful that this exceptional group of people gives so generously.”

(For more info, email: 2015ACA@diobpt.org or call: 203.416.2470. To give online, go to www.2015ACAbridgeport.com.)

CONNIE AND VINNY VON ZWEHL HOSTED the Diocese of Bridgeport “Reunion 2015” in Naples, Florida.

A FLORIDA “SNOWBIRD,” replete with tropical shirt, gets some “face-time” with Bishop Caggiano, who described his visit to the Sunshine State as a “huge success.”
Six men institution to the Ministry of Lector

BRIDGEPORT—Six men were instituted to the Ministry of Lector on February 14 at St. Patrick Church in Bridgeport. This is a major step toward their ordination to the permanent diaconate. Permanent deacons are ordained clergy who serve the Church with a wide range of liturgical and ministerial responsibilities.

The word “deacon” is derived from the Greek word diákonos, which means “minister,” or “messenger.” The office of permanent deacon traces its origins to the Acts of the Apostles: “So then, brothers, choose seven men among you who are known to be full of the Holy Spirit…” (Acts 6:3).

Deacons administer Baptism; witness and bless marriages; officiate at wakes, funerals and burial services; administer sacraments and preside at prayer services. Deacons also distribute Holy Communion, proclaim the Gospel, preach the homily and proclaim the eucharistals and preside at prayer services.

This is a major step toward their permanent diaconate. Permanent deacons “Preparation for ordination begins with a six-month period called Aspirancy. Once they are admitted as Candidates, the men spend a year in study and spiritual formation before being instituted to the Ministry of Lector. After two more years they are instituted to the Ministry of Acolyte, the final step before ordination."

Six of the 22 men will be ordained deacons on June 13. Six men in the “Class of 2018” will be called to the Ministry of Acolyte in February, 2016. The ten men in the “Class of 2020” will be called to Candidacy sometime in the next 12-18 months.

“Six men to be instituted to the Ministry of Lector fully represent the Diocese of Bridgeport in its cultural, ethnic and economic diversity,” said Deacon Detje. Two are of Hispanic backgrounds, one of Irish heritage, one was born in Vietnam. The class contains a CFO, a state policeman, and a man on permanent disability following a job accident.

Geographically, they represent the three “corners” of the irregular triangle that forms Fairfield County. All the men are married; all have children.

Joseph and Coleen Bukowski are members of St. Peter Parish, Danbury; Vidal and Blanca Castrillon, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport; Joseph Huong and Thai-Van Nguyen, the Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport; William and Mary Karen Keneally, St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan; Joseph and Lorene Loketar, St. Mark Parish, Stratford; and David and Judy Rivera, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport.

BISHOP CAGGIANO WITH THE NEWLY instituted lectors: (l-r) Joseph Bukowski (St. Peter Parish, Danbury); Joe Loketar (St. Mark Parish, Stratford); David Rivera (St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport); Joseph Huong (Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport); Vidal Castrillon (St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport); William Keneally (St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan).

Appeal Heading toward Commitment Weekend

BRIDGEPORT—The 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal is now underway in the 82 parishes throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport. With the theme of “Building Communities of Faith,” the appeal has set an $11 million goal to fund the major programs and ministries of the diocese.

“One of God’s greatest gifts to the Diocese of Bridgeport has been the clear and focused determination of pastors. While individuals are free to mail in their pledge at any time or make a gift on line, McLean said the new Commitment Weekend will also give parishioners the opportunity to bring their envelopes and put them in the offertory collection.

Many parishes also participated in the recent Education Weekend, which previewed the new 2015 ACA video and also introduced the new lay co-chairs who are helping to lead the appeal in each parish.

McLean said this year’s goal is $500,000 less than the 2014 appeal as a result of belt-tightening and cost saving measures implemented by the bishop and Catholic Center leadership. Last month the diocese announced it would have its first balanced budget in over ten years.

Pamela Rittman, director of

continued on page 11

CMENTARY OFFICES

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Stratford, CT 06615
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Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 743-9626

DARIEN
St. John Cemetery
25 Camp Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
(203) 522-0495

GREENWICH
St. Mary-Putnam Cemetery
190 North Street
Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 869-4826
(203) 869-7026

NEWTON
Resurrection Cemetery
c/o Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1050 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-5574

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

STAMFORD
Queen of Peace Cemetery
c/o St. John Cemetery
25 Camp Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
(203) 522-0495

TRUMBULL
Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1050 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
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FAIRFIELD COUNTY
CATHOLIC

March 2015

Local News

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“Currently there are 22 men studying to become deacons for the Diocese of Bridgeport,” said Deacon Tony Detje, director of Deacons.

Detje explained that, in the Diocese of Bridgeport, men study for five and a half years before being ordained permanent deacons. “Preparation for the permanent diaconate begins with a six-month period called Aspirancy. Once they are admitted as Candidates, the men spend a year in study and spiritual formation before being instituted to the Ministry of Lector. After two more years they are instituted to the Ministry of Acolyte, the final step before ordination.”

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Celebrations

Vietnamese New Year honors family

BRIDGEPORT—Children, parents, grandparents, extended family and friends filled St. Augustine Cathedral on February 15 as Bishop Frank J. Caggiano joined the Vietnamese community in welcoming the Vietnamese New Year. “This is the most important holiday of the year for our culture,” says Father Augustine Nguyen, episcopal vicar for Vietnamese in the Diocese of Bridgeport. “It’s a family-oriented celebration, a time to remember our ancestors and also a time for children to honor the sacrifices their parents have made for their well-being.”

The Vietnamese New Year, in common with similar celebrations in China and in other Asian cultures, is based on the lunar/solar calendar. Officially named Tết Nguyên Dán “Feast of the First Morning of the First Day,” the celebration usually continues for the better part of the week.

The Mass and reception at the Cathedral was held a few days before the actual start of the Lunar New Year, which fell on February 18, Ash Wednesday, this year.

Preparation for the New Year may include energetically cleaning the house, preparing special holiday foods, buying new clothes for the children and giving them “lucky money.”

Visiting relatives and close family friends is the most important aspect of the feast. “This is a time to honor parents and family and those who have gone before us,” said Bishop Caggiano in his homily. “We pray for them, and they are certainly praying for us.”

DANCING DRAGONS ENLIVENED the Vietnamese New Year celebration at The Cathedral Parish. “This is the most important holiday of the year for our culture,” said Father Augustine Nguyen, episcopal vicar for Vietnamese.

The bishop spoke of the devotion and strong faith of Vietnamese Catholics. He reminded the congregation of the dedication of parents who had brought their children into the faith. “So now we gather before this altar, part of a wider family in God our father.”

Last year, Father Nguyen spent the New Year holiday with his parents in Vietnam. “I was surrounded by flowers of every color, pink and red and yellow—everything you can think of. Today,” he waved his hand toward the huge snowbanks outside, “we are surrounded by white ‘flowers.’”

With a smile, he invited the bishop to observe next year’s festival in Vietnam, where it celebrates the beginning of spring rather than the deep midwinter. The flower-filled altar, along with the lively pastels and deep hues of the women’s “ao dai,” the elegant traditional Vietnamese dress, recall the rich colors of the beginning of the spring season.

The reception following the Mass was enlivened by energetic dragons, special seasonal food, and award-winning young dancers. The Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth group, over 100 youngsters, teens and young adults, were fresh from a competition including the entire Northeast, from Buffalo to New York City and east to Maine. Every group performed a dance with a Lunar New Year theme in a combination of traditional and modern music.

The group from St. Augustine had received four out of the five first-place trophies for their dance: people choice, best costume design, best choreography, and first place overall. Their energy and enthusiasm warmed the winter day, replacing the deep cold outside with the promise of springtime to come.

Parade honors Irish faith and heritage

BRIDGEPORT—The Great Bridgeport St. Patrick’s Day Celebration has selected Ted Lovely, a member of Christ the King Parish in Trumbull, as the 2015 parade Grand Marshal. Msgr. Chris Walsh, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelton, is this year’s chaplain. The parade kicks off from Bridgeport’s Harbor Yard at 12 noon on March 17.

Both men have strong ties to the “Ould Sod,” Irish-speak for the Old Country, their ancestral homeland. It is more than their heritage both have visited Ireland a number of times.

“My father was not only a recent immigrant from Ireland but also an employee for 20 years of the government-sponsored Irish Tourist Board,” says Msgr. Walsh, whose American-born mother is also of Irish descent. “St. Patrick’s Day always played a huge role in the life of my family.”

“There was a lot of ‘Irish’ in my house growing up,” says Lovely, a Bridgeport native. “My grandfather was a police-man here in Bridgeport, and I can remember going to the Hibernian Communion Breakfast with my father and grandfather when I was growing up.” Now his sons-in-law and grandsons are Hibernians. Two of his grandchildren have been altar servers of the Communion Breakfast Mass.

Grand Marshals are chosen not only for their Irish background but for their involvement in the Irish community in the Bridgeport area. Lovely is a Eucharistic Minister at Christ the King, and he has been a member of the John F. Kennedy Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for many years, serving as financial secretary for five years and president for two years. A longtime member of the Gaelic American Club, he has had a leading role in the annual Commodore Barry Day held annually in Southport for the last eight years.

An educator in the Trumbull school system, Lovely was principal of Trumbull High, curriculum director and interim assistant school superintendent. He served as the principal of St. Theresa School in Trumbull for four years.

He and his wife, Nancy (who calls herself “honorary Irish”), have been members of the Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee for 10 years. The couple have six children and 15 grandchildren.

Ted Lovely

Continued on page 10
Two Catholic educators retire

By JOHN GROSSO

STAMFORD—Trinity Catholic High School President Tony Pavia has resigned his post at Trinity and has agreed to serve as interim principal at Stamford High School, which has been reeling from a recent scandal that has seen both of its top administrators removed.

Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D., diocesan superintendent of schools, accepted his resignation effective February 13, 2015, after he was asked by Stamford officials to steer the public high school through the crisis. Pavia had been the principal of Stamford High from 1996-2002.

“Many people know that Trinity Catholic High School is at a difficult juncture after some very negative incidents that have been widely reported in the media. Tony has the gifts and skills to lead the school and bring the stability it needs,” she said, adding that the diocese realizes that the diocese to find events, mission trips, youth group meetings, and more. Included in the Youth section is a section where users can “Ask the Bishop” questions about their faith. Each question submitted has received a detailed response from Bishop Caggiano.

Two other features receiving positive feedback are the “Bishop Caggiano” tab and the “Catholic Life” section. Both give users access to videos, photos and homilies, which help them engage with their faith in new and exciting ways. Improvements continue to be made to the app, with a large update launched at the end of February. The update adds compatibility with daily audio and video reflections, as well as dedicated tabs for Prayer and Bible Studies. Going forward, sections will be added and expanded, including a section for pictures from across the diocese and one for evangelization.

The app will continue to be updated frequently to bring the best and most relevant content to all who use it.

(Bishop Caggiano can be found by searching for Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on Facebook or @BishopCaggiano on Twitter. His pages are updated frequently.)
Parish News

St. Catherine’s sees a change of leadership

TRUMBULL—Msgr. Richard J. Shea retired as pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull on January 15. He will be succeeded by Father Joseph Marcello.

“It’s good for the parish to have young blood come in but for me, leaving is a mixed bag—it’s good and it’s bad at the same time,” Msgr. Shea says. “It’s the human dimension that matters most. People I saw every day or every week, I won’t see them in the same way now. They’ll be there for me, but not in the same way.”

Richard Shea was born in Elmhurst, Queens, N.Y., on April 25, 1936. After graduating from St. John’s University, also located in Brooklyn at that time. He completed his theological studies at the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels, Niagara University, N.Y., and was ordained by Bishop (later Cardinal) Lawrence J. Shehan in St. Augustine Cathedral on May 20, 1961.

After a summer assignment at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Stamford, he was appointed to the faculty of the recently-established Notre Dame Catholic High School. He joined St. Joseph High School in Trumbull in 1966, and was a priest in residence at St. Catherine’s while working at both schools.

While on the staff of St. Joseph’s, he served as a teacher, guidance director, and chaplain. In 1972 he became coach of cross country, indoor, and outdoor track. For the next 10 years, he produced MBIAC and state championship teams. In 1976 he became principal of St. Joseph’s.

On February 15, 1986, he was named a Chaplain of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, with the title of Monsignor.

Msgr. Shea watched St. Catherine’s grow over the years. He was appointed pastor on July 1, 1991, and began a program of renewal for the parish’s physical plant. The church was renovated and both the Halloran Pastoral Center and the McClinch Family Center were constructed. The Family Center has proved an asset to the entire diocese.

The reception following the installation of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was held there, and the Family Center is currently hosting the General Sessions of the Fourth Diocesan Synod.

His years at St. Catherine’s were happy and fulfilling ones, and he is particularly pleased by the way the Family Center has proved to be an asset. “It has become not just something for our parish, but something valuable for the whole diocese.”

Father Joseph Marcello

Father Joseph Marcello, former priest-secretary to Archbishop William E. Lori and vice chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport, is St. Catherine’s new pastor.


He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Lori on May 17, 2003, at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull.

Father Marcello’s first assignment was as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Shelton. While at St. Joseph, he also served as assistant director of vocations. He retained that position when he became spiritual director of St. Joseph High School in Trumbull in 2005.

During his four years at St. Joe’s he resided in St. Catherine’s. In many ways it became his home parish. He was appointed priest-secretary to Bishop Lori in May 2009.

On a Pilgrimage to mark the Year for Priests, Msgr. Richard Shea (l), pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, joined Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York and Father Joseph Marcello in a visit to the village of Ars, France, to honor St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests. Msgr. Shea recently retired; Father Marcello is St. Catherine’s new pastor.

He assisted in Archbishop Lori’s transition to the Archdiocese of Baltimore, returning in 2014 as parochial vicar at St. Catherine.

“I am grateful to Bishop Caggiano for his confidence in me, in entrusting to me the pastoral care of the parishioners of St. Catherine of Siena as the fifth pastor of this beautiful parish,” he says. “St. Catherine’s has long held a special place in my heart, from the time I was a student at the school, where I first sensed God was calling me to the sacred priesthood. I pray that as I begin my time among the good people of the parish, we may together build upon all the good work which was begun here through the fine priestly ministry of Msgr. Edward Halloran, the founding pastor of the parish, and continued during the pastorate of Msgr. Richard Shea, to whom I owe such gratitude for his generous, paternal care of those in this beautiful area of our diocese.”

St. Patrick’s Day from page 8

Mass and throughout the day by the “Shamrocks” and their court. Mr. and Miss Shamrock are high school seniors chosen for their knowledge of family traditions, Irish history, their involvement in the community and their interests and activities.

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HARTFORD—“Don’t Jump” is the rallying cry of a new media campaign that has been launched to challenge proposed legislation that would make it legal for a doctor to prescribe medication to end someone’s life in Connecticut. The campaign’s message aims to urge state legislators and residents against rushing to a decision about physician-assisted suicide without knowing all the facts and weighing the options.

The campaign includes print, radio and digital advertising, as well as transit posters, and is sponsored by the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference. “Don’t Jump” is also supported by many healthcare and disability organizations, including the Connecticut State Medical Society, Connecticut Hospice, Second Thoughts, Not Dead Yet, and Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disability.

“Don’t Jump” also features a new website, www.DonJump.org, which provides the latest facts and figures about physician-assisted suicide and addresses the benefits of palliative care for people with serious illnesses. In addition, the site offers expert video testimony by medical professionals such as Dr. Joseph Andrews, chief medical officer for the Connecticut Hospice, and Dr. Michael Culhane, executive director of the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference. “We are compassionate and care deeply for the needs of patients and their families. We’re telling them that we want them to live out their final days in comfort—and with true compassion and dignity. We urge everyone, especially overwhelmed legislators, to approach this issue very carefully. Or, better yet, decide not to even pursue debate until more is understood about palliative care.”

Physician-assisted suicide occurs when a doctor writes a prescription for a patient who has a terminal illness and is told they have only six months or less to live. The patient then must have the prescription filled at a local pharmacy and self-administer the drug. A physician or health care professional cannot administer the drug, and patients must consume the medication themselves.

Currently, three states, Oregon (1994), Washington (2008) and Vermont (2013), have statutes providing for physician-assisted suicide. The goal of the “Don’t Jump” campaign is to educate the public about viable alternatives, including the ever-advancing practice of palliative care, which is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. Many people don’t fully understand that physician-assisted suicide is an irrational, often hastily-made decision. With viable alternatives, such as palliative care, people have options when confronted with a serious illness. Palliative care focuses on providing patients with relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness, as well as improving quality of life for both the patient and the family.

“Palliative care is a team approach to meeting the needs of a patient,” said Dr. Andrews. “The public should be assured that they can avoid suffering with palliative care. The ethics of it is that we will medicate to relieve your suffering and your pain; our aim here is to relieve discomfort and not to kill. We need to move for wider acceptance of palliative care because that is the answer. Good laws tend to encourage decent behavior. Physician-assisted suicide seems to go in the opposite direction.”

In 2013, Governor Dannel Malloy appointed Dr. Andrews to the Connecticut Palliative Care Advisory Council. This council was established by law (Public Act 13-55) to analyze the current state of palliative care in Connecticut and advise the Connecticut Department of Public Health on matters relating to the improvement of palliative care and the quality of life for persons with serious or chronic illnesses. The council will provide findings and recommendations concerning these matters to the commissioner of public health and committees of the legislature in 2015.

(For more info, contact Saverio Mancini at Cashman+Katz: 860.430.2210 or saverion@cashman-katz.com.)
By PAT HENNESSY

How can you define workplace spirituality? At St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport, the answer to that question is always a work in progress, founded on the core values of the Daughters of Charity but adjusting to the rhythms of the liturgical year, the needs of the staff and the connection to the surrounding community.

“When people come to St. Vincent’s, they’re looking for more than clinical excellence,” says Lucinda Ames, coordinator of Workplace Spirituality for St. Vincent’s. “They want to know, ‘Do they care about me as a human being?’”

Building a culture of caring is one of the aims of the Workplace Spirituality mission, which is founded on the values the Daughters of Charity brought to St. Vincent’s in 1903: Reverence, Creativity, Wisdom, Service to the Poor, Integrity and Dedication. Ames is the first lay person to hold the coordinator’s position since the Daughters of Charity concluded their service at St. Vincent’s and “passed the flame” officially in May of 2014.

She is uniquely qualified for her current position. Not only was she born in St. Vincent’s, she started working there as a Candy Stripper at age 14 and has maintained a close relationship with the Medical Center ever since.

Workplace Spirituality runs as part of Mission Services of St. Vincent’s. “Mission is one of our core elements,” explains Bill Hoey, director of Mission and Ethics. “Our values are lived out in every decision we make. It’s part and parcel of who we are as a full ministry of the Church.”

Workplace Spirituality functions to connect staff to the mission—to give them the opportunity to deepen their own spiritual life but also to connect them to the wider community St. Vincent’s serves. “I know the depth of generosity of our staff, and their dedication,” says Ames. “People here are faith-filled and mission-driven.”

She cites the full boxes of gifts collected for the poor during the Christmas season, the staff’s enthusiastic participation in free health screenings to the underserved at area soup kitchens and food pantries, and their willingness to talk to high school students during tours, which encourage teens to consider the possibility of healthcare as a vocation.

During the tours, students can clearly see the Catholic nature of St. Vincent’s, and the importance of the faith dimension is made even more clear in discussions. “It’s important to have a Catholic perspective presented to them,” says Hoey. “High school kids are fascinated when we introduce them to the ethical, moral and religious dimensions of health care.”

The Catholic presence is immediately obvious. The daily Mass schedule is posted in every elevator, along with the number for the chaplain’s office, and a broadcast of the Mass is available in every room. During Lent, the opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration is posted as well; a sign-up sheet in the chapel shows how much the staff appreciates the opportunity. Mission Services developed a prayer booklet, “Journey Through Lent With Saint Vincent,” to enhance the spiritual life of staff, patients and visitors.

Throughout the year, St. Vincent’s offers a number of activities to express and deepen the life of the spirit. In midsummer, an Interfaith Memorial Service to remember deceased loved ones is sponsored by SWIM Across the Sound. Before Thanksgiving, “Bread & Blessings,” with fresh-baked rolls and prayers offered by staff members in different languages, reminds them of their strong community of different backgrounds and faith traditions. The generosity flows both ways. Recently second-graders at Greens Farms Academy in Westport created individual teddy bears. Ames, who has been building stronger bonds with parishes, schools and organizations in the wider Bridgeport area, was present at a ceremony where students donated 80 bears to children in the Medical Center.

“When they’re nervous, we’ll have something we can give them,” says Cathy Marino, an E.R. technician, when Ames showed her the bears. “Then, maybe, they won’t be so scared if they have to come back.”

Listening, bringing people together, establishing relationships, giving them the opportunity to express and deepen their spiritual life—all these and so much more are part of Ames’ efforts. “Right now we’re hoping to create a little book of stories of the way staff have shown their care,” she says. “We have a security guard who shoveled a patient’s driveway. There’s no way that was part of his job. An aide brought a comfort cart of soda and cookies for kids who were here while a family member was dying. Staff members found a reliable car for a grandma who became caregiver for three young children when their mother had cancer.”

(A member of Ascension Health, St. Vincent’s Health Services includes the Medical Center, Hall-Brooks Behavioral Health Services, St. Vincent’s College, Special Needs Services and Urgent Care Walk-in Centers. For more information, go to www.stvincents.org.)
Diocesan News

Fairfield man to lead new diocesan real estate office

BRIDGEPORT—Andrew Schulz of Fairfield has been named real estate director of the Diocese of Bridgeport by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. The appointment was effective January 12.

“Andrew brings to the diocese a wealth of real estate knowledge and financial expertise, coming to us with more than 15 years of construction and property management and real estate development experience,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. “He will be tasked with the coordination of all real estate transactions as well as direct all facilities project work throughout the diocese.”

Schulz comes to the Catholic Center after serving as president of Schulz Development Group, Inc. He founded the company in 2002 to specialize in construction management, property management and general contracting for commercial and residential development, fit-outs and restorations.

The newly-created position oversees all rentals, lease renewals, and construction projects including the Queen of the Clergy expansion in Stamford and the proposed relocation of the St. John Fisher Seminary Residence to Trumbull.

Schulz will inventory all diocesan real estate holdings and create a comprehensive review of deferred maintenance needs. He will also be responsible for the creation or renewal of leases, proposed sale of diocesan real estate and management of assets within the diocese.

He will work with the bishop, Anne McCrorey, chief legal and real estate officer; Mike Hanlon, the CFO; the Real Estate Advisory Commission; and Sacred Arts and Building Commission to provide assistance with all parish-based real estate transactions.

In the past, Schulz has served as director of development for Blue Diamond Group Corp, New York, N.Y., where he managed property acquisition, planning, zoning, development and construction for the company, specializing in owner’s representation, construction management, and facilities. He has also served as senior associate managing partner of Wood Rich Building Group, Inc., in Ambler, Penn., and as senior associate at Landmark Development Inc. / The Loft, in New York.

He is a graduate of Baruch College, the City University of New York, where he earned a B.B.A. in finance. He is a licensed Connecticut realtor, licensed Pennsylvania realtor, Connecticut/New York/Pennsylvania home improvement contractor and salesperson, and a New York City construction superintendent.

He and his wife, Risa, and their children are members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Fairfield.

St. Vincent’s extends its wishes for a happy, healthy and holy Easter!
FAIRFIELD—The Seventh Annual Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice (CAPP) Educators’ Communion Breakfast will take place at Sacred Heart University on Sunday, March 22. The keynote speaker will be Mother Dolores Hart, O.S.B. This annual event is sponsored by CAPP and Sacred Heart University's Isabelle Farrington College of Education.

The Mass will take place at 9 am in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, followed by breakfast in the university commons. A tour of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit will be offered at 8:30 am, and a book signing, with copies of Hart’s book available to purchase, will take place at noon.

Mother Dolores is a Benedictine nun at the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Conn. During her seven-year career in film and on Broadway, she starred in 10 films, most notably opposite Elvis Presley in “Loving You” and “King Creole” and Stephen Boyd in “Lisa,” the story of a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp. She then took on Broadway, starring in “The Pleasure of His Company” in 1959, for which she won a Tony Award nomination for Best Featured Actress.

Her radical choice to enter a cloistered Abbey at the height of her career in 1963 at first shocked and then inspired those who admired her as an actress and as a public figure. In collaboration with actors such as Academy Award winner Patricia Neal, she founded The Gary-The Olivia Theater at the Abbey in 1982. Since 2001 she has been a voting member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She is the recipient of two honorary doctorates: in jurisprudence from Fairfield University and in fine arts from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

The HBO documentary film, “God is the Bigger Elvis,” about Mother Dolores’ life was nominated for a 2012 Academy Award in the Documentary Short category.

Her autobiography, The Ear of the Heart: An Actress’ Journey from Hollywood to Holy Vows, was released in 2013 and is now in its third printing. Since 1970, Mother Dolores has been the dean of Education at Regina Laudis.

During the breakfast, CAPP will honor Father William Sangiovanni as Educator of the Year. Sangiovanni, who served as SHU’s director of campus ministry from 1986-91, is in his 35th year at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield, currently in the role of president. His previous religious work experience includes serving as parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish in Bridgeport and in the ministry at the Bridgeport Correctional Facility for 12 years.

Father Sangiovanni has earned...
Mother Dolores Hart

McKinney’s director of field operations and campaigns from 1970-75, and from 1969-70 he was special assistant to the minority leader for the Connecticut General Assembly.

As founder of Appalachia Volunteers, Father Sangiovanni has done extensive service work in that region of the country. He has worked as a teacher and chaplain at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Frenchburg and served as a recruiter and association director of the Glenmary Lay Mission Program in Frenchburg. He has also lived and worked on a Sioux Indian Reservation in Pine Ridge, S.D., through the Holy Rosary Mission.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in history and a Master’s degree in education at Fairfield University prior to completing graduate studies in theology at Niagara University in New York. CAPP was founded in 1993 to encourage business people, academics and other professionals to study and promote Catholic social teaching. The Diocese of Bridgeport is one of three pioneering dioceses in the United States to establish a chapter.

(To register for the Communion Breakfast, call 203.396.8201 or go to www.sacredheart.edu/CAPP2015.)

We wish you a Happy Easter

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Wishing you and your families a Blessed and Happy Easter.

Wealth Management

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Not reasonable

“Resurrexit scut dixit—Alleluia!” proclaims the Easter hymn: “He is risen as he said!” The Apostles didn’t seem to have had the slightest clue that Jesus would rise from the dead. He was a charismatic preacher, a heal- er, a wonder-worker, but they fled from his during his darkest moment.

We haven’t changed all that much over the centuries. Jesus…yes, he was a good man. Follow his teachings and you will be a kinder, more compassionate person. Studies prove that church-goers have better mental health—as if faith were simply a prescription or set of guidelines for a good balanced life.

The Resurrection overturns all that. Christians aren’t set aside simply to be good and kindly people, important as that is—the Easter mystery offers us far greater life. We are called to believe that Jesus celebrates diocesan liturgies. We urge all parents to encourage their children to attend the audits that will be held throughout the diocese in the coming months.

At the close of the Third General Session of the Synod in February, Bishop Caggiano gave delegates some important and exciting home- work: find solutions to the five final challenges of the 2014 Synod.

One of the more exciting announcements in this issue (page 3) is the formation of a Diocesan Youth Choir. From his first day of lead- ing the diocese, Bishop Frank Caggiano has made reaching out to youth a priority of his ministry here. The Youth Choir will tap into their great energy and vitality, and will be a great gift to the entire diocese as it helps to revitalize music, particularly when the bishop celebrates diocesan liturgies. We urge all parents to encourage their children to attend the audits that will be held throughout the diocese in the coming months.

The Annual Catholic Appeal is underway! The name may have changed but the challenge is the same: it helps the Church to support the work of its various ministries and programs that serve so many individuals and families throughout the diocese. From the nearly 10,000 children in our schools to the poor and homeless served at Catholic Charities soup kitchens, the appeal makes it possible for the diocese to safeguard the vulnerable and build communities of faith. Special thanks go out to this year’s chair-couple, Julie and Rowan Taylor of New Canaan, for their energy, enthusiasm and leadership. This year’s appeal is off to a great start. You can help build momentum by making your contribution now. It is as easy as going online at www.2015ACAdiobpt.org.

Moving ahead...

Two great souls...

The diocese lost two great souls last week; one whose ministry took him to the national stage, the other who toiled quietly in the local vineyard. We said goodbye to Edward Cardinal Egan, third Bishop of Bridgeport, and Deacon Tim Sullivan, who in the final years of his life was both assistant chaplain and resident at St. Joseph Manor in Trumbull. Such is the great wheel of the Church that we are all mem- bers of the Mystical Body of Christ, and play our parts dependent on each other: it was Cardinal Egan who ordained Tim Sullivan to the permanent deaconate in 1994. Both men changed lives; Deacon Tim through his transformative suffering and desire to serve, and Cardinal Egan through his leadership, love for the Church and untold personal kindness. Their passing reminds of us how interconnected our lives are and of the deep bonds that unite us in faith. Both will be sorely missed.
Forgiveness and Heroism during Lent

A Dad’s View

By Matthew Hennessy

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

Lent is a time for preparation. I’ve always been bad at that. Waiting ain’t my thing.

Lent is a time for sacrifice. I’m bad at that, too. Self-denial ain’t my thing either.

But I read many writers who say, “No, self-denial isn’t the point. Lent’s a time for coming closer to God.”

I don’t know about you, but I’d love to have a closer relationship with God. The challenge for me is execution. Almsgiving, fasting, prayer—for me it feels like work. I can do it, but I need a little inspiration. This year I’m finding it in unlikely places.

The kids are learning about the Black Death—the plague pandemic that killed as many as 200 million Europeans from 1346-53. It’s not a pleasant topic. One fact jumps out: priests were especially hard-hit. The mortality rate for the general population during the Black Death was 30 percent. For priests, it was closer to 45 percent.

It’s not hard to see why. Priests heard deathbed confessions. They did a lot of anointing. Close contact with the sick almost always led to infection. Infection usually meant death. One plus one equals two.

Here in the twenty-first century, we can do the math. But in the Middle Ages, no one knew about the germ theory of disease. They presumed the plague was God’s punishment. They thought that if you got sick you’d probably done something to deserve it. The multitudes of priests getting sick and dying pointed to one conclusion—the Church was corrupt and her priests were sinful. No good deed goes unpunished, eh?

It was a bum rap. The priests of the Black Death were brave and selfless, going where no one wanted to go, doing what no one wanted to do. And dying for it.

That’s a small but useful bit of inspiration, via my kids’ history books. Keeping our Lenten promises may seem hard, but not nearly as hard as ministering to the doomed.

Most of the original apostles died as martyrs. I find that inspiring. It’s also the best evidence I can think of that Jesus was—and is—what he claimed to be. The apostles knew him. They experienced his ministry. They witnessed the passion and resurrection.

You wouldn’t give up your life for a maybe, would you? I wouldn’t.

The apostles weren’t the only ones to lay down their lives for Christ. St. Thomas Becket of Canterbury was murdered for refusing to play nice with political authorities. We could use some of that spirit today.

St. Maximilian Kolbe volunteered to take a condemned man’s place at Auschwitz. That’s not true. Open the newspaper. The world hasn’t changed much. Christians all across the Middle East are being slaughtered for their faith.

“What’s ISIS?” my daughter, Clara, asked my wife, Ursula, the other day. The best questions come out of the blue. Luckily, I married well. Ursula steered the conversation away from the death merchants of ISIS to the bigger picture.

All around the world, many thousands of people refuse, daily, to deny Christ even when doing so might help them avoid torture and death. Clara finds that inspiring. I pray she never faces that test. The fact is: We won’t all be martyrs. That’s not God’s plan. As St. Paul wrote in his First Letter to the Corinthians, however, we are called to be holy.

Most of us fall short on that as well. It’s okay. Even St. Peter denied Christ a time or three. Jesus forgave him nonetheless. Just like he forgives you and me when we struggle to live up to our Lenten promises.

Lent is a time for preparation. Prepare to be forgiven.

Kiros moments

Catholic by Grace

By Denise Bossert

Denise Bossert is a national Catholic writer and columnist.

The Greek words chronos and kairos always remind me of Frank Kermode’s book The Sense of an Ending—required reading for my M.A. comprehensive exams at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Not that I wrote anything profound that awful day. I received a B in my comprehensive exams though I had trended toward A’s throughout graduate school. I might have known that awful day. I received a B—required—a grade I would never accept for myself or anyone I care about.

There is something beautiful—and painful—in accepting the outcome of your own life. It’s not so easy to find examples. The few I can sketch are worth the effort.

The most one can hope for is for one’s spiritual director to affirm the call. It’s enough. A nod from him and a nod from grace—that’ll do.


It’s not that the miraculous is about to happen, just his holy will for you. And maybe that is miraculous, in the ways that healing and wholeness and deliverance and restoration are miraculous. Somehow, you know it. You begin to perceive it.

The words on the blank page are written in invisible ink—the kind of ink that fills God’s pen. And your spirit is the secret decoder that unlocks the hidden script. You see the words. And you begin to realize—so that’s what I’ve been called to do.

That’s where I am called to go. It’s been that all along.

“Okay, let’s do it. So be it, amen,” you say.

You drop your nets and walk away from what was to embrace what is to come.

It is the moment you are ready for God’s plan for you. Kairos.

Not tick-tock clock time. Not the hour of a particular day of a specific month of the year. Not chronos. This is Kairos.

A season. The season for changing. And now is the acceptable Kairos.

It’s Lent. Repent and believe the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Ground everything down with your own mortar and pestle. And offer that to Our Lord.

Yes, now is an acceptable time.
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Church of the Holy Spirit, Stamford
Holy Week 2015

MARCH 29 - PALM SUNDAY
Saturday 5:15 PM
Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

APRIL 2 - HOLY THURSDAY
7:30 PM - Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Adoration in the Chapel at the
Altar of Reposition until 10:00 PM

APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION
3:00 PM - Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
4:30 to 5:30 PM - Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

APRIL 19 - HOLY SATURDAY: THE EASTER VIGIL
8:00 PM - The Easter Vigil Mass
8:00 PM - The Easter Vigil Mass
7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
Adoration in the Chapel at the
Altar of Reposition until 10:00 PM

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
MARCH 29 - PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 5 - EASTER SUNDAY

Happy Easter!
K of C Museum

Exhibit looks at ministry and meds in Civil War

NEW HAVEN—The Knights of Columbus Museum marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War’s end with an exhibit profiling various military and civilian support figures during the four-year conflict (1861-1865).

“A Answering the Call” opens March 14 with a focus on religious ministry and medical care for soldiers, as well as a history of the 9th Connecticut, a volunteer infantry regiment whose members were predominantly of Irish ancestry, many of whom were from New Haven.

The show centers on wartime struggles and hardships as well as acts of bravery, charity and compassion in the midst of battle. Catholic soldiers and officers—Confederate and Union—are profiled, together with battlefield chaplains and religious Sisters who nursed the wounded in hospitals and prisons.

“Answering the Call” includes references to battles and military campaigns, with emphasis on conditions in military encampments and the aftermath of combat, such as medical care and the spiritual needs of the wounded and dying.

The exhibition is on view through September 20, and includes:

• A Civil War timeline
• Civil War uniform and swords
• More than 150 images, from period photography to modern artwork
• Interactive displays with biographies, monuments, battle stories and a quiz
• Letters from the battlefield
• A reproduction shelter tent and chapel

A series of complementary Civil War lectures and presentations are scheduled throughout the duration of the exhibition.

(The museum is located at 1 State Street in New Haven and is open from 10 am-5 pm daily with free admission and on-site parking. For more info, call 203.865.0400 or visit kofcmuseum.org.)

HOLY WEEK & EASTER GUIDE

SAINT MARY’S CHURCH

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Pastor: Fr. Greg J. Markey • Parochial Vicar: Fr. Richard G. Cipolla • In Residence: Fr. Paul N. Check, Director of Courage • Deacon Stephan Genovese • Choirmaster: David J. Hughes

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

March 15: The Fourth Sunday of Lent: Missa Cantate (Sheppard); Audi benigne Conditor (Dufay); organ music of Bach

Thursday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.: The Feast of St. Joseph: Missa Ego flos campi for double choir (Padilla); Veritas mea (Palestrina); Te Joseph celebrent (plainssong); organ music of Tournemire and Walther; with the Student Schola

March 22: Passion Sunday: Missa Aspice Domine (Morales); Inefflux ego (Byrd)

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.: The Feast of the Annunciation: Missa Salve Regina (Langlais); Ave Maria (Philips); Ave Regina caelorum for double choir (Victoria); organ music of Langlais; with the Student Schola

March 29: Palm Sunday: Missa Videte manus meas (Hugh Aston); Passio Domini Nostri Iesus Christi secundum Matthæum (Eton Choirbook); Improperium (Palestrina); O Jesu Christe (Jacquet de Berchem); Miserere

April 1: Tenebrae: The complete plainsong office of Matins & Lauds for Holy Thursday; Lamentations (Morales); Tenebrae responsories (Victoria); Miserere (Allegri); with the Student Schola

April 2: Maundy Thursday: Missa Pange lingua (Josquin); Domine, tu mihi lavas pedes? (Cardoso); Ubi caritas (Durallé); Ave verum corpus (Elgau); Pange lingua (Byrd); with all choirs of the parish

April 3: Good Friday: Passio Domini Nostri Iesus Christi secundum Joannem (Byrd); Crucifixas á 8 (Lotti); Ecce lignum / Crux fidelis (Williaent); Officium de Cruce (Compère); Salvator mundi (Blow)

April 4: The Solemn Easter Vigil: Missa pro Victoria for double choir (Victoria); Surrexit a mortuis (Widor); Regina caeli for double choir (Guerrero); Dam transisset Salutatum (Taverner); Pascha jucundissimum (Hughes); organ music of Widor; with all choirs of the parish

April 5: Easter Sunday: Missa Pascale (La Rue); Hoc dies (Léonin); Christus resurgens (Byrd); Congratulamini mihi omnes (Williaent); organ music of Bach and Widor

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

Confessions for Holy Week:
Monday: 11:30-12 noon
Tuesday: 11:30-12 noon, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Thursday: 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Friday: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Saturday: 3:00-4:30 p.m.

March 29: Palm Sunday
8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. (Solemn High Extraordinary Form) - Beginning with an outdoor procession
11:30 a.m.
1:15 p.m. (Spanish)

April 1: Spy Wednesday
8:00 a.m. Ordinary Form Mass
6:45 p.m. Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form – St. Luke’s Passion
( in the Chapel)

8:00 p.m. The Solemn Office of Tenebrae

April 2: Holy Thursday
7:00 p.m. Solemn High Extraordinary Form Mass of the Last Supper - followed by adoration until midnight
9:00 p.m. Stripping of the Altars/ “Visit to the Seven Churches”

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Tuesday 11-11:30am and 12:45-2pm | Thursday 12:45-2pm and 5:30-5:30pm
Located in Parish Center building behind Saint Mary Church | VISA/MC ACCEPTED
**Young Church: Convivio 2015**

‘The Power of One Day’

By WILL MERCIER

With the synod underway, 2015 is a landmark year in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Contributing to the uniqueness of this year, Convivio, the annual Catholic youth conference, was held on one day this year, rather than the three days it has been in the past.

Convivio took place on March 7 at Sacred Heart University. This year’s theme was “The Power of One Day.” As an extraordinary benefit, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was present with us for most of the day!

For those unfamiliar with Convivio, the day consists of many activities which aim to increase our relationship with the Lord. Inspirational talks are given throughout the day, which serves to reinforce the theme that one day can make a drastic difference. There are also sacramental opportunities throughout the weekend such as Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, and Mass with Bishop Caggiano.

The theme of Convivio especially resonates this year, for it reiterates the importance of what just one day can do. We are shown many times in the Bible, especially with the Apostles, that one day can have a major difference in a person’s life. Jesus called people away from their daily lives and told them to follow him. Because of this one day, their lives were completely changed. Convivio offers such a potential to change you. At Convivio, you encounter Christ many times throughout the day, perhaps most palpably during Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. Each encounter you have deepens your relationship with him.

Speaking from personal experience, I can greatly assure you that these encounters are lasting and they change you for the better. I have learned much from each of the two Convivios I have attended, and at each one I have encountered Christ in a unique way. I experienced this again. Convivio is only the beginning of opportunities you can partake in to expand your relationship with the Lord. There are extensions of Convivio such as the “Christmas Extravaganza,” a party for special needs children in our diocese. We were also introduced to the High School Apostles program. This leadership program allows youths to continue their service to the Lord by leading Confirmation Retreats throughout the diocese and meeting once a month to discuss and reflect on the faith.

As we are all aware, an incredible amount can happen in one day; one day can completely change your life. We allowed Convivio to be that day, and we all felt a deeper relationship with God by the time the day was over.

Convivio is a fun opportunity that allows Catholic youth to connect, make friends, and grow closer to Jesus. A person’s life can change in a matter of seconds; imagine all the opportunities for change this one day offered.

(Will Mercier, a member of St. Jude Parish in Monroe, attends St. Joseph High School.)

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707 Monroe Turnpike (Rt. 111) • Monroe Connecticut, 06468 • 203.261.6404
Lenten Reflection

‘Desire is quenched by desire’

By MSGR. CHRIS WALSH

What do we want this Lent? Maybe that is a better way of phrasing the fundamental question for Christian spirituality: what do we truly desire with all our heart? The Gospel says: “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be” (Lk. 12:34). Does our treasure lie in Jesus Christ, his love, and our mind of necessity must be drawn to some sort of affection. Carnal love is overcome by spiritual love; desire is quenched by desire (desiderium desiderio restitutus). The problem for most of us is not that our sinful desires are so blazon and out of control. We are not the greatest Scrooges or Machiavellis, Don Juans or Attila Huns who ever lived! No, the real problem is that our desire for God is so pale, our longing for what is really Good and Beautiful and True is so weak. And when we are attracted to good, beautiful and true things that God has made, we tend to love them in a way that is often self-centered, disordered and even destructive for them and for us.

This Lent I want to try Jerome’s solution. Normally, for example, if I decide to give up sweets and desserts for Lent, it is amazing how much I can find to replace them: gooey granola bars, 300-calorie Dunkin Donut muffins, and endless bags of Triscuits and Doritos! Maybe our mistake is that we need to focus more on increasing our spiritual desire. For example, I love when I can slip away in the middle of the afternoon to spend an hour in our parish Adoration Chapel before the Eucharist (every Tuesday and Friday from 1-7 pm); so why is it so seldom that I leave my rectory appointments and my text messages to go over and enjoy it? My priesthood has been renewed by the urgings of Pope Francis to “move from a pastoral ministry of mere conservation to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry” and by the example of some bold parishes to heed the recent popes’ calls to make a “new evangelization” the goal and the touchstone of all Church life. So why don’t I spend more of my effort going out to those who don’t truly know Jesus Christ and his holy Catholic Church?

“Desire is quenched by desire.” (Msgr. Chris Walsh is pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelton.)

HOLY WEEK

Saint Pius X Parish

Rev. Samuel Kachuba, Administrator; Rev. Robert Czepka, Parochial Vicar; Rev. Msgr. Ernest Esposito, Priest in Residence; Rev. Robert Crofut, Priest in Residence; Rev. Shawn W. Cutler, Parochial Vicar

PALM SUNDAY

Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction - March 29 – 6:30 pm
Followed by Solemn Compline at 7:30 pm. Chanted by Chamber Choir in candlelight, in Chapel

EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY – APRIL 2
Morning Prayer: 8:30 am in the Chapel; Mass of the Lord’s Supper: 7:30 pm in the Church
Adoration of the Eucharist until 11:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 3
Morning Prayer: 8:30 am in the Chapel;
The Lord’s Passion: 5:00 pm in the Church - Veneration of the Cross and reception of Eucharist are a part of this service;
Station of the Cross: 7:00 pm;
Tenebrae Service – Immediately after Stations - Holy Week Devotion dating back to the early Church.
Scriptural devotion characterized by the successive extinguishing of candles.

HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 4
Morning Prayer: 8:30 am in the Chapel; Blessing of Easter Food: 10:00 am in the Chapel
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 11:00 am to 12 noon and 2:00 to 4:00 pm

EASTER VIGIL MASS – APRIL 4 at 7:30 pm
The most important liturgical celebration of the Church’s year!

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 5 – MASS SCHEDULE
7:30 am; 9:00 am; 10:30 am and 12 noon
Additional 10:30 am and noon Mass will be offered in the Faith Center
Teixeira a hit at Shehan-McGivney fundraiser

By DON HARRISON

What does it take to become a successful switch-hitter in major league baseball?

For Mark Teixeira, growing up in a Baltimore suburb during the 1980s, it meant playing Wiffle ball in the backyard and taking countless swings from both sides of the plate until it was time for dinner.

“We were Oriole fans, and I would pretend to be Eddie Murray,” the New York Yankees first baseman told a gathering of several hundred at Sacred Heart University’s Edgerton Center for the Arts.

Teixeira was the guest of honor at a joint fundraiser for the Cardinal Shehan Center and the McGivney Center, both in Bridgeport. The Shehan center offers activities to address the educational and recreational needs of moderate and low-income families and young people, with emphasis on its outstanding sports program. The McGivney Community Center was founded to provide youngsters with an educational safe haven from the dangers of the streets by providing them with after-school and evening programs, as well as summer camp.

Teixeira was an amiable presence as he chatted with—and autographed baseballs and other memorabilia for—fans of all ages at the former SHU gym. Bobby Valentine, Sacred Heart’s director of athletics and former major league manager and player, joined Teixeira on stage to conduct a raffle. “I was drafted fifth by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1968 and got $65,000 to sign,” Valentine said with a wide grin. “Mark was the fifth pick and got $9 million. Things have changed a bit.”

The 6-foot-3, 220-pound Teixeira, soon to be 35, is one of the game’s premier power-hitting switch-hitters, having thumped 363 home runs across 11 seasons and a portion of another. He’s still well behind Hall-of-Famers Mickey Mantle (536) and the aforementioned Murray (504) on the career list of switch-hitters, but he could pass Chipper Jones (468) and current teammate Carlos Beltran (373). And he’s just three behind the retired Lance Berkman (366).

“God blessed me with the ability to play baseball,” Teixeira said. Raised a devout Catholic by his parents, John and Margy Teixeira, he attended Mount St. Joseph High School in Baltimore, where he excelled in baseball, basketball and soccer, and in the classroom as well. (“My uncle is a Catholic priest and is the chaplain at a prison in Baltimore,” he noted.)

The Boston Red Sox selected Teixeira in the 1998 free-agent draft, but he bypassed that option and elected to study and continue playing the game at Georgia Tech. “My goal as a kid was to play college baseball,” he said. That decision paid many dividends.

“I got to play in front of 4,000 fans at every Georgia Tech home game for three years. I played just one year in the minors, and so I didn’t have to go through the rigors of riding buses for three years,” he explained.

More importantly, at Georgia Tech he met Leigh Williams, the woman who would become his wife. “That’s why God sent me there,” he said. Mark and Leigh were married in 2002 and now live in Greenwich with their three young children.

As a Georgia Tech sophomore in 2000, Teixeira led the Atlantic Coast Conference in batting (.427), home runs (18) and several other categories, making him a near unanimous selection for the Dick Howser Award as the National College Player of the Year. He became one of just three ACC players to amass a lifetime batting average over .400.

CONFESSIONS
During Holy Week: Monday-Wednesday following the 7:00am and 12:10pm Daily Masses

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE
Tuesday, March 31 - 7:30pm

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 2
Morning Prayer - 8:00am
Confessions - 11:00am-12:00 noon
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:30pm
Passion of Our Lord - 3:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 3
Morning Prayer - 8:00am
Confessions - 11:00am-12:00 noon
Stations of the Cross - 12:00 noon
Passion of Our Lord - 3:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 4
Morning Prayer - 8:00am
Blessing of Food - 2:00pm in Church

EASTER VIGIL MASS
8:00pm (Fulfills Sunday obligation)

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES - APRIL 5
7:00am, 9:00am (Family Mass), 10:30am and 12:00 noon
SHELTON—Brothers Peter and Garrett Gintoli of Shelton, both graduates of Notre Dame High School in Fairfield, will participate in the 18th Winter Deaflympics to be held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, March 28-April 5. The competition will include teams from Canada, Finland, Russia, and USA. Peter and Garrett were selected after attending the American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA) Team tryouts, hosted by the Notre Dame hockey program.

Garrett was selected to the 2011 High Tatras, Slovakia U.S. Deaflympic Team as well as the 2009 Tatras, Slovakia U.S. Deaflympic Championship teams. Garrett made his first appearance at the 2013 World Championships. Both boys were born with Melnick-Fraser syndrome, which has caused a progressive moderate to severe hearing loss for which they wear bilateral hearing aids. To qualify for the games, an athlete must have a hearing loss of at least 55 dB in the “better ear.” Assistive devices, including hearing aids and cochlear implants are not allowed in competition, in order to assure that athletes are on an even playing field.

Player funding for the Deaflympics is provided by the American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association through private donations and support form the USA Hockey Foundation. Players are also asked to raise a significant portion of their expenses. (For online donations, go to www.AHIHA.org. For more info on the 18th Winter Deaflympics, visit www.2015deaflympics.org.)

Both boys were born with Melnick-Fraser syndrome, which has caused a progressive hearing loss.

The Cathedral Parish
170 Thompson Street, Bridgeport Connecticut - 203.368.6777
The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
Palm Sunday, March 29: Regular Sunday Mass schedule
Monday of Holy Week, March 30: Regular schedule
Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31: Regular schedule plus Confessions 7pm-9pm at St Augustine
Wednesday of Holy Week: 7am - St. Patrick
3pm - Chrsim Mass at St Augustine with Bishop Caggiano
No 12:10 Mass or Confessions
Holy Thursday: 8pm - Mass of the Lord’s Supper at St Augustine with Bishop Caggiano
Good Friday: Stations of Cross Procession 11am-12:30pm
Leaving from St Augustine and arriving at St Patrick
3pm - Liturgy of The Lord’s Passion - St. Patrick (English)
3pm - Liturgia de la Pasión del Señor - St Agustin (Español)
5:30pm - Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion - Saint Augustine (Vietnamese)
8pm - Tenebrae at St Augustine (English)

Holy Saturday: 8pm Easter Vigil Mass only - St Augustine with Bishop Caggiano
Easter Sunday: 8am - St Patrick; 9:30am St Augustine; 11am - St Augustine (Spanish)
12:30pm St Patrick; 2:30pm St Augustine (Vietnamese)

Please visit our website at www.thecathedralparish.org for our Regular Mass Schedule
30-Hour Famine

Teens bring attention to world hunger

By MICHAEL FALBO

Since 2004, teens from in and around the Norwalk area have gathered at Saint Philip Parish to participate in World Vision’s 30-Hour Famine. The teens fast to raise awareness and funds for children dying of hunger. The Famine started out in 2004 with 29 high school students who raised over $4,000, and has been growing steadily ever since. During the 2015 Famine, approximately 200 students participated. They have raised over $43,000—and still counting.

Many of the participants came from St. Philip, St. Thomas, St. Jerome, and St. Matthew in Norwalk, Holy Spirit and St. Cecilia in Stamford, and Assumption in Westport. In total, students from 17 different churches and 34 schools participated.

The Famine’s events kicked-off at 9 am with a 1-mile walk from Norwalk’s town green to St. Philip Church. We held banners bringing attention to the problem of world hunger with chants of “We walk for them!” and “What time is it? Famine time!”

Parishioners and parish visitors greeted the marchers warmly throughout the Norwalk area have gathered to help end world hunger. Famine participants wore special T-shirts as they roused the crowd at St. Philip’s in Norwalk.

The Famine’s events kicked-off at 9 am with a 1-mile walk from Norwalk’s town green to St. Philip Church. We held banners bringing attention to the problem of world hunger with chants of “We walk for them!” and “What time is it? Famine time!”

Throughout the day, a late night prayer vigil was held at St. Philip’s. The parish hosted its weekend; we need to make a commitment to serve to others throughout our lives.

“The ultimate lesson I learned by participating in the 30-Hour Famine is that we as a community must come together and assist those in need. Not just for a weekend; we need to make a commitment to serve to others throughout our lives.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am. Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8)

We used this Gospel passage to demonstrate that even though the Famine started out small in 2004, it has grown to amazing proportions and we have begun to move our own mountain, which is the problem of world hunger. During the vigil, as music played, we lit candles and passed them from person to person, reflecting on the idea that if we want things in the world to be better, it will be up to us to create change.

On Sunday morning at 10 am Mass, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano presided over the liturgy, where we broke our fast with the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The bishop, reiterating the theme of the Famine (30 Hours, 30 Days, 30 People), reminded us that our work is not done. He said that we should make a commitment from now until the next Famine to be in service for parts of 30 more days and positively impact the lives of 30 more people.

The ultimate lesson I learned by participating in the 30-Hour Famine is that we as a community must come together and assist those in need. Not just for a weekend; we need to make a commitment to serve to others throughout our lives.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am. Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8)

(Michael Falbo, a senior at Norwalk High School, is parishioner at St. Philip’s. The parish hosted its twelfth annual World Vision 30-Hour Famine on February 28-March 1.

To learn more about the 30-Hour Famine and how you can participate, volunteer or donate, go to stphilnorrwalk.weebly.com/30-hour-famine.)
Lenten Service

Compassion leads to action

By LIZ TAMARKIN

With temperatures so low this winter, it makes you cringe to think of waiting 10 minutes for the school bus, never mind spend great amounts of time outside as some of the homeless guests of the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport do. Middle school students from St. Theresa School in Trumbull put their compassion into action. During their recess they learned to use a sewing machine to create fleece necks for the guests of Merton House. A fleece neck is a tube form of scarf made out of doubled fleece that can extend up to cover the nose and ears and dips down to fill the zipper opening of a jacket. They are great protection against the cold and wind.

The students began by learning to control the sewing machine with paper, then moved on to the thick fleece. It was great to see student participation increase as they saw what classmates were working on.

What did the students do when the sewing machine had to go in for repairs? They picked up needles and thread. Instead of looking down at iPods and phones, they were chatting as they stitched the warm fabric. Every time a student completed a neck warmer, it was another victory as they added it to the box for Merton House.

In the end, the students completed 48 fleece neck warmers, which were delivered to the Merton Center, which plans to offer the fleece necks to guests who come and use their bathing program.

These students will never know the positive effect they had on the person who receives their gift, but they hope and pray that when that person received the fleece neck, they will know someone cares and that God is with them.

When teachers and staff empower Catholic school students who are showing compassion through acts of service, they help students learn that they can make a difference and encourage them to see the needs around them, to think about others and to seek Christ in those they encounter.

We look forward to seeing where St. Theresa students find Christ next.

When teachers and staff empower Catholic school students who are showing compassion through acts of service, they help students learn that they can make a difference and encourage them to see the needs around them, to think about others and to seek Christ in those they encounter.
Consecrated Life

Lent points us toward what really matters

BRIDGEPORT—“Don’t begin Lent without making a conscious choice toward conversion,” Bishop Frank Caggiano said to about 75 Catholic Center staff and guests who gathered for Ash Wednesday Mass in Queen of Saints Hall.

In his Ash Wednesday homily, the bishop said the Church asks three things of Catholics during Lent, “to spend our days in prayer, to perform acts of moral perfection, and to do works of charity,” in particular to serve those who are struggling in our midst.

“Love them in their struggles. Help them to remember they are not forgotten, and that they are lovable and they are loved,” the bishop said that ashes are reminders that no matter how much money, power, or glory that people accumulate, “it all ends up a pile of ashes.”

“During Lent we are asked to remember that what really matters is what really lasts—and that is the love and redemptive power of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, because it has eternal value.”

The bishop said that we wear ashes as a sign of our own failings because we often “put something else into the center of our lives other than Christ’s redeeming love.”

Describing Lent as a “40-day journey, the Church asks us to walk,” the bishop said it is a hopeful one because “Ashes lead to the empty tomb and the victory of love.”

Prior to the Mass, Father Charles Allen, S.J., special assistant to the president of Fairfield University, provided a Lenten reflection, “Rejoicing that we are a sinful people now saved by Christ.”

Referencing the statement of Pope Francis on “the globalization of indifference” Father Allen said that ashes remind us that we’re all sinners, and better able to reach out to those who are wounded and lost because of our own human frailties.

The employee retreat was planned by the Faith Formation Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport.
Catholic Charities of Northern Fairfield County

DANBURY—The Advisory Board of the Danbury office of Catholic Charities will now officially use the name Catholic Charities of Northern Fairfield County in its fund-raising and marketing efforts.

The announcement was made by Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities, and Susan LoPiccolo of Newtown, president of the Danbury Advisory Board. Barber said the Advisory Board will promote Catholic Charities under the Northern Fairfield County banner in order to better reflect the wide range of services that Catholic Charities provides in the greater Danbury area.

In addition to the city of Danbury, the agency serves Bethel, Brookfield, Ridgefield, New Fairfield, Sherman, and Newtown.

Catholic Charities programs serving Northern Fairfield County include counseling, behavioral health and family services offered in the Danbury office.

The agency also sponsors the Family Loan Program to help families purchase cars and rebuild their credit; the Morning Glory Breakfast Program to feed the hungry at Dorothy Day House of Hospitality; the Homeless Outreach Team that works with the homeless on the streets of Danbury; the Community Support Program (CSP) and Recovery Pathways (RP), which provide clients with psychiatric disabilities help with skill-building and social integration; and New Heights, a community-based psychosocial recovery program for adults with a mental illness.

Nancy Murphy of Newtown, a member of the Danbury Advisory Board and liaison to the Catholic Charities corporate board, said that the name change will help build support for Catholic Charities because many people aren’t aware of the many services it offers to the entire region. “People really don’t know all of the things we do. They are ready to support our work when they find out how far-reaching our services are,” she said. “Even if they don’t live in Danbury, they are surprised to learn how the programs of Catholic Charities touch so many aspects of life in the greater Danbury area.”

She said the name change will help to better educate people about what Catholic Charities does and the role it plays in reaching out to all families in Northern Fairfield County.

In addition to the Annual Catholic Appeal, the Advisory Board has been a major source of support for the programs in the greater Danbury area by sponsoring the annual celebrity breakfast and other events.

Murphy is chairing the upcoming 33rd Annual Spring Gala to be held at the Ridgewood Country Club on April 11, at 6:30 pm. The gala will feature a silent auction and raffle, followed by dinner and dancing to the music of the JK Band. (The main office of Catholic Charities of Northern Fairfield County is located at 405 Main St. in Danbury. It also provides services at 13 Spring St., Danbury, 24 Grassy Plain St., Bethel, and at 64 West St., Danbury. For more info, call 203.743.4412.)

Ernie to do an encore for Catholic Charities

DARIEN—Fox 5 News Anchor Ernie Anastos will be the featured speaker at the New Covenant House of Hospitality celebrity breakfast set for April 16, from 7:30-9:30 am at the Woodway Country Club in Darien.

The soup kitchen, sponsored by Catholic Charities, provides more than 700,000 meals each year to the working poor, homeless and others at risk of hunger in the greater Stamford area.

“We’re delighted that Ernie Anastos will be returning to the celebrity breakfast podium in support of New Covenant House of Hospitality. His appearance last Fall in Danbury was a tremendous success for Catholic Charities of Northern Fairfield County. We welcome his great sense of humor, positive thinking and continued support of our work on behalf of the poor,” said Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities.

Proceeds from the breakfast go toward the NCH capital campaign, which is funding the move of the Stamford soup kitchen to a new, larger and more modern site across from its present location. The new “New” Covenant House will encompass 8,000 square feet of space at 174 Richmond Hill, a major expansion from its current 2,000 square foot location. Barber said the NCH move will enable it to provide fresh fruits and vegetables, along with services such as volunteer barbers and hairdressers, personal hygiene products, minor medical procedures and shower facilities that could not be offered at the present site.

Ernie Anastos is a distinguished and popular anchor for the FOX flagship station WNYW-TV in New York. He is also the creator and host of “Positively Ernie,” an upbeat program that presents people who help make our world a better place.

Anastos gained national experience as a news anchor and substitute host for ABC’s Good Morning America and the CBS Morning News. He covered the major stories that shaped the last three decades and interviewed top world leaders.

A member of the New York State Broadcaster’s Hall of Fame, Anastos has won more than 30 Emmy awards and nominations. He is also the first New York TV anchor to receive the coveted “Lifetime Emmy Award,” the highest honor given for accomplishments in the television industry. The New York Times described Anastos as the “ubiquitous anchorman” who has captured the love and respect of New Yorkers.

As a seasoned anchor, Anastos has covered major stories in the New York area comprised of live coverage of breaking news, political conventions and special events. On September 11th, he anchored award-winning news coverage of the World Trade Center attacks.

Recently, Catholic Charities announced the appointment of John R. Gutman as Executive Director of New Covenant House.

(To register for the event go to: www.ncchcelebritybreakfast.eventbrite.com or call Betsy Lopez at New Covenant House: 203.964.8228.)
OBITUARY

Deacon Tim Sullivan, courageous and cheerful

BRIDGEPORT—Deacon Timothy Sullivan died on March 1 in St. Vincent’s Medical Center after a courageous fight with the sufferings and pains of a long illness.

Close friends are remembering him as a man with an elfin presence and of profound faith, whose deep commitment to social justice and fairness was balanced by an equally ingrained sense of humor and acceptance.

“Tim and I go back to his high school days and my pre-high school days,” says his good friend Deacon Don Ross, who gave the homily at his funeral Mass.

“Deacon Sullivan was in formation as a brother for the Maryknoll Fathers. He had hopes of becoming a missionary priest but the progression of a debilitating condition stood in the way of fulfilling his dream. Fluent in Spanish and a member of the National Board of Certified Counselors, he became a counselor for Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center in Stamford.

He was ordained to the deaconate at St. Augustine Cathedral on June 11, 1994 by the Bishop Edward M. Egan. He served first as deacon at Saint Augustine, his home parish, then at Saint Stephen Parish, Trumbull, where he also served as director of religious education (DRE).

Deacon Tim also served on the faculty of Notre Dame High School in Fairfield. He became director of the Propagation of the Faith from 2005-07.

Tim was the first deacon to arrive at continuing education events. He liked to keep up his connections with his ordained brethren. He was cheerful and uncomplaining as his physical health deteriorated. He was devoted assistant chaplain to the residents at Saint Joseph Manor, where he also resided.

Tim gave witness to Christ’s passion in his own afflicted body to all who knew him.

“He was an intellectual, a scholar, and he was an example of a person who used his suffering to the very best purpose. There was a deep spirituality that people immediately recognized; there was a magnetism about him,” Deacon Ross says. At the same time, “He had a great, dry sense of humor, with an elfish twinkle lurking in his eye. That’s the Irish thing, you know.”

His wake was held at St. Augustine on March 7 at 9 am. The Mass of Christian Burial followed at 10 am. Msgr. William Scheyd, vicar general for the Diocese of Bridgeport, was the principal celebrant. Deacon Ross was the homilist. Burial followed at St. James Cemetery in Naugatuck.

Deacon Sullivan is survived by his brother, Patrick Sullivan, of New Britain and sister, Mary Pretti, of Collinsville, Conn. His cousin, Father Edward McAuley, is pastor of St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Stamford.

Deacon Sullivan worked the switchboard. I’ll never forget that day.”

Years later, the two were classmates in the same deacon formation class. “There is no such thing as coincidence,” Deacon Ross believes. Deacon Sullivan became the Confirmation godparent to two of the Ross children, and a permanent part of their family life.

“He is the epitome of what a deacon is and what a deacon should be,” says Deacon Ross. Timothy Sullivan was born in Bridgeport on April 1, 1948. He held degrees at Sacred Heart University and Fairfield University, where he earned an MA in both counseling and theology.

“Tim and I go back to his high school days and my pre-high school days,” says his good friend Deacon Don Ross, who gave the homily at his funeral Mass. The two boys met at Fairfield University—but not in a classroom setting. “I was delivering the mail. One day I went up to Bellarmine Hall, and Tim was working the switchboard. I’ll never forget that day.”

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**DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT: MARCH 15—APRIL 18**

**MARCH**

15 Msgr. Francis J. Sugrue.................................1977
Msgr. Edward G. Zibell.................................1978
Rev. William J. Galya................................1994
17 Rev. Daniel F. Golden.................................1955
Msgr. John F. Murcko.................................1975
Msgr. Francis X. McGuire............................1993
18 Msgr. Donald M. Paolucci.........................1990
Rev. John Fay...........................................2006
19 Rev. Bartholomew J. O’Shea......................1959
20 Msgr. Francis A. Campagnone..................2003
24 Rev. Jon C. Bokron................................1993
27 Rev. Bertrand E. Parent.............................1973
30 Msgr. Patrick F. Donnelly.......................1993

**APRIL**

2 Rev. Richard R. Dunn.................................1999
3 Rev. Francis C. Metro.................................1957
4 Rev. David W. Howell.................................2013
Msgr. John F. Jazowski..............................2010
5 Rev. Hugh F. Gallagher.............................1980
7 Rev. Stephen E. Opra.................................1992
8 Rev. Joseph V. Kazlauskas.........................1968
Rev. Edward M. Horan...............................1978
13 Msgr. Henry M. Callahan.........................1956
14 Rev. Walter J. McCarthy...........................1968
Rev. William J. Fletcher...............................1988
Msgr. Edward D. Halloran.........................2001
16 Rev. Edwin F. Agonis, O.F.M.Conv.............1998
18 Rev. John E. Hanning...............................1959

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Lenten News

Rite of Election a ‘life changing’ experience

TRUMBULL—On the first Sunday of Lent, February 22, parishes across the world celebrated the Rite of Sending for those in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process. This global observance symbolizes the universality of the Catholic Church.

At the parish level, the desire for full communion in the Catholic Church is celebrated and recognized. The local community has the opportunity to express its approval of the catechumens and candidates and send them forth to the Rite of Election, assuring them of their care, support, and prayers.

The Rite of Election (for the catechumens) and the Call to Continuing Conversion (for candidates) was celebrated in Saint Theresa Church, Trumbull. Twenty-seven parishes participated in this rite, with one hundred catechumens and over 130 candidates. Msgr. William Scheyd, vicar general for the Diocese of Bridgeport, presided over the ceremony, held within the context of the Liturgy of the Word.

Michelle Ballard, an Elect from St. Joseph Parish, Brookfield, said that, “Sunday’s ceremony was a life changing experience in my journey within the Catholic faith; I have been learning and embracing the Word and principles of God.”

Her RCIA instructor has been supportive, which has allowed her to embrace, grow, and become the Elect that she is. Her godmother has also been a model and she is most grateful for her in her life.

It is an honor and privilege for Michelle O’Mara to be a godparent for Matthew Ceperly from Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Norwalk. As godparent, Michelle promises to pray for him, encourage, support, and teach him God’s loving mercy and goodness. She also promises to be a good and true Catholic witness. Michelle hopes to guide him on this pilgrimage so that he can take his place within the Church, sharing his gifts and talents as an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ.

For more info on RCIA and adult formation within the diocese, contact Gina Donnarummo: 230.416.1446 or gdonnarummo@diobpt.org.

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Standing up for God in a secular society

Swimming Upstream
By Joe Pisani

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

The commuter train out of Grand Central Terminal was short two cars, so people were packed in the seats, shoulder-to-shoulder. It was the perfect end to another perfect day in Manhattan. Nevertheless, everyone was relieved to be on board and going home, so they could put their heads on the pillow and get up and do it all over again.

In the silence before the train started to pull out of the station, someone sneezed and then sneezed again. A fellow who was reading his Kindle, instinctively said, “God bless you ...” But then, his voice trailed off, as if he suddenly realized he’d done something socially questionable by mentioning God in unfamiliar company—by mentioning God in a fiercely secular society where religion is routinely attacked on editorial pages and in university classrooms. There was no “thank you.”

Times have changed. In the past, mentioning God was perfectly natural for men and women of faith. Now, you never know what’ll happen. Crazy as it seems, the only people who enjoy so-called “freedom of expression” are the ones who insult religion.

This fellow realized he had committed ... a politically incorrect faux pas by “God blessing” someone, which could have led to an altercation if the person sneezing was an atheist.

Like most of us, he’d probably been raised in a family where you were taught to say, “God bless you” to someone who sneezed, but we live in strange times when it’s more socially acceptable to use four-letter words than to say the name of God or Jesus reverently.

And there’s certainly no shortage of people who use God’s name irreverently. Remember the Second Commandment, which we learned in catechism, “Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain”? It was number two out of ten, so that must say something about its importance.

However, in the entertainment industry, on city streets, in the workplace and in casual conversation, the only time people utter the name of God and the name of Jesus freely and forcefully is when they’re cursing. How tragic is that?

St. Paul had a different view. He told the Philippians that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

What has changed so much in a few decades? For one thing, atheists have become more aggressive, and they resent any public reference to God in social gatherings, in the classroom, at Christmas, in speeches, in the Pledge of Allegiance, in political gatherings and on playing fields. But our hesitation to say “Jesus” and “God” in public is more than just catering to the whims and demands of a misguided few.

We feel uncomfortable in mixed company because God has become controversial in our secular society. Professors are disciplined if they profess orthodox Christian beliefs, students in public schools have their Bibles confiscated, and the athletes who invoke God are ridiculed or treated as embarrassments. Look at the field day the media had with Tim Tebow and his professions of faith.

Boston College professor and author Peter Kreeft claims that the name of Jesus in particular makes people uncomfortable. He says, “Test it in any secular company. The name Jesus will fall with a thud, and produce sudden silences and embarrassment. You not only hear the embarrassment, you can feel it. The temperature drops. Or rises. It never stays the same.”

Nowadays, there’s a lot of anger against organized religion, especially against Catholics, because our beliefs conflict with the prevailing social agenda, which supports abortion, assisted suicide, pornography, the hooking up culture and every other form of acceptable vice.

But it’s time to bring our faith back into the public square in big ways and in small, whether it’s one

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 33
and religious medals, holy water Angelus. It was a world of statues autographs), votive candles, the es (I collected indulgences like plenary and partial indulgenc-

I grew up in a world of scapulars, first-and-second class relics, very soil in which I was planted. by Catholic culture. It was the vision. My life remains grounded of reality, a distinctive Catholic continue to have a Catholic sense of Die with the time I glowed health, with the time I glowed with future promise and dreams were bright and only beginning, the time of uncomplicated faith. But the devotional world I grew up in, by and large, has disappeared. The Church of my youth is gone. Some try to restore that Church, make a determined effort to go backward. But an histor-

tical epoch has come to an end. There are leftovers from this van-

ished era, but there is a new era and a new spirit, for the better. I do not believe in the same way I believed as a youth. But I con-

tinue to have a Catholic sense of reality, a distinctive Catholic vision. My life remains grounded in Catholicism.

The faith gives me a bigger life to live, a larger world. It opened for me a world of great depth and beauty, a world of intellectual vigor. Alec Guinness, speaking of the Catholic Church, said, “We collect more bizarre followers of Christ than many.” True. But I enjoy being with Catholic people. When I am with them, I have the sense that this is my country. I speak its language. I am at home. I enjoy being among other Catholics. They generally have a sense of humor about themselves. There is a Catholic zest for life.

It is not difficult to find people who describe themselves as “recovering Catholics.” Friends from Catholic high school slipped out of Catholicism like an old, unwanted sweater. The attrition has been enormous. But the faith has been my anchor in life. It has brought me an equanimity and confidence. I have received so much comfort from my faith throughout my life. And the Catholic faith is a good religion to die in.

P.S. Speaking of things Catholic, a recent experience assured me that, although the Sisters left, St. Vincent’s Medical Center maintains its Catholic atmosphere. I had a medical procedure performed by Dr. Lawrence Muldoon and his team. Dr. Muldoon is a doctor of assured competence who combines with an unfailing gentle kindness and humor. His co-workers and nurses also reflect those traits. They were all unfail-

ingly kind, wonderfully consid-

erate, and effortlessly forbearing and obling. This extended to the older gentleman volunteer. St. Vincent’s hospital is a most hos-

pitable place.
The 2015 Henri J. M. Nouwen Lecture on Contemporary Spirituality

SPirituality & Art
EMILY CARR AND VAN GOGH

Stephanie McKenzie, Ph.D.
Poet, Editor, Professor
Grenfell Campus, Memorial University
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March 18 at 7:30 p.m.
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(Refreshments following)

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