



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

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Bishop Receives National Award

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—The Conference for Pastoral Planning and Council Development (CPPCD) recognized Bishop Frank J. Caggiano with its 2015 Lumen Gentium Award in recognition of his distinguished pastoral leadership in the utilization of planning and broad consultative processes. The award honors him for calling the 4th Synod of the Diocese of Bridgeport, as well as the school and parish strategic processes utilized during his time as vicar general in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

As the award letter from Terry Ginther, chair of the Board of Directors of CPPCD stated, “You have been chosen to receive this award because of your tireless commitment to engaging the People of God in broad consultative processes in order to respond to changing needs. You have inspired many people by your approach to the challenges of our day, and called them to a deeper communion.”

Bishop Caggiano was unable to receive the award personally during the CPPCD’s annual meeting in San Antonio. Patrick Turner, deputy synod director, accepted the award and delivered remarks on behalf of the bishop.

In the remarks, Bishop Caggiano thanked the CPPCD for this honor, acknowledged that much has changed within our world and within the Church

and talked about his decision to call for a Diocesan Synod to respond to the challenges facing the Church in Fairfield County by saying, “Our world, and our Church, is changing. 50 years after the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council, we may look back at how far we have come, but also look ahead and see how much farther we have to go to truly live up to the vision and the spirit of the Council.

“The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, calls each and every one of us, whether clergy, religious, or laity to recognize our complementary ecclesial roles to bring the presence of Jesus into the world. While our service within the Church is unique and diverse, yet we are also called to collaborate with each other in ever more fruitful and healthy ways. We must seek to unleash the potential that each of us has to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth.

“Our people are thirsting for a roadmap that will not just lead their parish or diocese to become a more vibrant community but will lead them as individuals to a closer, deeper relationship with Jesus Christ himself.”

The Conference for Pastoral Planning and Council Development is a national organization that promotes and advocates consultative processes that foster effective planning for the pastoral life of the Church. ■



Synod Pilgrimage Preview

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and as many as 3,000 faithful will embark on a memorable pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, October 24.

On that day, the Diocese of

Pilgrimage coordinator Gina Donnarummo, director of adult formation for the Diocese of Bridgeport, says it will be a long day and a rewarding one. Buses will leave from most parishes around 4 am and return from Washington at 10 pm.

“We’re inviting the faithful to be part of this unforgettable

and become even more connected with your faith.

“A pilgrimage takes strength, courage and interest, and it is important to take your memories and experiences with you in order to continue, even after your pilgrimage has ended, to live a Christian life and stand firm in your faith,”



Bridgeport will be consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Bishop Caggiano as a concluding event to Synod 2014, “Building a Bridge to the Future.”

Over 350 clergy, religious and laity under the leadership and guidance of Bishop Caggiano have been working diligently the past year on the synod to help the diocese create a roadmap to strengthen the family of faith.

experience at the largest church in North America. Our pilgrimage will include a recital, prayer, Adoration, reflection by Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR, and Mass with Bishop Caggiano,” she said.

What exactly does it mean to make a pilgrimage? A pilgrimage is a journey whose purpose is to honor God. The actual word, “pilgrim” comes from the Latin term *peregrinum*, which means to wander over a distance. A pilgrimage is not aimless wandering, but a journey to grow deeper in

said Donnarummo.

Departure locations will be arranged throughout the diocese, and more can be added as needed. The cost is \$70 per person, which includes transportation and box dinner. The Shrine cafeteria will be open to purchase lunch.

(Register at rallybus.net/post-synodpilgrimage or call Rally Bus at 855.725.5928. For more info, contact Gina Donnarummo: pilgrimage@diobpt.org or 203.416.1446.) ■

ON THE COVER

SISTER ANGELA GERTSEMA, ASCJ, who teaches at the St. Raphael campus of the Cathedral Academy, shares a moment with two of her students, during the recent “Mass Mob” celebration at St. Patrick Church in Bridgeport. More than 400 people, most of them young, visited the Cathedral Parish as part of their commitment to attend Mass in every parish throughout the diocese. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

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Local News

Father Carl McIntosh to be ordained in June

On June 27, at 11 am in St. Augustine Cathedral, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will ordain Carl Dennis McIntosh to the priesthood for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

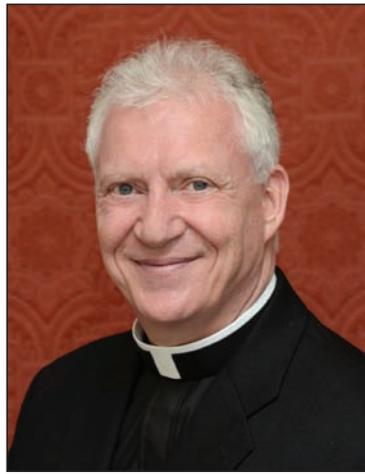
"Carl has the distinction of being, at 64, the oldest man ordained to the priesthood in the United States this year," said Father Sam Kachuba, vocation director for the Diocese of Bridgeport. "While he is not your typical newly-ordained priest in terms of age, he brings to priestly ministry a youthful spirit and the same zeal and excitement for the Gospel you might see in any man finishing seminary formation. Carl's experience serving our country in the Army and his work experience in a variety of fields will serve him well as he begins his priestly ministry."

A late vocation, Carl McIntosh grew up in New York City. His mother Cecile, brother Neil and sister Anne are deceased. His father, Leonard, is a parishioner at St. John the Martyr Parish in Manhattan. His sister Joan lives in Brooklyn.

"My father is still going strong," said McIntosh. "He'll be 94 by the time of my ordination, and he'll be there 'with bells on.'"

He graduated from Fordham Prep in the Bronx and Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., with a degree in music. After several years of freelancing as a word processing operator in Manhattan, he enlisted in the U.S. Army band program as a piano player.

After attending the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the



CARL DENNIS MCINTOSH

College of William and Mary, he worked as a legal secretary for several of the top attorneys in New York City, including former mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

He had been struggling with a possible vocation to the priesthood since he was an altar boy in grammar school, but the timing was never quite right and things never seemed to work out. A pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City bore fruit, and he entered the program at St. John Fisher.

He has held summer assignments throughout the diocese, at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Stamford, St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton—which he now considers his home parish—St. Stephen Parish in Trumbull and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Norwalk. He was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Caggiano on June 14, 2014, and completed his theological studies at Mount St. Mary's this May.

"As the oldest seminarian in the country to be ordained this year, the thing I feel most qualified to comment on as I approach ordination is time," he said. "God gives each of us a certain amount of time to live upon this earth, and it's up to each one of us to choose how we're going to spend it. We can choose to strive or to settle, to press on or to retreat, to make the best of it or to make the worst of it. It is my sincere prayer for each of God's people in the diocese that you choose to make the best of it as you travel along whatever path he chooses to lead you."

Father McIntosh will celebrate his first Mass at St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton at 11:30 am on June 28. Father Michael Jones, pastor of St. Lawrence, will give the homily.

Fifth General Session reveals shape of future

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano introduced dramatic new proposals, including calls for a Catholic Service Corps, the creation of a Leadership Institute and the formation of a new diocesan council to empower laity at the Fifth General Session of Synod 2014, held May 9 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Center in Trumbull.

In the most dynamic and detailed general session of the synod to date, the bishop and synod leaders laid out specific plans and initiatives for reform and renewal in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Speaking to more than 300 delegates in the first major presentation of the morning session, the bishop set the pace for a fast-paced and intense day in which he outlined his plans for programs that empower youth, reach out to divorced and separated Catholics, recognize the cultural and ethnic diversity of the diocese and support priests in spiritual and personal growth and formation.

Before recommending specific programs for the consideration of synod delegates, the bishop outlined six global initiatives to support all final recommendations produced by the synod: the



DELEGATES FROM PARISHES throughout the diocese convened for the May 9 session of 2014 Synod at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Center in Trumbull. They were given a preview of the bishop's major proposals for renewal of the diocese in the coming years. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

creation of a permanent strategic planning commission to guide renewal and reform of the diocese; development of a comprehensive pastoral planning process for parishes and diocesan institutions; a Catholic Service Corps; a Diocesan Leadership Institute; a consultation with priests leading to a presbyteral assembly in the winter of 2016; and the formation of two new leadership councils, one for religious and a pastoral council for laity.

The bishop's presentation was followed by reports from synod study group members on best

practice models and solutions to the challenges identified in earlier sessions. During the feedback and discussion periods, delegates endorsed the proposals and made suggestions through a volley of emails, tweets, and comments made over the microphone.

Father Thomas Thorne, pastor of Assumption Parish in Westport, said that the Mass remains the center of Catholic life but that parishes must learn to become more welcoming and inviting.

Among the recommendations of the Liturgy Study Group

were the re-establishing of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and the need to "reflect and celebrate ethnic and cultural differences in the worship life of the Church and all diocesan events," Father Thorne said.

Al Barber, president and CEO of Catholic Charities delivered the report on Family Life, which recommended a unified mission

statement for parishes, the renewal of baptismal preparation, the creation of a diocesan website and social media campaign to support parents and families and the development of a parish volunteer corps to reach out to elderly and needy parishioners.

In response to Barber's presentation, the bishop called for

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Synod goes 'live' on social media

The energy and excitement of the day was reflected in social media. Led by diocesan social media leader John Grosso, Father Sam Kachuba, Sister Mary Grace Walsh, Deacon John DiTaranto, and seminarian Chris Ford, diocesan social media contributed to extensive live coverage of the event.

Each person live-tweeted the synod session from their respective perspective, a practice that caught on with synod delegates as well. The group participated in two quick "rapid reaction" videos that were quickly posted on facebook and twitter, as well as taking various selfies and pictures. Even Bishop Caggiano got in on the action, tweeting and taking a few quick pictures during a break. When asked about the day, Father Sam smiled: "It's one more way we can get the message of the Gospel out there, and its kind of fun!"

You can follow our diocesan social media team:

@Dobevents — Diocese of Bridgeport

@2014Synod — Synod

@BishopCaggiano — Bishop Caggiano

@Deacon_John_D — Deacon John DiTaranto

@BPTVocations — Father Sam Kachuba

@DOBSUP — Sister Mary Grace Walsh

Annual Catholic Appeal

St. John Fisher: Part of the Future

By **JULIE TAYLOR**

There is a fountain of youth in Stamford.

I glanced around the dining room at St. John Fisher Seminary one evening a few weeks ago and I wondered how it was possible that all twelve seminarians could be fresh out of high school. I asked Father Bob Kinnally, the seminary rector, what the age range was for these young men and was astounded to learn that, in fact, the oldest seminarian was 32. Really, these men look so young, how is that possible? I asked them why and one seminarian replied that maybe it was because they are just so happy there.

I was privileged to attend evening prayer and Mass with the seminarians and Father Bob and Father Sam Kachuba. A smiling

Dan Tome, one of the seminarians clearly drinking from the fountain of youth and my host for the evening, met me at the front door to lead me to the chapel. I was sure Dan was about the same age as our oldest daughter until he revealed he left his teaching career behind to enter the seminary.

The depth of faith and commitment in these young men is truly impressive. While I was honored to hear several different stories concerning decisions to heed God's call to the priesthood, they all had a common thread—a deep feeling of peace once the decision was made.

Our diocese is, indeed, blessed to have St. John Fisher, where young men can follow their calling under the guidance of accomplished and vibrant priests. The rapport amongst the seminarians and Father Bob and Father Sam

is a dynamic one. At times I felt like I was in the dining room in someone's home, and at other times it was just like being in the headmaster's home at our daughters' boarding school. There was clearly a comfortable and easy trust and camaraderie but also respect and reverence for the people in charge.

The conversation around the dinner table flowed easily with good-natured ribbing just as it would among siblings; they all seemed comfortable with each other. And when talk turned to stories of personal callings, the atmosphere calmed to respect.

Not only are the seminarians of St. John Fisher dedicated and devout, they also are faithful and grateful. I was humbled by their pointed efforts to say "thank you" for supporting them, not only financially but with our

prayers. When I asked how they are received in parishes, they responded that they are often told that people pray for them. They are so touched that people take the time to think of them.

During my visit to St. John Fisher I saw the Annual Catholic Appeal in action. These seminarians are the future of our Church. Rowan and I have four daughters ages 4 to 20 and we see the challenges facing them in our society. Popular culture does not encourage organized religion. We have raised our children to value their faith but without priests, where will our girls go to Mass? The young men at St. John Fisher are part of the future, and I hope you will support them with your donations to the ACA and with your prayers for their vocations.

And, parents, if you want your sons to live long lives, there is a



JULIE TAYLOR

fountain of youth in Stamford . . .
(Julie Taylor and her husband, Rowan, are the lay chair couple for the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal. For more info on St. John Fisher Seminary, go to www.bridgeportvocations.org/firsher-seminary.)



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For more information please email: 2015ACA@diobpt.org or call: 203-416-1470.

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Annual Catholic Appeal

Young donors get a chance to meet

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Laughter, a spirit of generosity and shared goals filled the night at the recent Annual Catholic Appeal reception hosted by Julie and Rowan Taylor at their New Canaan home.

The evening had a youthful energy because the Taylors invited young donors along with diocesan leaders to the get-together. It was an evening to say, "Thank you," and to educate people about the importance of the appeal.

More than 85 people turned out for the reception and dinner, held under a large white tent at the Taylor residence. Draped greenery and fresh fruit made the tables festive and spring-like, and leftovers were donated to the Merton Center in Bridgeport.

During the evening, guests were warmly welcomed by Julie and Rowan, who are serving as chair couple of this year's appeal, and were treated to brief remarks from Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. The gathering also enjoyed a screening of the Annual Catholic Appeal video, "Building Communities of Faith."

William McLean, chief development officer of the diocese, said that everyone mixed a very enjoyable time and a serious message about the importance of the appeal, which funds the many diocesan ministries and services now at work throughout Fairfield County.

"In addition to their personal generosity and leadership gift, the



A YOUNG EVENING—Julie Taylor, chair of this year's Annual Catholic Appeal, meets with Bishop Frank Caggiano and Alex Azer at a reception she and her husband, Rowan Taylor, hosted for young donors at their home in Darien. More than 85 people turned out for the reception and dinner.

Taylors have inspired many others to give. They have attended and spoken at many receptions throughout the diocese and have enthusiastically promoted the appeal as a resource that serves so many people in our midst," said McLean.

Pam Rittman, director of the

Annual Appeal, said the reception was a gift from the Taylors, who recognize the importance of reaching out to younger families in building support for the Church.

"The Taylors believe strongly that many young people need to know about the good works

new Bishop's Scholarship Fund are important initiatives. He said the new scholarship fund will make it possible for all families to afford Catholic education and be good news for families who have more than one child enrolled in Catholic schools

The bishop also discussed the importance of supporting World Youth Day 2016, to be held in Poland. He hopes to bring 300 young people from the diocese because it inspires them in their faith and helps to build vocations.

Julie and Rowan Taylor, who are members of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan and the parents of four daughters, discussed the importance of faith in family life and the role that the appeal plays in reaching out to people in need.

"It was a great evening," said Rittman, "and I think people left with a renewed sense of hope and the joy in being Catholic and serving others as a family of faith."

(For more information about the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal, contact the Development Office: 203.416.1470 or www.2015aca-bridgeport.com.)

supported by the appeal, and to meet other young couples who are faithful and engaged in their parishes," Rittman said.

During a question and answer session with guests, Bishop Caggiano said that increasing support for the schools and the

FIFTH GENERAL SESSION FROM PAGE 3

the development of a "diocesan pastoral outreach to the divorced and separated" and changes within the Tribunal to streamline responses for "those who are seeking a way back to sacramental life."

Father Peter Towsley delivered the Evangelization Study Committee report, which identified best practices in reaching out to youth as well as outreach to Catholics who are no longer active in the Church. One of the major recommendations was for the development of parish evangelization teams.

The bishop said that the new pastoral planning process will address evangelization needs, and that he did not anticipate a single diocesan wide initiative, but that each parish would have flexibility in developing its own program.

Robert Rooney and Jamie Dance, members of the Leadership Study Committee, emphasized that programs should provide both spiritual and managerial training, mentoring, and

spiritual direction that reflect the composition of existing parishes and encourage people to bring their talent to support parish life.

Father Ian Jeremiah, vicar of Clergy Personnel for the diocese, said that the diocese should develop priest leadership programs which focus on creating formation and ongoing opportunities for "healthy and holy living."

In the report on Catechesis and Education, Andrea Woronick called for a complete overhaul of religious education programs in the diocese. Noting that parishes begin to lose some teens after Confirmation and that existing programs tend to isolate youth from the rest of the parish, she said that new programs should make youth "visible and integrated into every aspect of parish life, ministry, planning and decision making."

Her study group also recommended more "communication, collaboration, and sharing" of best practices between parishes,

and alternatives to classroom models in faith formation.

In response to her presentation, Bishop Caggiano called for the creation of a Faith Formation Taskforce to explore religious education models for parishes and a new approach to religious education.

In the final presentation on Empowering Youth, Julie Rodgers, director of youth ministry for the diocese, said that the "breakdown of family and secularization of culture" means that young people are not receiving a "conversion experience in the context of family life." Her committee recommended bringing parents back into the formation process and for a diocesan-wide effort to re-define youth groups and their relationship to parish life.

(The 2014 Synod will conclude with a Mass of Thanksgiving and celebration to be held at the Arena at Harbor Yard on Saturday September 19 at 10 am. For more information visit the Synod 2014 website at www.synod2014.org.)

Calling all Lawyers!

SAVE THE DATE:

The 2015 Red Mass will take place on Sunday, October 4, 9:00 am at the Egan Chapel located at Fairfield University 1073 N. Benson Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

Rev. Jeffrey P. von Arx S.J.

President of Fairfield University is the host of this event.

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

ALL ARE WELCOME:

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

If you would like to receive a printed invitation or reserve a table or learn more about the St. Thomas More Society please email: dtietjen@diobpt.org or phone: 203.416.1358.

Creating 'Welcoming' Parishes

Alpha program is 'bathed in prayer'

By **KAREN KOVACS
DYDZUHN**

We are taught in religious education classes at a young age to love Jesus with all of our heart and to share the good news of his Gospel message. Jesus says, "Love one another as I have loved you."

How exactly are we supposed to do that?

According to the Alpha program, evangelization takes place "person to person," said Dick Kiernan, a team member for Alpha New England who recently facilitated an introductory workshop at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Danbury.

Alpha began at Sacred Heart on May 11 and it will run for 10 weeks, ending on July 13.

"My hope for Alpha for the diocese is the hope that all of us will encounter Jesus Christ living today and to deepen that relationship," said Father Peter Towsley, Sacred Heart's pastor and the diocesan vicar for evangelization.

Although Kiernan said that Alpha is "bathed in prayer," people of all religions and backgrounds are invited to attend. "Everyone is welcome," he said. "We're trying to reach people who are outside the Church."

Jean Benitez, of St. John Parish in Darien, has been involved with Alpha since 2009. "I just know that it works," she said. "It's geared towards everyone."

In the past years, Benitez said, she's "personally witnessed the transformation of so many seekers longing for a personal rela-

tionship with Jesus."

"So many have shared that Alpha truly changed their lives," Benitez continued. "They go back to their parishes and join new ministries. People become hungry and want to know more about the Catholic faith."

Alpha's meetings always begin each week with a delicious meal and, at some parishes like St. John's, a choice of white or red wine. Benitez recalls being "lured" to the introductory gathering, called "A Taste of Alpha." She thought she was attending a parish Bible study group.

"I was surprised by finding a room full of joyful people and beautiful round tables with candles and flowers," Benitez recalled. "I was offered a glass of wine and a wonderful meal.



REACHING OUT WITH FOOD, fellowship and faith, Father Peter Towsley welcomes guests to "A Taste of Alpha" at Sacred Heart Parish in Danbury. The Alpha program provides a foundation for Catholics to bring their faith out into the world. (PHOTO BY KAREN DYDZUHN)



CELEBRATION MASS OF SYNOD 2014

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 • 11:00 A.M.
WEBSTER BANK ARENA AT HARBOR YARD, BRIDGEPORT

CELEBRATION OF SYNOD 2014,
AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT.
JOIN 9,000 FAITHFUL THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE
FOR MASS, MUSIC AND THANKSGIVING.

9:00AM PRAISE AND WORSHIP BEFORE START OF MASS

MULTI CULTURAL CELEBRATION

DEBUT OF DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR

PROCESSION STARTS AT 10:15AM



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WWW.2014SYNOD.ORG



This was my first Bible study experience and I thought, 'Wow, this is amazing. Who would have thought that this was how to study the Bible?'

Following the meal, participants listen to a speaker address topics such as "Who is Jesus?" and "How and When to Read the Bible." After that, small group discussions take place in a non-threatening and non-judgmental atmosphere.

Claudia Roux, a member of Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien, initially launched Alpha at her church because she was "looking for a way to integrate faith into my daily life."

"Alpha prepares its participants for catechesis," Roux said. "It lays down the foundation. It enriches the soil."

Roux partnered with Benitez in bringing Alpha to St. John's. The parish has successfully promoted Alpha by hanging banners around town, sending news releases to local websites, such as Patch, and print publications, and through the parish bulletin.

"You want to try to reach out to as many people as possible," Benitez said. "The ones in the pews are not the ones we're worried about."

Participants do not have to commit to attending Alpha until its third meeting.

"Evangelization is difficult,"

Roux admitted. "The Northeast is traditionally known as a difficult place to harvest. But Alpha works in the Northeast because it's soft. It's an invitation to dinner."

Although a parish Alpha program is affordable—about \$150 to \$250 is needed to get it started—it takes about six to nine months to plan its launch. It is crucial to have the encouragement of the pastor, because he will invite people to "A Taste of Alpha" during weekly sermons.

Diane Scott, the director of religious education at St. Ann Parish in Black Rock, said she would like to implement Alpha at her parish. "The core of our faith is Jesus Christ, and this program provides a foundation that we need to take faith out into the world to those who are not catechized," Scott said. "It brings you down to the basics of who we are."

Ruth Rolander, music director at Our Lady of the Star of the Sea Parish in Stamford, also would like to bring Alpha to her congregation. Although she grew up in the Lutheran Church, and has a degree in theology, Rolander said she continues to find ways now to build "a personal relationship with Jesus."

(For more info on the Alpha program at Sacred Heart, email eventsSHP@gmail.com. For more about Alpha, visit aphausa.org.)

Promise of the Family

‘Live by Joy’

By **KAREN KOVACS
DYDZUHN**

Roxana and Ivan Miranda celebrated their ten-year wedding anniversary by attending the diocesan workshop for married couples “Pope Francis and the Promise of Family” led by Dr. Scott Hahn and his wife, Kimberly, and Dr. Allen Hunt on April 25 at All Saints School in Norwalk. The workshop culminated with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

They joined more than 170 other men and women who listened, laughed and shared anecdotes about their faith journey and marriage during the day-long seminar. The workshop inspired men and women to persevere as they face the challenges of married life and parenting in the 21st century.

The Mirandas are parishioners at St. James Parish in Stratford and they have three children. They invited another couple, who worship at St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk, to join them at the workshop.

“We came today because we want to continue to strengthen communication and build upon our relationship,” Roxana said.

They were not disappointed. In the opening talk, called “The Family Fully Alive: The New Evangelization Begins at Home,” Dr. Hahn encouraged people to share their joy about being a Catholic with family members, friends and co-workers.

“When we bring Christ to others, we share our joy with them,” Dr. Hahn explained. “Why is this the key to new evangelization? Because it is the single most important thing that we can all do as Catholics. Enjoy being Catholic. Joy is what all of us want. Joy is what other people will find infectious in us.”

Dr. Hahn urged families to gather together “to play, to enjoy life, to be transparent.”

“We inhale the breath of God’s spirit and then we exhale,” Dr. Hunt noted. “We are meant to share the words of God’s spirit.”

It is when others see the joy of Jesus in our hearts that they will be drawn to the Gospel.

Dr. Hahn also addressed the “seasons of love” that married couples inevitably experience.



ENERGETIC SPEAKERS—top: Kimberly & Scott Hahn; bottom: Dr. Allen Hunt

He openly spoke about a difficult struggle he and Kimberly endured for four years when he converted to Catholicism in 1986. She eventually was baptized and became Catholic at the Easter Vigil in 1990. However, the couple had to repair and heal their marriage and they attended Catholic marriage counseling sessions.

“Because marriage has the potential for deep intimacy and love, it also has the potential for deep hurt and wounds,” Dr. Hahn explained.

“For this reason, it is critical to learn how to continuously forgive.”

He also stressed the need to find ways to “fall back in love.” Dr. Hahn suggested, “Find that movie that you saw together and see it again. Find that song that is your song and dance to it. Forgive. Not just a truce but fall in love again.”

Roxana said that Dr. Hahn’s words “opened my heart.”

Diane Corica, a member of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull, was also moved by the speakers. She enjoyed Dr. Allen Hunt’s witty anecdotes about his former role as a Methodist pastor in a megachurch in the south.

His conversion to Catholicism began in a monastery for cloistered nuns in North Guilford, CT, where he was forced to look at the Holy Eucharist as Jesus’

Body and Blood.

“He was very easy to connect to,” said Corica. A wife for 30 years and mother of three children, ages 22, 23, and 24, Diane volunteers as a catechist at the Trumbull parish. “I like that he reminded us to not forget who we are.”

Although there was much laughter during his talk, “Eucharist and the Family Meal,” Dr. Hunt reminded people that the Holy Eucharist is the center of the Mass.

“We are the people of the Eucharist,” Dr. Hunt said. “In the same way the meal at the dinner table nourishes the nuclear family, the Eucharist nourishes and increases the healthy life of the family of God.”

He cited recent studies stating that children in families who eat a meal together five times a week do better academically in school and grow up to be more socially functional.

“Having the family meal together is very important,” said Karen O’Loughlin. Members of St. Anthony’s Parish in Yonkers, N.Y., Karen and her husband James traveled to the conference because they were familiar with the speakers. “You should pick that one meal—whatever time of day that is. Eating together is important because that is where you regroup. That’s where you



ENCOURAGED TO SHARE their joy in being Catholics, men and women attending the “Pope Francis and the Promise of Family” workshop found their hearts opened by the speakers’ compelling personal witness. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

hear the messages the kids are telling you.”

Throughout the workshop, Angela Mantero, director of Marriage and Family Life and director of religious education for the diocese, heard words of gratitude of the participants.

“I am thrilled to have been able to offer a day of inspiration and guidance for marriage and families,” Mantero said. “Both

are under attack in the world today, and days like this bring hope and fortitude to live our vocations as married couples, parents, and grandparents.”

She was excited by the message delivered by Dr. Hunt. “He urged us to be bold in telling the world who we are and whom we love, ‘If we don’t tell our story, others will—and they don’t know our story!’”



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Catholic Education

Science Fair winners aim for the top

By PAT HENNESSY

From biodiesel fuel to the power of wind, toxic lipstick, the effects of cell phones on the growth of flowers and how to build a hovercraft, young scientists in Catholic schools again made an outstanding showing at the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF) held at Quinnipiac University this spring.

"I'm proud of our students for their achievement, and I'm also grateful to our teachers for their dedication in encouraging STEM projects throughout our school system," said Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, PhD, superintendent of schools.

The Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair is a yearly, statewide science and engineering

fair open to all 7th through 12th grade students in Connecticut schools and nearby New York State towns. One important objective of the fair is to attract young people to careers in science and engineering while developing skills essential to critical thinking. Students pursue independent work using proper scientific research methods.

A highly competitive and prestigious event, the fair accepts about 700 students from 126 schools across Connecticut, selected from thousands of applicants. The finalists present their research to nearly 300 volunteer judges from universities, professional societies and industry. They compete for \$170,000 in prizes, as well as a chance to represent the state at national and international competitions.

The judges evaluate projects in two main divisions: Dominion Physical Science and Pfizer Life Science.

This year, 50 students from nine diocesan schools achieved recognition for winning projects at the CSEF. In addition, three private Catholic schools, including Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, Fairfield Prep, and Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden—which includes a large number of students from this diocese—had finalists at the fair.

Two schools can boast of an unprecedented 10 winners at the middle school level in both physical and life science categories: St. Joseph School in Danbury and St. Rose of Lima in Newtown. A close runner-up was St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury,



TAKING TOP HONORS, Emily Fedor of St. Mark School in Stratford was awarded first place in 8th Grade Physical Science at the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair. Second place in that category was captured by her classmate, Kristen Robertson. Catherine Herrick of St. Rose of Lima School (not pictured) earned a First Place trophy in the 8th Grade Life Science category.

with eight winning projects.

Immaculate High School in Danbury claimed honors in both divisions: ninth-grader Nolan Ames in the physical science for "Exoplanet Discovery: The Transit Method," and Martha Haddad in Life Science for "Unprecedented Glycerol-Free Biodiesel Production using Enzyme Catalysis."

Winning projects were also brought home from Our Lady of the Assumption School and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, both in Fairfield; Greenwich Catholic School; St. Joseph School in Shelton; and St. Mark School in Stratford.

Diocesan students topped the list of winners at the eighth grade level. Catherine Herrick from St. Rose won first place in Life Sciences for "An Investigation of the Ingestion of Microscopic Plastic Particles by Blue Mussels." In the Physical Science division, St. Mark School's Emily Fedor claimed first for "Using Induced Wind Force to Increase the Efficiency of an Electric Vehicle Battery."

Catherine and Emily will be honored at the Connecticut Science Teachers Association (CSTA) awards banquet on May 20 at the New Haven Lawn Club, where they will receive the Marty

"Energy Scavenging—Proving the Seebeck Effect with a Homemade Thermoelectric Generator."

The eighth-grade team from St. Gregory the Great, Royce Maxwell, Bart Flaherty, and Ryan Niland took third place in the Life Science Team category for "Got Gas?" On the seventh-grade level, St. Joseph's Sean Guiry took second place in Physical Science for "The Power of Wind." Mary Locke, from St. Rose, took fourth place in that same category for her study of critical mass in chain reactions.

The trophy winners have been invited to compete in the Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology and Engineering Rising Stars), the premier middle school science and engineering fair competition nationwide. Only the top 10 percent of science fair winners are eligible for invitation to Broadcom, which supports project-based learning to encourage students to enter STEM careers.

"Our teachers get students excited about learning science and teach them to develop problem-solving skills," said Sister Mary Grace. "These students have been motivated to take that encouragement to the highest levels." ■

Tafel Student Research Award for Grade 8 Life Science and Physical Science.

As a bonus, the second place in physical science went to St. Mark's Kristen Robertson, also working on the theme of energy efficiency with

2015 Shehan Girl of the Year

BRIDGEPORT—The Cardinal Shehan Center has named its "2015 Girl of the Year." St. James School, Stratford,

eighth-grader Caroline Oman has been awarded this honor based on excellence of character, sportsmanship and academic achievement. Caroline was recognized at a banquet on April 9, receiving her award from Terry O'Connor, executive director of the Shehan Center.

Caroline will be attending Lauralton Hall this fall. ■



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May 2015

Local Roundup

Breiana Campbell chosen Barnum Festival Queen

Breiana Campbell, a junior at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield, was crowned Queen of the Barnum Festival at the King & Queen Coronation Ball held at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn.

The King and Queen competition includes schools in Bridgeport who can nominate one candidate for King and one for Queen. Candidates must be from the Junior class, scholastically in the upper fifth of their class, demonstrate solid leadership abilities, and develop alliances necessary to achieve goals, as well as support fellow students in their academic, non-academic, and social endeavors.

Breiana, a resident of Bridgeport, is a member of both the National and Spanish Honor Societies. She is also a member of the Care Club, Spanish Club and Campus Ministry. She frequently volunteers at the Golden Hill United Methodist Church Soup Kitchen. With a great interest in running, Breiana is the captain of the Girl's Track Team.

An excellent student, she enjoys learning about the anat-



omy and physiology of the human body. After receiving her undergraduate degree, she plans on attending medical school to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. In order to gain exposure to the medical field, she volunteers for the Stratford EMS, as well as St. Vincent's Medical Center.

"We are truly proud of

Breiana for her selection as Barnum Festival Queen," said Principal Chris Cipriano. "The selection process is extremely competitive but we share in the selection committee's recognition of all of Breiana's hard work, both in and out of the classroom. She will make an excellent Queen."

This year's King is Matthew Winkler of Masuk High School in Monroe. Anthony Gonzalez of Derby High School and Victoria Fatovic of Bunnell High School in Stratford were named Prince and Princess.

The Royal Court will play a key role in the 67th Barnum Festival, the annual salute to the life and achievements of P.T. Barnum—showman, entrepreneur and philanthropist, and former mayor of Bridgeport.

The King & Queen Competition is sponsored by Bridgeport Hospital. A generous donation from the Ernest and Joan Trefz Foundation will provide scholarships to the Royal Court.

St. James parish production

STRATFORD—St. James School Drama Club gained an enthusiastic response for its production of the *Taming of the Shrew* in early May. Director Dean Kyburz, a professional actor, and his wife/assistant, Janine, have led the Drama Club since its inception 20 years ago. Kyburz recognizes Shakespeare as "the ultimate acting challenge."

The Drama Club has truly been their ministry. They helped students develop an understanding of acting and theater pro-



duction but also, and more importantly, helped them learn "life skills of patience, confidence, hard work, responsibility, teamwork, and respect of others," said Dean, announcing that this will be their last production. The *Taming of the Shrew* was chosen as their last production because it deals with contemporary ideas for the young performers to draw on as they prepared their roles.

The Drama Club will continue under the capable direction of Mary Merly.

Making a Difference Celebration set for May 31

Kolbe Cathedral's "2015 Making a Difference Celebration" will take place on Sunday, May 31. The celebration will feature a Mass in honor of Msgr. Frank Wissel at 5:15 pm at St. Mary Parish in Greenwich, followed by dinner at Gabriele's Italian Steakhouse in Greenwich at 6:30. Awards will be presented to the 2015 honorees: Walter Lockett, Jr.; Albertus van den Broek and The William H. Pitt Foundation. Benefits from the event will fund the Msgr. Frank C. Wissel Memorial and Jonathan O'Herron, Sr., Memorial scholarship funds. For more info, contact Jo-Anne Jakab: 203.368.2648 or jjakab@kolbecaths.org.



PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE: Four Kolbe students (l-r) Casey McNally, Elijah Stephenson, Anjali Pillai and Carolyn Spencer competed in the Achievement Business Challenge at Fairfield University, earning Second Place.

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The Young Church

'Mass Mob' sets new record for attendance & enthusiasm

By KATIE SCARLETT
CALCUTT

BRIDGEPORT—Mass Mob returned to Bridgeport recently, converging on the Cathedral Parish in the historic St. Patrick Church.

Father John Ringley, pastor of the Cathedral Parish, which encompasses both St. Augustine Cathedral and St. Patrick Church, joined the other gracious and capable hosts of previous Mass Mobs in welcoming many new faces to the church on Sunday.

This record-breaking mob of 450 faithful was special in a lot of ways: never before have we gathered such a large crowd; never before have we FILLED a huge church; and never before have the congregants so well represented the beautiful diversity—of race, age, vocation—of our diocese.

It was such a success that the folks on the Mass Mob committee might be tempted to think to ourselves: 'Wow, look what we've accomplished.' But we know better.

To a stranger, it may look like we all came together to listen to some people read from a book, to listen to one man in a chasuble talk to us for awhile, to sit, stand, kneel, stand again, and then eat a morsel that hardly looks filling. But we know better.

A few weeks ago, the Gospel

spoke of a man who died and was sealed in a tomb. His best friends thought they'd never see him again. But we know better.

Father Ringley urged those in attendance to look beyond the "history" inherent in the Gospel—to go beyond the literal—and to open ourselves to the "mystery."

When the Gospel of St. Luke says Jesus ate some fish, Father Ringley reminded us that Jesus told Peter he would be a "fisher of men." Through his Resurrection, Jesus made it possible for all of us to be a part of his body, and the fish he consumed serves as a reminder of this truth. Our faith is full of these more-than-meets-the-eye moments.

So while Sunday's "history" headline may read: "450 People Gather," we know the real story: "Christ Makes Himself Known in the Breaking of Bread ... Again."

A picnic was held on the grounds following the Mass.

SOMETHING NEW!

Mass Mob Fairfield County is pleased to announce something new: Half-Mobs! Since we know that you really might not want to wait for the next Mass Mob, we're starting what we like to call "half-mobs" in between the bigger Mass Mobs. The idea is for us all to come together at a non-Mass Mob event in like numbers

and with like purpose.

The first two Half-Mobs will be at the ordinations to the transitional diaconate and the priesthood! These ordinations will both take place at 11am at St. Augustine Cathedral, on June 20th and 27th, respectively. We really hope to see you all there to support these men who are giving a profound and resounding "YES!" to Christ!



ST. PATRICK CHURCH was filled to capacity recently when "Mass Mob" came calling.

St. Anthony of Padua relic to visit Bridgeport

PADUA, Italy—This June, in honor of the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, Father Paolo Floretta will bring a holy relic of St. Anthony to the U. S. from the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua, Italy. Father Paolo will visit four dioceses in the Tri-State area: the Archdiocese of New York; the Diocese of Brooklyn, which includes both Brooklyn and Queens; the Diocese of Paterson, N.J.; and the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Father Paolo will bring the relic of St. Anthony to Northeast America from June 6-14, the week during which the saint's feast day falls—June 13. The holy relic will be in St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bridgeport the weekend of June 6-7.

"When they contacted the bishop to ask permission to come to this diocese, it was really my parish that wanted it," said Father Frank Gomez, pastor of St. Charles. "We have one of the largest churches in the diocese and we're in a central location. More than that, we have Mass in English, Spanish, Brazilian, Portuguese and Haitian, so people from all those groups will find a welcoming community to share their devotion to St. Anthony."

Devotion to Saint Anthony is a part of life for many people in the Tri-State region, and an encounter with the relic moves it to the forefront. Pope Francis has been inspired by St.



A MAN PRAYERFULLY venerates a relic of St. Anthony.

Anthony and St. Francis' love, care and concern for the poor and marginalized. Pope Francis once said, "Relics are parts of the body of a saint which was the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Through this body, the saints practiced heroic values recognized by the Church."

Born in 1195 in Portugal, St. Anthony of Padua was born and raised in a wealthy family in Lisbon. He joined the Franciscan Order, and was noted by his contemporaries for his forceful preaching and expert knowledge of Scripture. He died in Padua in 1231 at the age of 35, and was canonized a year after his death. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

Visit of the Relics of St. Anthony to Bridgeport, June 6 & 7:
St. Charles Borromeo Parish
391 Ogden St., Bridgeport
203.333.2147

Saturday, June 6:

2 pm veneration begins
4 pm Vigil Mass in English followed by veneration
7 pm Brazilian Portuguese and Spanish Mass followed by veneration

Sunday, June 7

7 am Haitian Mass followed by veneration
9 am Spanish Mass followed by veneration
10:30 am English Mass followed by veneration
12:30 pm Spanish Mass followed by veneration
5 pm Haitian Mass followed by veneration

(For more info, contact Tom Muscatello with the Anthonian Association: 914.263.8841. For more on St. Anthony, go to www.saintanthonyofpadua.net.)



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May 2015

Profile

'Dualities' color work of Darien artist

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

"Dualities" are an ever-present reality for painter Jan Dilenschneider, and they're also the theme of her upcoming exhibit at the Bellarmine Museum of Art at Fairfield University, opening June 4.

Area residents will immediately recognize Long Island Sound and its environs in her expressive landscapes and still-lives of beach grass, tidal marshes, trees and the ever present experience of the water. Her paintings have earned praise for their almost numinous color that reveals the ordinary landscape as excited by natural light.

She has the unique ability to capture quiet, almost imperceptible movement—a mild breeze vibrating beach grass or the undulations of still water as it gathers reflections and colors.

For the Darien artist, painting itself is a kind of duality because it begins with a personal vision that is created in the solitude of her studio, but eventually goes on to a life of its own viewed by the general public or sold to a buyer. Likewise she wrestles with the



DUALITIES; Silver Birch near the Water I and II. "I often paint in pairs to keep the strokes fresh," says Jan Dilenschneider.

her artwork at the prestigious Galerie Pierre-Alain Challier for the third year. The show opens in Paris on the week of July 7.

"Painting in pairs" is how

the Annual Catholic Appeal, she was recently honored at the annual Ladies Luncheon to benefit the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport. She delighted committee members when she donated four of her paintings to this year's auction, which raised over \$115,000 to support scholarships for the children enrolled in Bridgeport's four Catholic schools.

"It's tough to part with the work, but great to know that the paintings translated directly into scholarships for young people in the inner city," says Dilenschneider. "The schools do so much to help the children and give them a better life."

The University of Ohio graduate began painting as a young girl, encouraged by her mother who was also an artist. She had formal training in prestigious New York and Chicago art schools and also credits Silvermine Arts Guild for its excellent programs. Among the formative influences in her approach to art, she cites the abstract expressionist Franz Kline and Matisse.

As Jan Dilenschneider prepares for two shows this summer, there's one duality that she entirely welcomes—the guidance of the other half of the Dilenschneider

duo, her husband, Bob.

"He is one of my big motivators. I'd still be painting my pictures and putting them downstairs if he didn't get me out there. He's been so supportive, helping me with writing artist statements and other projects. He's really my manager. It's just his nature as a person to be totally supportive."

The Dilenschneiders have endowed fellowships for art scholars from repressive countries through the Institute of International Education, which administers the Fulbright scholarship program for the U.S. Department of State. "I am fortunate to help the cause of freedom of expression for artists worldwide through the Janet Hennessey Dilenschneider Scholar Rescue Program in the Arts," she said. "This year, we helped an artist from Syria, along with her husband and two sons."

(Admission to the Bellarmine Museum of Art is free. Hours are Monday-Friday, 11 am-5 pm when the university is in session. In June and July, the museum is open 11 am-3 pm, Tuesday through Thursday. In August, it is open by appointment only. The Bellarmine Museum of Art is located in Bellarmine Hall on the campus of Fairfield University, 1073 North Benson Rd., Fairfield.)



desire to share her paintings with the world, but also hold them close as her own creations.

Given the strength of her recent shows in Paris and the growing interest in her work (she is the subject of a story in the upcoming Art New England), she may have a hard time holding on to them.

In addition to the Fairfield University gallery show that runs from June 4 through September 18, she has been invited to exhibit

she describes one of her favorite methods for approaching a subject. She sets up side-by-side easels and moves from one to the other as she explores the possibilities for the scene. Some pairs are intended to be seen almost touching—true diptychs—while others, separated but proximate, still express to the viewer their mutual affinity.

A member of St. John Parish in Darien and former chair (along with her husband, Robert) of

Jan Dilenschneider on painting:

PAINTING OUTDOORS: The truth is you often can't paint in the plain air in Connecticut. Sun gets in your eyes, bees sit on your canvas, pollen sticks to the paint and wind blows your easel down.

ON SEEING BEFORE PAINTING: Often in my mind, I see something long before it goes on the canvas. I like the Monet quote that he did about 90% of his painting without a brush in his hand. That's very true. Sometimes the paintings are already in your mind; we just don't have them on the canvas.

PUSHING PAINT AROUND: I like the freedom of breaking the rules to achieve a desired effect with the paint. I'll paint with squeegees, chopsticks, kitchen cake spatulas, my fingertips—anything to liberate the canvas.

BEING SPONTANEOUS: There's something about the creative process and I believe it's true for musicians and writers; you always want to have an element of surprise and irregularity. You want to be as spontaneous as you can be when you put the paint down.

KEEPING IT FRESH: I often paint in pairs because I can try something on the first canvas and then try something else on the second as I go back and forth between them. My reason is to keep the strokes fresh. I want it to look like it's still growing, wet, alive.



Artists palette

Local News

Fairfield County economic
and social trends

BRIDGEPORT—Social issues, from growing inequality to the rising number of foreign born residents, have important implications for the Church and other service institutions rooted in the area, said Chris Bruhl, CEO of the Fairfield County Business Council.

Speaking at the invitation of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano to diocesan leadership at the Catholic Center, Bruhl said the growing gap between rich and poor and between new arrivals to the state and those who have been here for generations presents unique challenges and opportunities to the business, government and churches.

He noted that the foreign-born share of Connecticut's population has continued to grow from 8.5 percent in 1990 to over 13 percent today. However, Fairfield County is more even more diverse than the rest of the state, with 20 percent of its population foreign born.

"The same thing is happening in the Church, where it has Brazilian, Asian, Latino and other Catholics from all over the globe in its parishes. We all have come here from somewhere else. The challenge is to make them into one community," he said.

Bruhl said that churches and non-profits will experience greater

demand for services and will need to develop new donor bases. He said corporate giving is now only a fraction of what many hedge funds in Fairfield County are donating to charitable causes.

He also noted that, in the future, women will serve in leadership roles across every aspect of life in Fairfield County and that will have implications for their participation in the Church. As a group they are now better educated than men and more likely to be employed in the county.

In welcoming Bruhl to the Catholic Center, Bishop Caggiano mentioned that the Catholic Church is one of the few "coun-



CHRIS BRUHL

ty-wide organizations" that reach out to many people through worship as well as social service.

The bishop added that the demographic projections and trends identified by the Business Council have been useful to him in formulating challenges for the synod as it works to make plans for the future of the Church in Fairfield County.

In his presentation, Bruhl pointed out that Fairfield County is "the least equitable area in the U.S. as measured by wealth and educational attainment," and that the county has the resources to move ahead but must adapt to change and do a better job of integrating young people and newcomers into its economy.

Bruhl began his talk by noting that Fairfield County is "at the intersection of New England and New York" and that the area is much more closely related to New York than Hartford in its econo-

my, airports, media and other key infrastructure.

He said that one of the barriers to progress may be found in Connecticut's DNA as a colony with a strong sense of home rule and religious freedom that often led to people pulling up stakes and moving to the next town, rather than forming a regional government to solve problems. "They didn't stay and work it out. They left and started over."

He said that immigration has always been important to Connecticut prosperity and that if the state is to move forward again, long-term residents and new arrivals must begin speaking to one another, whether in churches or other community settings.

Bruhl said that for him challenges show "that we are all in this together," and that policies need to better integrate all of concerns faced by Connecticut residents. ■

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Working with God

NORWALK—On Wednesday evening, April 22, the chapel of the Convent of the Sisters of St. Thomas of Villanova on West Rocks Road in Norwalk was re-dedicated at a special Mass.

After Mass, the Knights of Columbus Council #14360 from St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk pose with Sister Marie-Lucie Monast and Sister Francoise Golder.

Under the leadership of Grand Knight George Ribellino, the K of C council initiated and completed the renovation project. The Knights also presented Sister Marie-Lucie and Sister Francoise with a new chalice for the chapel. ■



Diocesan Youth Choir

Auditions set for new Diocesan Youth Choir

BRIDGEPORT—The Diocese of Bridgeport has announced audition times and places for its new Choir for Youth (C4Y) that will perform at diocesan liturgies with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and at special events throughout the year, the first being the Synod Closing Mass at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport on September 19.

Auditions will be held May 18-21 in Wilton, Bridgeport, Trumbull, Stamford and Danbury. Students can come to any audition site. The Choir for Youth is open to all youth in the Diocese of Bridgeport in eighth

grade through senior in high school as of September, 2015.

The auditions will be conducted by Mary Bozzuti Higgins of Wilton, newly-named director of the youth choir. She brings 35 years of experience as a choral director, voice coach, musician and opera performer to this new post. Students will be asked to sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" during the auditions.

Auditions will be held at the following times and locations: Monday, May 18, 4:30-6 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center, 229 Danbury Road,

Wilton; Tuesday, May 19, 4:30-6 pm at the Catholic Center, Queen of Saints Hall, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport; Tuesday, May 19, 7-8:30 pm, St. Joseph High School chapel, 2320 Huntington Turnpike, Trumbull (park in back, enter through gym); Wednesday, May 20, 4:30-6 pm, at Trinity Catholic High School, 926 Newfield Avenue, Stamford; Thursday, May 21, 4:30-6 pm at Immaculate High School, 73 Southern Boulevard, Danbury.

Rehearsals will begin the week after school closes for the sum-



MARY BOZZUTI HIGGINS

mer. The rehearsal locations will be same as above.

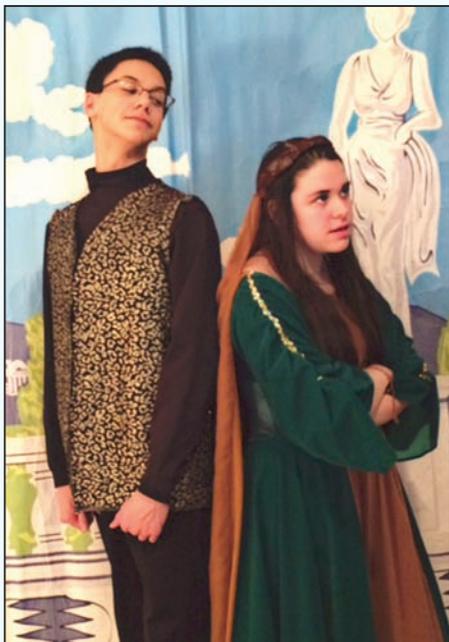
In addition to singing at the Synod Closing Mass in September, the Diocesan Youth Choir is scheduled to perform at a Christmas Concert in December at Norwalk Concert Hall, date to be announced.

(Auditions and weekly rehearsal schedule will also be posted on the choir website: www.c4ysings.com. For more info and for those who cannot make any of the five scheduled auditions and would like to participate, go to www.c4ysings.com, email c4y@diobpt.org or Twitter: [@c4ysings](https://twitter.com/c4ysings).) ■

Taking on the Bard at St. Margurite!

By PATRICIA PEARSON

This June 13 will be the last time you will see Father Shawn Cutler and Father George Sankoorikal together on stage. Father Cutler has just been assigned the new pastor of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield, since the current pastor, Father George Sankoorikal, will be retiring. Both priests have played active roles in the annual Shakespeare and Low Tea parish fundraiser that takes place every year, but this year will be different. Sadly, this will be the last time Father George will lead "Queen Elizabeth," a 6-year-old parishioner, and her "royal court" in a procession to begin the third annual Shakespeare and English



Low Tea. This year, St. Scholastica's Shakespearean Players, will be performing The Taming of the Shrew. The "Shrew" will be played by 14-year-old Elizabeth Booth. The role of Petruchio, the "Shrew's" suitor, is being played by 15-year-old Stephen Vogel. Father Cutler is playing the part of Christopher Sly. The Taming of the Shrew begins with a Royal Procession and ends with an English Low Tea, where tea sandwiches, desserts, and

beverages will be served.

(To purchase tickets, call 203.521.2390 or email ShakespeareTeaParty@gmail.com. Cost: Adults \$16; seniors \$12; children \$10 ages 6-12; children 5 & under free; \$50 maximum charge per family. Tickets must be purchased in advance; they will not be sold at the door. Festivities will begin at 11 am on Saturday, June 13, at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, 138 Candlewood Lake Rd., Brookfield.) ■



CALLING ALL SINGERS!

DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS

PLEASE BE SURE TO REGISTER FOR THE AUDITION ON C4YSINGS.COM

C4Y, Choir For Youth, is open to all young adults in Fairfield County 8th grade through Senior in high school as of September, 2015.

The auditions will take place in Six locations throughout the Diocese, feel free to register and come to any audition site.

<p>Monday, May 18, 4:30 to 6 pm Our Lady of Fatima Church, Parish Center 229 Danbury Road, Wilton</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 19, 4:30 to 6 pm The Catholic Center, Diocese of Bridgeport Queen of Saints Hall 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 20, 4:30 to 6 pm Trinity Catholic High School 926 Newfield Avenue, Stamford</p>
<p>Tuesday, May 19, 2:30-3:30 pm Upper School at St. Augustine Campus 63 Pequonnock Street, Bridgeport</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 19, 7 to 8:30 pm St. Joseph High School, Chapel 2320 Huntington Turnpike, Trumbull (Park in back, enter through gym)</p>	<p>Thursday, May 21, 4:30 to 6 pm Immaculate High School 73 Southern Boulevard, Danbury</p>

FOR THE AUDITION, PREPARE TO SING "MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE."

In preparation for the Synod Closing Mass on September 19, C4Y will commence rehearsals the week after school closes for the summer. The rehearsal locations and times will be the same as above. If you cannot make any of the five scheduled auditions, and would like to participate, please contact me at c4y@diobpt.org.

PERFORMANCE DATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015
SYNOD CELEBRATION MASS, WEBSTER BANK ARENA AT HARBOR YARD, BRIDGEPORT

DECEMBER 18, 2015
C4Y CHRISTMAS CONCERT, NORWALK CONCERT HALL, NORWALK

(If your children are required to have service hours, being in the choir would fulfill that commitment.)



MARY BOZZUTI HIGGINS
DIRECTOR DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR

EDITORIAL

Asking in Prayer

"Many years ago, when I was a catechist preparing seventh graders for confirmation, one of my students asked me a very serious question that I have not forgotten since:

"If God knows everything, why do we need to ask Him for anything in our prayers? Since we can't tell God anything that He does not already know, why bother to ask at all?"

I honestly do not remember what answer I gave the student, but his question stayed with me for many years.

However, a few months after my ordination to the priesthood, I recall praying the Fourth Eucharistic Preface in Ordinary Time and was struck that it answered his question!

The Preface said: "You (God) have no need of our prayers for our desire to thank You is itself Your gift. Our prayers add nothing to Your greatness but help us to grow in grace through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The point is simple: When we ask the Lord for anything in our prayers, we are not telling Him something that He does not already know.

However, our prayer is meant to help us to accept the gifts that God wishes to give us in answer to our needs."

(Editor's note. The Bishop's reflection on the National Day of Prayer originally appeared on his Facebook page. You can follow "Bishop Caggiano" on Facebook and on twitter: @bishopcaggiano)

Synod solutions

Synod 2014 took a turn toward the finish line at the Fifth General Session on May 9, when Bishop Frank J. Caggiano gave delegates a look at some of his final recommendations for renewal and reform of the diocese. In a bold fashion, he asked delegates to consider six global initiatives to be adopted by the synod as part of its plan for the future of the diocese:

- The creation of a permanent strategic planning commission to guide renewal and reform of the curia and Catholic Center functions
- Development of a comprehensive pastoral planning process to ensure the vitality of parishes and diocesan institutions
- Launch of a new Catholic Service Corps to engage youth throughout the diocese
- Formation of a Diocesan Leadership Institute for laity, clergy and religious
- A consultation with priests leading to a presbyteral assembly in the winter of 2016
- The convening of two new leadership councils, one for religious and the other a pastoral council to incorporate lay leadership into diocesan decision making

The bishop told delegates that the above global initiatives will help implement efforts that empower youth, reach out to divorced and separated Catholics, recognize and celebrate the cultural and ethnic diversity of the diocese and support priests in spiritual and personal growth and formation.

More than anything, he reminded those in attendance that the synod is all about encountering "one person at a time in a journey of transformation and renewal. The person is more important than any initiative. Our journey as missionary disciples is to make the person of Christ in the community real for every broken heart."

There is much more work to be done in the final general session on May 30 and over the summer, but the synod is already yielding fruits in the life of the diocese. We owe a debt of great gratitude to the more than 350 delegates who have worked so hard throughout the year to help formulate the above proposals. Their spirit of candor and unity has set the tone for true change in the Spirit. ■

Credit given for life issues

To the Editor:

In an April 2015 editorial in the *Fairfield County Catholic*, credit was given to Michael Culhane and the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference for their efforts "... in urging citizens and state legislators to think twice before rushing into assisted-suicide legislation." What the editorial did not acknowledge were the efforts of the Connecticut Right to Life Corporation and the Gospel of Life Society, both led by Eileen Bianchini, a devoted and faithful Catholic.

We sincerely hope that after reading our letter, you will give credit to her as the person we think is the driving force, not only in Fairfield County but in the state of Connecticut, in defending many of the values fundamental to the Catholic faith.

Not only was Eileen instrumental in defeating the recently proposed assisted-suicide legislation, but she is also a strong advocate for a number of other right-to-life issues that are basic to our Catholic tenets.

Since 2009, the two organizations she leads have worked tirelessly, through monthly meetings and newsletters as well as public and governmental forums, to educate our residents and state legislators on the history of and experiences with physician-assisted suicide laws in other states and countries where they have been enacted—and the impact on our own state that would result from the passage of similar legislation. They have published op-eds, held public forums, and met privately with legislators and their assistants during those years of advocacy.

Each year, Eileen and over 20 members testified at state hearings and 30 to 50 members attended those hearings to personally demonstrate opposition to proposed legislation. They have submitted White Papers to our state representatives and senators and have published articles for our citizens to read and judge for themselves the merits of defeating legislation enabling physician-assisted suicide.

At the end of the day, these

organizations were instrumental in defeating the efforts of "progressive" elements in our state in their attempt to enact legislation that would have allowed an immoral and faithless practice. God bless you, Eileen, for you and your groups' outstanding works in maintaining the status quo on this important issue.

Thomas and Anita Field
Weston



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

PASTOR

REVEREND FRANCISCO GOMEZ-FRANCO, Temporary Administrator, Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport, to Pastor, Saint Charles Borromeo Parish. Effective date was April 15. Father Gomez-Franco will continue to serve as Master of Ceremonies.

REVEREND SHAWN CUTLER, Parochial Vicar, Saint Theresa Parish, Trumbull, to Pastor, Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND IAN JEREMIAH, to Pastor, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Greenwich. Effective date is June 30. Father Jeremiah will continue to serve as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy.

RETIREMENT

REVEREND FRANK WINN, Pastor, Saint Paul Parish, Greenwich, to retirement. Effective date is October 31.

*Reverend Ian Jeremiah, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy
May, 2015*

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Commentary



Will my love endure?

CATHOLIC BY GRACE

BY DENISE BOSSERT

Denise Bossert is a national Catholic writer and columnist.

It is disheartening when people walk away from the Church.

Sometimes, when we try to talk, they run at us like some kid on the opposite team in a game of Red Rover. They want to break through our line and pull somebody else from the Church. They may even attempt to pull us away.

We have a choice. When they run toward us, even if it is with a kind of adversarial spirit, we must be ready to receive them, ready to hold them tightly in our arms, ready to defend the faith, and maybe even ready to reclaim them for Our Lord and his Church. Red Rover, Red Rover,

send them on over, we pray.

It has happened to me many times. I write an article or post something on social media. Someone sends an email explaining why he is glad I am happy being Catholic, but he wants me to know that his choice was clear. It was time to walk away. Somebody disappointed him. Something someone did scandalized her. She lost the joy of being Catholic. He decided to walk away from God or just find God in some other faith community.

Many do build a relationship with Jesus somewhere else. Usually, it is in a church with a name that does not fit categories.

No denomination. No labels. No hierarchy. They find a place where they can begin again. It feels wonderful and they are happy, they say.

It makes me think. I believe we all have reasons to be bitter and walk away. There are plenty of offenses to send us through the exit doors. Most of the ones who left didn't hate the faith. There were just things that rubbed them the wrong way. Their love for the sacraments and the Church was not enough to keep them here. It sometimes makes me wonder. Will my love endure?

Am I strong enough to persevere when others scandalize the faith?

If I encounter a priest who is far from pastoral or an administrator in a Catholic workplace who has more vices than virtues, will I stay?

What about the young Catholic whose spouse cheats—after she sponsored him into the faith? Will he have the strength to stay when she leaves their family and the Church?

What about the young person

who hears about a charitable organization squandering funds, and it becomes common knowledge that those who could have stopped the whole thing just looked the other way—will the spiritually fragile young person stay after that?

What happens when a bishop or cardinal causes scandal? What will we do when a high profile Catholic falls off the pedestal in a very public way—or in a quiet way and nobody else has any idea?

These are not made-up scenarios. For some people, these things were enough to send them in the opposite direction. For others, nothing would take them away from the Eucharist. The ones who stick around seem to have some things in common. For them, truth is true, and God is God. If the Church is the Church in time, and devotions lead to holiness; if the saints light the way, and the Eucharist is Christ; if the Word is alive, and the poor are fed, the lost are found, the sick are healed; if miracles still happen, and Christ still calls disciples; if angels still

aid, and the confessional still cleanses; if martyrs still die, and others rise to take their places; if a still, small voice can be heard above the betrayal, wounds and doubts—then the Church is still the Church.

In that moment we realize that God never fails, even when people sometimes do. And the person running toward us with division in her heart is really a lost lamb running toward us, a soul in need of strong arms that wrap around her and gather her back to the safety of the Church. Red Rover, Red Rover. Send her on over.

She looks up, a bit disoriented, because she didn't break through the line. She was, in fact, caught in loving arms. Hopefully, she sees a smile. A welcoming nod. Not gloating. Not condescension.

Make room for her at your side. Squeeze her hand a couple of times to let her know you are glad she's back. And brace yourselves. Someone else is barreling at the line. But he is not the enemy either. Hold the line, and let it wrap around him—with love. ■



Star Wars is still Star Wars

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

My name is Matthew and I am a child of the Star Wars generation.

Star Wars was the first real movie I saw in a theater. It was a magical experience that has stayed with me always. Every movie since has been a bit of a disappointment.

There wasn't a single kid in the entire neighborhood who wasn't obsessed with George Lucas's imaginary world of lightsabers and stormtroopers. It dominated all conversations. It

shaped all play. All Star Wars, all the time.

Given this, I was surprised to realize recently that I didn't see Star Wars during its initial release. The original movie hit theaters in May 1977, when I was just three-and-a-half years old. I must have seen it first during its 1979 theatrical re-release.

Theatrical re-release? They did that with movies back then. VCRs hadn't yet become part of the furniture in every American living room. If you missed a movie when it was out in the-

aters, well, that was that. Unless it came back around in re-release, which the big movies did.

Such things are unheard of now. These days you can watch a blockbuster on your smartphone the same day it comes out in theaters. The world has changed.

An example: I once had a friend named Damon. He lived across the street. We played together every afternoon with our Luke Skywalker and Han Solo action figures. Then Damon moved with his family to Portland, Oregon. There was no email for our mothers to keep us connected. There was no Facebook. I sent him a postcard. He sent one back. But I never saw or spoke to Damon again.

That's the way the world was then—both bigger and smaller than it is now. Everyone saw the same movies, but distances really meant something. Things went away. Now, every jot and tittle that ever fell from the brain of Einstein or Aristotle is available

for free online, 24/7, in vivid Technicolor and search-engine optimized. We're living with an embarrassment of riches.

Since becoming a father, I've been fretting about how to raise children in a world that doesn't resemble the one I grew up in. Think about it. People call the cops now when they see kids playing unsupervised in the neighborhood. What used to be essential has become criminal. All the risk and adventure is being drained from childhood. Not to mention all the fun.

But Star Wars is still Star Wars and I've looked forward to sharing it with my kids. It means something to me that they experience it as I did. I want them to be terrified of Darth Vader's demonic breathing. I want them to wonder who will succeed in winning Princess Leia's heart. I want them to leap from their seats with joy when the Death Star is destroyed. I want them to be truly shocked when they find out ... you know

what I'm talking about.

I want them to experience the magic—and be transported by it—the same way I did.

So far it's working. My kids are obsessed. They want to know everything. No minor character—no Jedi, Jawa, or droid—goes uninvestigated. Paddy took a giant Star Wars reference book out of the library. I was terrified that he would stumble onto an explanation of the Skywalker family tree before he had a chance to learn about it as I had. Luckily, he didn't.

Watching these movies through adult eyes I can see their value more clearly. The childhood magic is gone for me, but the essential messages remain: don't let your fear define you; trust your instincts; be loyal to your friends; never give up on family; good ultimately triumphs over evil.

The world may change but those values are timeless. Just like Star Wars. ■

Vocations

Holy Name of Jesus Parish culture formed three priests

By FATHER COLIN
MCKENNA

When Msgr. Kevin Royal was a little boy in Stratford, his Italian grandmother would place her hands around his hands, look him in the eye and ask him in very broken English, “When are you going to be a priest?”

When he was 27 years old, Msgr. Royal met with the vocation director for the Diocese of Bridgeport to discuss his desire to enter seminary. He will celebrate

his 30th anniversary as a priest on June 22, 2015.

Msgr. Royal, Msgr. Andrew Varga and Father Skip Karcsinski were all classmates at Holy Names of Jesus School in Stratford and parishioners at Holy Name Parish. In 1966, they were eighth graders at the school, and had their photos taken in scholarly garb indicating their readiness to go forth from the familiar environs of Holy Name.

Msgr. Royal attended a diocesan high school seminary that is no longer in operation, and Msgr. Varga and Father Karcsinski attended Fairfield Prep (which continues its long tradition of graduating young men who later pursue studies for the Catholic priesthood). For their major seminary formation, Msgr. Royal

studied in Rome and Msgr. Varga and Father Karcsinski both studied in Washington, D.C.

1966 was a turbulent time in the life of American culture. The changes wrought by Vatican II were starting to be implemented; the Vietnam War had begun in earnest; Kennedy’s assassination was still fresh to the mind; the civil rights movement was in full swing; the “British Invasion” was changing popular music; and Woodstock and its “teenage wasteland” was only three years away.

Despite the enormous cultural, political, and religious upheavals occurring in American life in 1966, three young men from the same parochial school in Stratford were generously responding in their hearts to God’s call to the priesthood. Amid so much cultural static in American society at the time, how did they hear God’s call? They are not really certain, but their responses to questions posed to them about their Catholic experience growing up sheds some light on how they came to be priests.

As a first-grader, Msgr. Varga recalls sitting in the first pew at Mass with his classmates in Holy Name Church. He watched the priests intently as they celebrated Mass and remembers thinking, “I want to be like that!”

For the school children at Holy Name, their parish priests were “heroes.”

“Our classmates were not shocked that someone thought of priesthood,” Msgr. Royal said. “It was simply one of the parts of Catholic life that was as natural as breathing.”

Today, Msgr. Royal is pastor at Holy Spirit Parish in Stamford; Msgr. Varga is pastor at St. Luke Parish in Westport; and Father Karcsinski is pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Bridgeport. Combined, they have given nearly 100 years of service thus far to the Church as priests.

When asked who, besides the Holy Spirit, was most instrumental in helping him hear God’s call at a young age, Father Karcsinski said, “Consecrated women and devoted grandmothers were prob-



(Top) KEVIN ROYAL, Andy Varga and Joseph “Skip” Karcsinski as eighth-grade classmates in Stratford. (Lower) Msgr. Kevin Royal, Msgr. Andy Varga and Father Skip Karcsinski pictured recently at St. Luke Parish in Westport.

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*Thank you, Fr. Sam Kachuba,
Fr. Robert Crofut and Msgr. Ernest Esposito
for saying “yes” to the call to Priesthood.*

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

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



ably our most successful recruiters.” Sadly, in Father Karcsinski’s opinion, neither of these former recruiters is as “present or as active as they once were.”

Could there be three young classmates in a parochial school in the Diocese of Bridgeport today who will go on to be priests? Father Karcsinski sounded the most hopeful note. “With God, all things are possible,” he said.

None of the priests interviewed for this article could really put his finger on one over-arching factor that helped to foster priestly vocations at Holy Name School and parish, but all three seemed to agree that the overall “environment” of their time and place in Stratford was significant.

“The total environment was Catholic,” Msgr. Royal said, “from school to parish and family, and it was friendly to living the faith.”

“Growing up,” Father Karcsinski said, “I remember our priests as being very visible in our neighborhood, and in showing attention to the particulars of our lives.”

Regarding the overall Catholic environment that permeated his life growing up, Msgr. Varga provided perhaps the most vivid illustration. “I was a ‘parish brat,’ living six houses down from the church and spending all my free time there,” he said. “While other kids were in Little League or Pop Warner Football, I was happy to be cleaning the candle stands and sweeping the floors.”

Vocations

Serra Club supports vocations

FAIRFIELD—The Serra Club, an international organization dedicated to promoting and nurturing vocations to the

a long way in helping our young people hear the voice of the Shepherd.” Serra International, founded in

bility is to pray for vocations, and to pray that young people hear the call,” said Bishop Caggiano. Even that though, is not enough, he

functions of the new chapter, as members will help to keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in all those who say, “yes” to God.

vocation. The club will provide a welcoming environment where those considering the priesthood or religious life in the Diocese of Bridgeport can have the support that they need.

In his homily, Bishop Caggiano charged the new officers and trustees of Serra to keep that fire burning through prayer and conversation.

In his closing remarks, Bishop Caggiano agreed: “In the end, we only want what the will of God is for each of us, including our young people.”

Led by President Jeff Miller and Chaplain Father Sam Kachuba, the new chapter will go a long way towards providing all those in our diocese with the resources needed to discern their

(See all about vocations at www.bridgeportvocation.org. For Serra Club of Bridgeport, go to www.facebook.com/serrabridge.)



priesthood and religious life, has a new chapter. On April 28 in the Mary Mother of God Chapel at St. Pius X Parish, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano formally chartered the Serra Club of Bridgeport in a Mass and reception.

1935 in Seattle, Wash., has chartered 1,170 Clubs in 46 countries across six continents. Inspired by their patron, soon to be canonized Blessed Junipero Serra, the club’s objectives are to foster, encourage and promote vocations. Serra Club members are also called to dedicate time each day in prayer, specifically for vocations.

added: “Once young people have heard the call, to sustain it is absolutely essential.”

Sustaining that call to vocations will be one of the primary

“I am ecstatic that you are here,” said Bishop Caggiano in his homily. “To create the Serra Club here in our diocese will go

“Our first and greatest responsi-



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Vocations

Bishop will ordain Deacon Class of 2015

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will ordain six men as deacons for the Diocese of Bridgeport on June 13 at 11 am in St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Fairfield.

In preparation for their ordination, the men attended a week-long retreat at Mt. Alvernia Retreat House in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. They began their retreat on Sunday, April 26, and were joined by their wives in the middle of the week.

"While the men are the ones called to ordination as deacon, the decision to request ordination is a joint decision by the man and his wife," stated Deacon Tony Detje, diocesan director of deacons.

Anthony Caraluzzi

Anthony Caraluzzi, 56, and his wife, Debra Ann, are members of St. Mary Parish in Bethel. This September they will be celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary. The couple has three children in their twenties.

St. Mary's is his home parish in a way rarely seen now: he was baptized at St. Mary's, had First Holy Communion and Confirmation there, and went to St. Mary's elementary school. After graduating from Immaculate High School in Danbury, he

attended Fairfield University, where he holds a B.A. degree in economics. He has been the owner of Taunton Wine & Liquor in Newtown for the past 23 years.

Deacon Caraluzzi will assist at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's on June 14 at 11:30 am. Father Corey Piccinino, St. Mary's pastor, will be the principal celebrant; Deacon John DeRoin will give the homily.

"The diaconate call is simply a call to serve," he says. "I'm not entirely sure if there is any one particular ministry that God has in mind for me, though I do believe hospital ministry will be an important part of my ministry work. However, I trust that God will give me what I need for whatever his will is for me."

David Flynn

David Francis Flynn, 60, and his wife Anita belong to St. Jude Parish in Monroe. The couple has four grown children, two boys and two girls.

Deacon Flynn grew up in a devout family who owned a grain and dairy farm in rural Minnesota. After attending Catholic elementary school and public high school, he enrolled in St. John's University in



PREPARING TO SERVE, the Deacon Class of 2015 will be ordained on June 13. (l-r) Front row: Anthony Caraluzzi, Jeffrey Font, John Tuccio. Back row: David Flynn, Ernest Jeffers, Patrick Shevlin.

Collegetown, Minn., run by the Benedictine monks. He holds a B.A. in business administration from St. John's, and another from the University of Minnesota-St. Paul in agricultural economics. He is currently a senior director of Jones Lang LaSalle.

After relocating to the East Coast from the Midwest, the Flynn's found meaningful relationships through their parishes and through the Cursillo movement. From that came the decision to

profess as a Benedictine Oblate.

Deacon Flynn will assist at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Jude's on June 14 at 12 noon. Benedictine Father Eric Hollas, O.S.B., will be the principal celebrant and deliver the homily.

"I believe that each of us is carrying a burden that is causing pain and suffering," says Deacon Flynn. "A relationship with Jesus will ease or release that burden, and our faith offers a path to fully experience the comfort

Jesus offers. I hope to be a useful instrument for Christ in ministering to those needs, and a truthful witness to his message."

Jeffrey Font

Jeffrey Joseph Font, 44, grew up in St. Edward the Confessor Parish. He and his wife, Lisamarie, are currently members of St. Joseph Parish in Brookfield. They have four daughters, ages 10-15.

He attended Consolidated School in New Fairfield and graduated from New Fairfield High School. He is currently a product specialist with Centrix Dental in Shelton.

He first became interested in the diaconate 15 years ago, encouraged by his pastor at St. Edward's, Msgr. Martin Ryan. Recently married and with a growing family, he put the thought on hold for a time but the calling continued to grow stronger and was encouraged by his wife and children.

Deacon Font will assist at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph's on June 14 at 11 am. Father Chip O'Neill, St. Joseph's pastor, will be the principal celebrant. Deacon Font will give the

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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Vocations

Two men to be ordained transitional deacons

BRIDGEPORT—Late June will see the ordination of two young men as deacons on their last step before ordination to the priesthood. On June 20, Bishop

currently studying at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., and expects to complete his MDiv degree in 2016. Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Stamford

program for youth.

He went to St. Anselm College in Manchester, N.H., before transferring to Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. After graduating from Sacred Heart in 2012 he entered St. John Fisher Seminary.

“If anyone ever wants to know if Catholic education or Catholic youth ministry pays off, I hope they meet Eric Silva,” says Father Kachuba. “His involvement with the High School Apostles, his background in Catholic schools, both in the diocese and in college, helped

him to hear the Lord’s call to ministry. Eric is able to encounter people on a profound, spiritual level and help them to feel loved by God. His desire to serve the People of God is evident.”

Silva is also studying at Mount St. Mary’s and will complete his theological studies in 2016.

“It was apparent from very early in my life that I was being called to live radically, but I did not know how or in what way,” he says. “In college, God really entered into the busyness and messiness of my life to show

me that the only authentically radical life is that of a Christian. My discernment began with an encounter with Christ in the Eucharist, and it is sustained only by a continuation of that relationship. After years of discernment, prayer and a great deal of joy, God has revealed that the radical life he called me to is brought to fulfillment as his priest.”

Deacon Silva will assist at his first Mass on June 21 at 10:30 am at St. Theresa. Father Brian Gannon, St. Theresa’s pastor, will be the principal celebrant. ■



PHILIP LAHN PHAN



ERIC WILLIAM SILVA

Frank J. Caggiano will ordain Eric Silva and Philip Lahn Phan as deacons for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

“We are blessed to have these two men of prayer serving in our diocese,” says Father Sam Kachuba, director of vocations. “I look forward to the day when they are ministering here as priests!”

Philip Lahn Phan

Philip Lahn Phan, 30, was born in Vinh-Long, Vietnam. His parents still live there, where they are members of Sacred Heart Parish in the city of Tra-On. A sister and brother also live in Vietnam.

He attended local schools and graduated from Can-Tho University in 2007 with a bachelor of science degree. Following graduation he worked as a technician for the Golden Rice Pesticide Company in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) in Vietnam.

“When I was a child, I always dreamed of doing something that would make my life meaningful,” he says. That dream became a quest, a searching that led him toward the Catholic faith. “When I turned 20, I found the meaning of life through my relationship with God and the Church. This relationship also led me to have a desire to serve, that is, to serve God and his people in the priesthood.”

Coming to this country, he entered St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford in 2010. He is cur-

is his current home parish.

“The more I walk on this journey, the more I feel my quest is being accomplished and that always makes me a happy person,” he says

Father Kachuba agrees with that assessment. “Lanh brings a joyful spirit to everything he does,” he said. “He is both a convert to the Catholic faith and a man who has lived the immigrant experience. His zeal for living the Catholic faith grows every day. He wants to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone. While maintaining strong roots in his own Vietnamese culture, Lanh moves fairly seamlessly in the American culture, as well. He will be a welcoming presence for anyone who crosses the threshold of his parish.”

Deacon Phan will assist at his first Mass on June 21 at St. Augustine Cathedral at 2:30 pm, the regular Sunday Vietnamese Mass at the Cathedral. Father Linh Nguyen will be the principal celebrant; Deacon Phan will give the homily.

Eric William Silva

Eric William Silva, 24, grew up in Trumbull, where St. Theresa is his home parish. His parents and brother James still live in Trumbull; another brother, John, lives in Fairfield. He went to Booth Hill School in Trumbull and graduated from St. Joseph High School in 2008. During that time he became active in the High School Apostles, a Catholic leadership formation



Jan Dilenschneider, *Calm and Distant Thoughts*, 2015.

Jan Dilenschneider: Dualities

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Consecrated Life

Meet 'The Bridgeport Gals'

On August 5, 1965, three young Bridgeport women donned the black veil of the formal SSND habit and walked into the chapel to proclaim their first vows as members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. All three will celebrate 50 years of vowed profession this summer.

The three women are Sister Lucy Caporaso from Holy Rosary Parish; Sister Maureen Ulatowski from St. Patrick's, now part of the Cathedral Parish; and Sister John Vianney Zullo from the former St. John Nepomucene Parish. Their jubilee celebration will take place this month.

Congregation: School Sisters of Notre Dame

Years in Vowed Profession: 50

Ministry, now or formerly:
Sister Lucy: elementary school teacher and principal of St. Theresa School, Trumbull, from 1985-90. *Sister Maureen:* teacher at the former Our Lady of Peace School, Stratford, when she was known as Sister Leonard Mary; teacher and assistant of St.

Catherine Academy special needs school in Fairfield for the past 11 years. "I have a special love for special kids." *Sister John Vianney:* teacher, principal of St. Andrew School in Bridgeport (now St. Andrew Academy), assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport, development director and assistant community leader in Wilton. Currently pastoral care minister at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton.

A favorite image or title for Jesus that resonates with me:

Sister John Vianney: "A laughing, happy Jesus."

Person who influenced my life:

All three women put their parents first and foremost. *Sister Lucy:* "My mother was devoted to the Rosary Novena and prayed this faithfully every day. My father worked for Bridgeport Gas Co. and drove a small truck to answer calls. In his truck he carried a Bible and each day during lunch he would make time to read it. He also continued this when he got home. He was so happy when he could tell everyone he read the

whole Bible at least four times during his lifetime.

A Connecticut place I especially like: All three Bridgeport natives, filled with memories of youth and childhood along Long Island Sound, find time by the



THREE "BRIDGEPORT GALS" (above) entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame on August 5, 1965. (l) Filled with joy and love, they celebrate their 50th jubilee this year. (PHOTOS BY PAT HENNESSY)



A DEDICATED METS FAN, Sister Lucy Caporaso was given a personally autographed photo by Hall of Fame Mets pitcher Tom Seaver.

water to be most inspirational. *Sister Maureen:* "I love going to Sherwood Island because I like to sit, listen to music and look out at the water. It is very calming

to me." *Sister John Vianney:* "I like Sherwood Island, but I'm happiest when I can get away I go to Mystic—to Enders Island in particular."

What "rocks my world" today?
Sister John Vianney: "I think this means 'What shakes me?' I'm most shaken by the lack of respect for human life. You see that all over our country—what happened in Baltimore is the latest example.

Something I most appreciate about community life: For all of them, a main factor is that the Sisters in community are there for each other "in good times and not so good times." *Sister Maureen:* "Worshipping together also strengthens me."

An interesting fact about me: All three are dedicated Mets fans. *Sister Lucy:* "I was a good softball player even after I entered the convent. That's where Maureen and I first met—on the local softball team. Once, a little girl in the third grade broke my finger with a softball. I went in after recess and didn't tell anyone. I didn't want to get her in trouble."

Sister John Vianney and Sister Maureen are both excellent, enthusiastic cooks.

Sister Lucy has a personal, autographed photo of Mets pitcher Tom Seaver, considered one of the best starting pitchers in the history of baseball.

Slogan that I would give my life: *Sister Lucy:* "For all that has been, THANKS. For all that will be, YES!" *Sister Maureen:* "God loves a cheerful giver." I feel that I bring joy into people's lives. *Sister John Vianney:* "God's loving care for me." I am filled with gratitude.

What would I say to someone considering consecrated life: *Sister Maureen:* "I would invite the person to come to my home and experience being with the Sisters." *Sister John Vianney:* "Come and see. It's a life filled with many blessings."

Sister John Vianney added a category not found on the original set of questions:

What is my favorite Scripture reading? Philippians 1: 3-11: The beginning of that passage reads: "I give thanks to my God every time I think of you—which is constantly, in every prayer I utter." ■

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June 7: Corpus Christi Mass & procession: *Cantus Missae* for double choir (Rheinberger); *Lauda Sion* (Victoria); *Panis angelicus* (Saint-Saëns); *O sacrum convivium* (Messiaen); *Ave verum corpus* (Mozart); organ music of Grigny and Messiaen

June 14: Third Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Orbis factor* (plainsong); *Nec est alia natio tam grandis* (Hughes); *Salve Regina* (Obrecht); organ music of Buxtehude

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School News

Trinity Middle gala highlights 50th celebration

STAMFORD—On April 25, Trinity Catholic Middle School, formerly St. Gabriel's Middle School, celebrated its 50th Anniversary, celebrating five decades of academic excellence. During the anniversary gala, Msgr. Edward Surwillo was honored for his dedication and belief in the Stamford Catholic School system.

Founded in September 1964, managed by the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame and

based out of St. Gabriel Parish in Stamford, the Stamford Catholic Regional School System was created in 1973, formally establishing the middle school as part of the Stamford Catholic System. By 1974, increased enrollment forced the school to expand into classrooms and the gymnasium within Stamford Catholic High School (currently Trinity Catholic High School). By 1979, the school welcomed the first lay principal and ushered in a new era.

In 1992, the diocese decided to adopt a diocesan-wide regional system to extend and enhance resources for all Catholic schools. By 2005, Trinity Catholic Middle School was formally introduced as the only Catholic Middle School in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Construction of the new wing, which included science facilities, a gymnasium and SMART Boards was concluded by 2008. Within the last five years, a



THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION raised over \$8,500 for Trinity Catholic Middle School. The funds will be invested to upgrade the school's media center and to make other technology improvements.

GCS announces \$250,000 challenge gift

GREENWICH—Greenwich Catholic School is proud to announce a \$250,000 challenge grant, made possible by James Dougherty of Greenwich, for IMAGINE, the school's \$2.5 million cap-

ital campaign to renovate and modernize its Upper School building. Combined with the \$1.4 million that has been raised to date, the additional \$750,000 will give the school the amount needed to move forward with construction.

in new gifts and pledges to the IMAGINE campaign by June 30. About four years ago, the advisory board initiated a study resulting in a campus-wide master plan. Attention was then given to which areas of the master plan should be given first priority.

The upper school was deemed to get top billing. The plan calls for a new roof, the addition of two new classrooms (Greenwich Catholic is blessed with a growing middle school population), and reorganization of existing classroom space to utilize the space to its maximum capacity. The modernization will use energy efficient, sustainable materials, ensuring that the building will be in top shape to welcome new generations of students.

Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2016. It will be finished by the time school starts in the Fall.

"Mr. Dougherty's gift is a call to action not only for our school families, but for the local Catholic community as a whole to lend their support and help sustain the only diocesan school in Greenwich," Brian Condon, campaign co-chair and Advisory Board member stated.

(To schedule a tour or receive an admissions packet, call 203.869.4000. For more info about Greenwich Catholic School, visit www.gcsc.org. To learn more about the Imagine Campaign, visit www.gcsc.org/IMAGINE.html.)

"On behalf of myself and my entire family, we are happy to continue a tradition of support for Catholic education in Greenwich that has spanned four generations and over 50 years. I am excited to see the growth and strength of Greenwich Catholic School and am thrilled to be able to help in this much needed renovation and expansion project," said Dougherty.

Greenwich Catholic School includes kindergarten through 8th grade students, as well as a preschool program for three year olds called Little Angels and a Pre-Kindergarten program for four year old children.

Opened in 1991, it took over

new technology roadmap was established to engage students in learning by harnessing the latest advancements in technology.

Situated on a beautiful campus behind Trinity Catholic High School, Trinity Catholic Middle School is the feeder school for the high school and the two academic facilities work together to prepare students for the demands of high school.

Administrators and students celebrated Mass and the historical ground-breaking ceremony for the new athletic field at the high school with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano the last week in April, a wonderful event leading into the anniversary festivities. The 50th Anniversary Celebration, in all its glory, raised over \$8,500 through silent auctions and gener-

ous donations of alumni, current families, teachers and community leaders. The funds will be directly put back into the school for media center and technology improvements.

Trinity Catholic Middle School is honored to be the only Catholic Middle School serving grades 6-8 in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Trinity offers the finest in academics, spiritual and religious education, sports, musical events and community-wide service. Dr. Patricia Lawler, Trinity's principal, and her staff take great pride in preparing students for the academic challenges that lie ahead in a safe and nurturing environment, while maintaining the spiritual and religious standards that the Stamford Catholic School system is based upon.



ital campaign to renovate and modernize its Upper School building.

"We are humbled and honored by the Dougherty family's continued commitment to Greenwich Catholic School," said Principal Patrice Kopas. "Over 40 years ago Jim's father, Bruce Dougherty, worked alongside other visionaries to sustain Catholic education in our community. Today his son honors that legacy by making sure our school remains viable for the future."

The single largest gift in the school's history, the challenge grant requires campaign leaders to raise an additional \$500,000



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World Youth Day

'Be the spark': WYD Poland

By JULIE RODGERS

A young woman in Poland, not so very long ago, had the opportunity to speak with Jesus on a daily basis. He appeared to her and asked her to dictate their conversations in a journal. Now, if that were true (and the Church assures us it is) then wouldn't you want to get to know her? What Jesus told her?

I am fully aware that this is not a normal way to begin any conversation, let alone an article, but that's precisely the point! World Youth Day 2016 will not be an ordinary or normal experience. I think on its 30th anniversary it is going to be extraordinary

You probably guessed by now this young woman is actually St. Faustina, but what exactly were these conversations between a young Sister and God about? Jesus chose her to be his little missionary of mercy and to share with the whole world that his greatest attribute is mercy. Proof that she is still interceding from heaven is that millions of young people will go to her convent and see for themselves the exact image the Lord Jesus instructed her to have painted of his Divine Mercy in 2016.

It was there that Jesus told her, "I bear a special love for Poland,



and if she will be obedient to my will, I will exalt her in might and holiness. From her will come forth the spark... " (Diary, 1732). A spark which will catch the world on fire! Would you like to be that spark? What better way to share the new jubilee Year of Mercy than with Pope Francis in Poland? What are you waiting for?

On my recent trip to Poland to assess the possible stops on our diocesan pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2016, I was touched by all the sites we visited because of the popular piety of the people, the great devotion and love for Mother Mary, and the witness of young people living their faith in daily life. My favorite place was Wadowice, the hometown of St. John Paul II. There you can see his home parish. The place where he lived is now a very well-done museum of his life from child-

hood to Pope.

It is no secret that Bishop Caggiano is convoking 300 young people to travel to Poland, or that as a diocese we have the best location in Krakow to stay. It shouldn't be a secret there are a lot of scholarships available! What are you waiting for?

If your parish or school would like a presentation about our recent diocesan site inspection for WYD Poland 2016 or help to get started, now is the time! Spots are filling up fast and the spiritual and formational preparation is about to begin for all groups registered. In June we will be announcing our first big scholarship winners! Stay tuned for more updates.

(Julie Rodgers is the diocesan coordinator of World Youth Day 2015. For more info, contact her at youthministry@diobpt.org or 203.416.1449.)

Trinity athletic complex planned

STAMFORD—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and Mark W. Karagus, EdD, principal of Trinity Catholic High School, have announced the commencement of construction of a brand new, multi-million dollar sports complex to be located at its Newfield Avenue campus.

The April 23 groundbreaking followed three years of planning, and is part of the school's multi-year ENVISION Campaign to completely upgrade and renovate its facilities in order to offer the highest level of contemporary educational services, as well as to accommodate an anticipated growth spurt in its student population over the next two decades.

The committee agrees that no modern school can be successful without a strong and diversified athletics program. Dr. Karagus describes the Envision Campaign as helping the school fulfill a critical part of its mission. "We have an outstanding academic program and a growing reputation for educating the whole student: mind, body and spirit. This will only add to the 'trinity' of



the pillars this school offers the area's youth."

Trinity Catholic High School, originally Stamford Catholic High School, was renamed in 1991 following its merger with St. Mary's of Greenwich and Norwalk's Central Catholic. The school sits on the original twenty-six acre site on Newfield Avenue in Stamford purchased in 1954.

The multi-million dollar renovation, the largest in the school's history since its opening in 1958, is being funded by the generous contributions of dozens of alumni, parents, corporations and foundations, including the William Pitt Foundation, with support by the Diocese of Bridgeport. There will be more opportunities as the project progresses for donors to collaborate in the campaign to renew, rebuild and revitalize Trinity Catholic High School.

The athletics program at Trinity Catholic has a long legacy of participants and programs, several of which have earned regional and national recognition. The improvements will include a complete refurbishing of the campus field to include a brand new multi-purpose turfed field for varsity and JV football, boys' and girls' soccer, lacrosse and girls' field hockey. Additionally the complex will include new grandstands, press box, concessions and field lighting.

Upon completion of Phase 1, Phase 2 will commence and will include a new media center, auditorium upgrades, plant improvements and renovations to the baseball and softball fields.

(For more info on the Envision Campaign or Trinity Catholic High School, contact the TCHS Advancement Department at 203.322.3401 or go to www.trinitycatholic.org.)

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Guest Commentary

Anticipating the Papal Encyclical

By MARY TAYLOR

Few people over the centuries have had the confidence—or perhaps chutzpah—to publicly prognosticate on what a papal encyclical would contain. Now, with the ascension of Pope Francis, the ratcheting up of the pastime of pulling the Pope's words from their contexts, putting words in his mouth, or applying convoluted hermeneutics to tease out what he “really means,” about the upcoming ecological encyclical has reached a fever pitch. There are scarcely any publications—even, or perhaps especially, secular ones—that have not weighed in.

I would never presume to speculate on what the Pope will say, but despite that reticence, I think we can assuredly know something about what he won't say. Among the recurring themes, three stand out:

The first theme is best exemplified in the conclusion of a recent essay by a “public intellectual.” He asks if God will return as our Savior if we have “trashed” the earth: “Between the lines of Francis's encyclical, will he be asking us to prepare ourselves for the appearance of the savior while at the same time bracing ourselves for the end if he declines?”

The answer, of course, is a resounding “No.” No Pope will ever tell us that Christ's saving act in his death and resurrection was conditional, that his being our Savior lies only in the future, and that our salvation rests on any works—even praiseworthy efforts—humanity as a whole performs.

A second theme has to do with the so-called problem of overpopulation. Some writers take an off-hand pastoral remark of the Pope's (that Catholics are not asked to be “like rabbits”) to speculate that he might say something “revolutionary” about birth control and abortion.

He will not. The Pope's comments were immediately followed by a reference to “licit” methods of responsible parenting; and he said in a January audience that large families are “a gift from God,” and not the cause of poverty. Instead, the cause is a system that has “canceled the person from the center



DURING A U.N. CONFERENCE last spring, Dr. Mary Taylor (right) and her husband, Michael, met with (l-r) Bishop Mario Toso, then secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and council official Tebaldo Vinceguerra.

and set money in its place,” excluding “children, the elderly, young people, the unemployed... and that creates the throw-away culture we live in.”

Lest we think this can be reduced to ideology, Cardinal Turkson, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said when speaking of the encyclical that the Pope is “not making some political comment about the relative merits of capitalism and communism; he is rather restating ancient Biblical teaching,” and “continues the work of his two predecessors.”

It is dangerously simplistic to blame poverty and environmental degradation on population growth, and it is gravely immoral—not to mention deceptive and futile—to attempt to “solve” those issues by means of violence against life, a theme of the “human ecology” of the three popes.

A final theme is that the Pope will say something that will, in the words of one writer, be so “radical” as to completely “upset the established order of the Church.” This bears a closer look.

Can there be a rupture with Tradition, a break that completely

“upsets the order of the Church?” No. Can there be things that are “new”? Yes. The Catechism says that “Tradition” is to be distinguished from disciplinary “traditions;” in the light of the former (and only in light of the former), the latter can be “retained, modified or even abandoned.” Again, as St. Augustine said, God is “ever ancient, ever new,” and hence we continue to be delighted and surprised by the freshness that makes Christ relevant in all times and places.

Yes, it was “new” when St. John Paul II spoke of “human ecology,” the “ecological conversion” and our necessary reconciliation not only with God, self, and others, but with nature, but “new” in the manner of the dramatic structure of the truth, as when a play's finale both surprises and resolves. So—as with his new Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary—we respond with a “Yes, of course, we didn't expect it, but it was always there in seed form; we see it now, and it fits beautifully and organically!”

All Church teaching is placed within the context of Scripture and previous magisterial works, so that it grows not by mechani-

cal, extrinsic add-ons, or amputations to the reduced spheres of politics or economics, but organically in an intrinsic relationality, as trees and other living things do. The Church is indeed “radical” in the word's true meaning, as ever re-awakening to its living roots in Christ.

I do not know what Pope Francis will say in the encyclical, but I do know what he has said up to this point, and what the previous popes have said, on creation and human ecology, and it is profound, beautiful, and faithful to the truth of Christ.

Let us wait and see what the encyclical actually says, reading it with the Magisterium and in the light of the Holy Spirit, rather than through the lens of those who seek to manipulate our expectations, prejudice any possible interpretation, and shape our judgment.

(Mary Taylor, PhD, is the Consulting Editor of *Communio International Catholic Review*. She has collaborated with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and has spoken on these issues all over the world, including at the United Nations and two World Youth Days).

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Consecrated Life

Contest for the Year of Consecrated Life

In response to the proclamation of Pope Francis naming 2015 the "Year of Consecrated Life: Wake up the World," the diocesan Committee for the Year of Consecrated Life invited students in Catholic Schools and religious education programs to express—through artwork, poetry, drama or song—their appreciation for the religious women and men of the Church.

Students in grades K-4 were challenged to create a poster promoting vocations to Consecrated Life, using the medium of their choice. Older students, grades 5-8, were asked to submit a poem, song or rap on the contributions to the world of a saint who lived the Consecrated Life-style. Entries incorporated "Wake up the World" and had to be 20 lines or less. Diocesan winners in each group received a gift card for \$100;

runners-up received cards for \$50. After a careful selection process,



judges awarded a winner and one runner-up in the younger grades' poster contest, and a winner and two runners-up in the upper grades contest. The winners came from three schools:

First place in the poster contest went to fourth-grader Nicholas Prieto of St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown. The runner-up in that category was



"FOLLOWING IN JESUS' FOOTSTEPS," the first-prize poster, was created by fourth-grader Nicholas Prieto of St. Rose School. He is shown here with St. Rose principal, (l-r) Sister Colleen Smith, poetry runner up Katherine Bonomo, and Sister Nancy Strillacci, delegate for religious.

second-grader Ruth Romero of St. Joseph School in Danbury.

For the song, poem, or rap contest for the upper grades, first place went to eighth-grader Sarah Bohling of St. Joseph School in Brookfield for her poem, "St. John Bosco, Patron Saint of Young People." Judges recognized two runners-up in this category: Matthew Sproule, an eighth-grader at St. Joseph School, Danbury, for his poem, "St. Francis of Assisi;" and seventh-grader Katherine Bonomo of St. Rose for "Wake the World."

(Additional information about the "Year of Consecrated Life: Wake up the World" can be found at the website for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/under_vocations/.)

DEACON CLASS OF 2015 FROM PAGE 18

homily.

"I want to become a deacon because I want to serve God and to minister to his people," he says. "It is a difficult world we live in and people need someone they can go to in times of trouble and struggle. They need others who may be able to help them with their faith and be with them in prayer and comfort."

Ernest Jeffers

Ernest Louis Jeffers, Jr., 50, was born in Queens, N.Y., but grew up in Stamford where he is a member of St. Bridget of Ireland Parish. He and his wife, Magdalene, have four children, three boys and a girl, ranging in age from 17 to 31 years old.

He attended Sacred Heart elementary school (where he met his wife in seventh grade) and graduated from Westhill High School in Stamford. He is currently a production coordinator for Stamford Tent & Event Services. He credits his former pastor, Father Gil Babeau, and current one, Father Ed McAuley, Jr., with encouraging his vocation.

Deacon Jeffers will assist at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Bridget on June 14 at 11:45 am. Father Ed McAuley will be the principal celebrant. Deacon Jeffers will give the homily.

"I would love to continue my work in my parish, especially with the youth group who are such a joy. They give me great hope for the future of our Church," says Jeffers, who was

a youth football coach for many years. "I also have a hope of working in prison ministry and with people who have lost their way and have given up hope. I want to be there for those who need to be pulled back to God."

Patrick Shevlin

Patrick James Shevlin, 56, was born in Scranton, Penn., but grew up in Bridgeport, where he graduated from St. Ann School (now St. Ann Academy). He went to Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield and holds an AS degree in sociology from the University of Scranton and a BS in business management from Charter Oak State College in New Britain. He is associate director of business intelligence for Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals in Ridgefield.

He and his wife, Doreen, are parishioners of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown. They have three children, all in their twenties.

Deacon Shevlin will assist at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Rose on June 21 at 12 noon. Msgr Robert Weiss, St. Rose's pastor, will be the principal celebrant and will give the homily.

"By the time I was a teenager I began to ask God to let me know his will for me," he says. "The first time I distinctly heard his reply was when I met my Doreen, whom I knew with certainty was to become my wife. It was through working with RCIA that I realized that God was calling me to the diaconate. Upon

entering the formation program, I felt the same type of certainty as when I met my wife, that peaceful and energized feeling from knowing that this is part of God's plan for me."

John Tuccio

John Nicholas Tuccio, 70, was born in New Haven, where he was baptized in St. Anthony Parish, and grew up in Ansonia. His father was one of 10 children and, during his childhood, Tuccio remembers seeing the entire extended family at Sunday Mass at Holy Rosary Parish in Ansonia.

He went to Larkin School in Ansonia and Notre Dame High School in West Haven. He holds a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Bridgeport and an MS in project management from Boston University. He retired after 49 years as a project manager with IBM in Southbury.

He and his wife, Helen, are members of St. Jude Parish in Monroe. The couple has four adult children, two boys and two girls.

"When Helen and I moved to Monroe and became members of St. Jude, we discovered a faith-based community of families," he says. The clergy, in particular Msgr. John Sabia and Father Skip Karcinski, and the families of St. Jude's played a significant role in my call to the diaconate. They reinforce the realization that faith is more than Mass on Sunday, but a calling to support the entire week."



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Obituries

Sister Annamae Haran, 97

Sister Mary Annamae Haran, IHM, of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary died on April 16 at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton, Penn.

One of five children, she was born on July 11, 1917, in Carbondale, Penn., and given the name Elizabeth. She entered the IHM Congregation on February 2, 1938, and made her final profession of vows on August 2, 1943.

Sister Annamae served as a teacher in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York and Connecticut. She taught at St. Ann School in Devon from 1945-52, and came to this diocese in 1986 to St. Ambrose Elementary School in Bridgeport. She served two years at St. Ambrose, then returned to the school from 1995-98.

In addition to her years of teach-



SISTER MARY ANNAMAE HARAN

ing, Sister Annamae served terms as a nursing and a dietary assistant at the Marian Convent in Scranton; as parish minister in Forest City,

Penn; and as an instructor at the Educational Enrichment Institute at the IHM Center in Scranton from 1998-2007.

From 2007 until the time of her death, Sister Annamae served as a prayer minister at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton.

She received a bachelor's degree in social studies and a master of science degree in elementary education/reading, both from Marywood College. She also received a nurse's aide certification from St. Joseph's Hospital in Carbondale, Penn.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Annamae on April 21 at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton. Interment followed at St. Catherine Cemetery in Moscow, Penn.

Sister Doris Marie, CSFN, 80

Sister Doris Marie Deane passed away suddenly on February 4 in Wading River, N.Y., where she was serving at the time of her death.

Doris Marie was born on September 14, 1934, in Manhattan. She graduated from Blessed Sacrament High School in 1952, and three years later married Eugene Deane on July 16, 1955. She was already studying at St. John's University in Queens; she received her BS in chemistry in 1957 and worked as a chemist for Barden Corp. in Danbury.

The couple moved to Brookfield, where Doris became a member of the Secular Franciscan Order. Gene died after a hard battle with cancer on November 13, 1983.

Doris began to volunteer at the newly-opened St. John Paul II Care and Rehabilitation Center in Danbury, became acquainted with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

After a time as an Affiliate, Doris Marie entered the Holy Family of Nazareth. She professed her final vows in 1994. After receiving certification from the National Association of Hospital Chaplains, Sister Doris Marie served as pastoral care chaplain at Bridgeport Hospital and St. Vincent's Medical Center both in Bridgeport. She was also appointed director of novices and affiliates for her province from 1997-2002. That year she became head of pastoral care at Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Sayville, N.Y.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Doris Marie on February 14 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent, Monroe. Interment followed in Holy Family Cemetery in Monroe.

Sister Stephen Marie, SSND

Sister Stephen Marie Mahoney, SSND, an educator and pastoral caregiver, died on March 18 at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton. She was 95 years old.

Gertrude Mahoney was born on February 18, 1920, in Somerville, Mass. After graduating high school in 1937, she majored in English and Latin at Emmanuel College in Boston. She received her B.A. degree in 1941 and took a position at Sudbury High School, where she taught English and Latin and directed the Glee Club. At the same time, she attended classes at Boston College Graduate School in preparation for an M.A. degree in Latin.

In 1945 she made a life-changing decision, resigning from her teaching position and entering the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Md. She received the name Stephen Marie and professed her final vows on July 31, 1953.

Sister Stephen Marie taught in elementary and high school, returning to her home parish of St. Peter in Cambridge to become the first principal of the new high school there. In 1967, she was appointed dean of the College of Notre Dame in Wilton. The college closed in 1970, but while at Wilton, Sister Stephen Marie had completed her studies for a Sixth Year certificate in administration in higher education at the University of Connecticut and accepted a position as director of regionalization of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport, a precursor to the current system of diocesan schools.

After her years as a teacher, administrator, and pastoral associate, Sister Stephen Marie came back to live at Villa Notre Dame in Wilton in 1997, where she was pastoral caregiver until she moved to Lourdes Health Care Center in 2004.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Stephen Marie on March 23. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery, Bethel.



Sister Louis Marie, RSM, 89

Sister Louis Marie Abenanti, RSM, died on February 23 at St. Mary Home in West Hartford after a long illness.

One of five children, Jane Margaret Abenanti was born in Derby on March 10, 1926. Following graduation from high school, she worked for nine years as an office manager before entering the Sisters of Mercy on September 8, 1951.

Known to friends as "Sister Luigi," she worked in inner-city parishes in New York, New Haven, and Bridgeport. She taught at the former St. Mary School in Bridgeport from 1962-68, then returned to St. Mary's in 1974 in parish ministry.

She served in the Social Concerns Ministry for the Diocese of Bridgeport until 1979, when she was able to follow her dream of becoming a missionary. In the following years in Honduras, Puerto Rico and Peru, she taught religion and English, visited the sick and homebound and opened a soup kitchen. Following her years there, she returned to this diocese to teach at St. Augustine School in 1986.

After retiring, Sister Luigi volunteered at Mercyknoll and at the School for Young Children, both in West Hartford. She learned to quilt and made crib blankets which she sent to contacts in Peru for impoverished families.



SISTER LOUIS MARIE ABENANTI

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated for Sister Luigi on February 25 at the St. Mary Home Chapel. Burial followed in St. Mary Cemetery.

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Obituary

Father Hyl, 78, former pastor of Holy Spirit

STAMFORD—Father Robert J. Hyl, 78, former pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Stamford, died on May 10 in Stamford after a long illness.

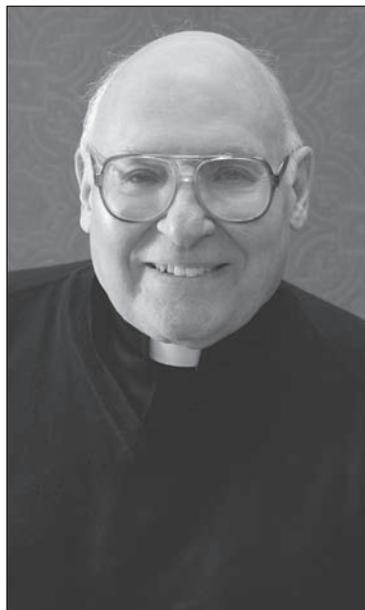
Robert Hyl was born on February 21, 1937 in Byram. He attended Greenwich High School and the University of Connecticut in Storrs, and studied philosophy and theology at Our Lady of Mercy Seminary, Lenox, Mass., and Our Lady of the Angels, Niagara University, N.Y. He was ordained by Bishop Walter W. Curtis on May 25, 1963, at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport.

His first assignment as a parochial vicar was at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Bridgeport. He also served at St. Rose of

Lima Parish in Newtown, St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport and St. Paul Parish in Greenwich. In 1970 he was appointed diocesan director of the Family Life Bureau, with residence at Our Lady of Good Counsel rectory in Bridgeport.

In addition, Father Hyl held the position of chaplain at the former Fairfield Hills Hospital in Newton, was chaplain for Scouts in the Danbury area and chaplain for the American Apostolate of the Holy House of Loreto. He was also a member of the Priests' Council

Father Hyl pursued advanced studies during sabbaticals at the American College at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and at the Institute of Theology



FATHER ROBERT J. HYL

and Spirituality of the Franciscan Renewal Center at Santa Barbara, Calif.

He was appointed pastor of Notre Dame Parish in Easton in 1986 and served there until 1999. In that year he was named pastor of Holy Spirit, leading the parish until his retirement in 2013. Father Hyl retired to the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence in 2013 due to declining health.

In a 1999 interview with the Connecticut Post after being honored by hundreds of his parishioners for his leadership as pastor of Notre Dame Parish in Easton, Father Hyl said it is always "inspirational to make the sing of the Cross on a newborn's forehead, to be bless the union of

a bride and groom or to hold the hand of a dying man. Regardless of where you are, people need to know they are loved and cherished by God. It's my calling to deliver that message."

Father Hyl's body was received at Holy Spirit Church on May 15; a parish Vigil Mass was celebrated that evening. The celebrant and homilist for the parish Mass was Msgr. Kevin Royal, the current pastor of Holy Spirit. The Mass for Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Spirit by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on May 16. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery in Greenwich.

Father Hyl is mourned by his brother Kenneth Hyl of Brookfield, and sister Patricia Moore of Sutton, Mass. ■

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DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE
OF BRIDGEPORT: MAY 17—JUNE 20

MAY

17	Rev. Miroslav L. Sultus	1992
18	Msgr. Charles B. Ratajczak, O.F.M.	1957
19	Rev. William H. Sullivan	1980
23	Rev. Thomas M. Garrick	1955
	Deacon Hans Jakob Gram	2010
24	Rev. Mark Grimes	2008
25	Rev. Joseph A. Ganley	1957
26	Msgr. William Loughlin	2014
27	Rev. Joseph F. Sohovich	1957
28	Rev. John P. McNerney	1969
29	Msgr. John J. Barney	1973
	Rev. Harry Holbrook	2005
30	Rev. Adelard A. Jalbert	1960
31	Rev. Dennis A. Szocs, O.F.M.	1985

JUNE

1	Rev. Msgr. Jean C. Tetreault	2003
2	Rev. Thomas M. Ford	1992
3	Rev. Michael F. Blanchard	1982
	Rev. Richard J. Grady	1993
5	Msgr. John Hayes	1964
6	Rev. Thomas J. Hanley	1954
	Msgr. Edward J. Howley	2012
7	Rev. James J. Dennis	2003
8	Msgr. Bernard S. Scanlon	2004
9	Msgr. James G. Lengen	1999
	Rev. James J. O'Malley	1996
13	Deacon Anthony LaBua	1988
14	Msgr. William F. Kearney	1974
15	Msgr. John H. Landry	1967
19	Rev. Robert S. McBride	1982
	Msgr. Frank Wissel	2014
20	Msgr. John J. Bumstead	1996

High School Sports

Fairfield U. celebrates its rich basketball history

By DON HARRISON

In a distant yesterday, Fairfield University men's basketball was often ranked among the top programs in New England and, in a few instances, among the finest in the East. The 1977-78 Stags, in fact, were rated among the nation's top 30 teams.

Memories of "Stagmania" and past triumphs were rekindled on February 21, when 14 members of the university's Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame—13 players and retired coach George Bisacca—were introduced at halftime of the Fairfield-St. Peter's game at Webster Bank Arena. The current squad, already assured of a 20-defeat season, responded by putting forth their strongest performance of the season, winning 57-43.

"As time goes by I appreciate more and more the friendships that we have kept going through the years," said Hall-of-Famer George Groom, Class of '73, whose sublime outside shooting sparked the 1972-73 team to the school's first National Invitation Tournament at Madison Square Garden. Those Stags, coached by the late Fred Barakat, even upset Marshall, 80-76, in the opening round before dropping a 77-76 squeaker to the ultimate champion, Virginia Tech, in the NIT quarter-finals.

Although more than 40 seasons have passed since Groom launched a jump shot from the outer reaches, he still holds Fairfield records for a single game (41 points) and career scoring average (19.8 ppg.).

Groom was joined by three Hall-of-Fame teammates for the occasion, point guard John Ryan '74, shooting guard Ray Kelly '75 and forward Ralph Rehn '75. Ryan and Kelly, both long-time Fairfield residents, were among several Fairfield County inhabitants in the group. Rehn made the lengthy trek from Atlanta.

Perhaps the best example of the 1977-78 Stags' prowess is this: the entire starting lineup, guards Joe DeSantis and Kim Fisher, forwards Steve Balkun and Jerome "Flip" Williams,

and 6-10 center Mark Young are members in good standing of the school's Hall of Fame. But only DeSantis, who remains a regular presence by providing color commentary for Fairfield games on SNY and WVOF radio, and Fisher were present on this special weekend.

"I'm biased. I can only judge from '75 on, but there'll never be a better Fairfield team than we were," said DeSantis, an All-East selection, who chose Fairfield over scholarship offers from Duke, Wake Forest, Rutgers and Holy Cross.

The 1977-78 Stags won 23 of 26 regular-season games—including a 123-103 rout of nationally ranked Holy Cross—but came up short against Rhode Island, 71-69, in the ECAC New England Tournament. Balkun missed that game with an ankle sprain. If only.

Bisacca, the visionary head coach and athletic director who was responsible for Fairfield's quantum leap from Division II into the D-I ranks in 1964, was beaming at the reception as he caught up with players from the past. His 1965-66 squad is still regarded among the university's best, assembling a 19-5 record that included a school-record 13-game winning streak and noteworthy road victories over Boston College, Duquesne, Xavier and St. Bonaventure.

Sadly, four of those Stags—Hall-of-Famers Mike Branch and Pat Burke, and Jim Brown and Sol Crenshaw—died much too young. Charlie Phillips '67, a fine outside shooter and 1997 Hall of Fame inductee, and Bisacca represented that team.

Pat Yerina, the Hall-of-Fame forward who was among the catalysts for Fairfield's first Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) title and automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament in 1985-86, was there, too. He remained in the area after graduation in 1986, putting together a successful career coaching basketball at Bunnell High School in Stratford and residing in Trumbull.

"Beating Holy Cross for the MAAC championship at the

Meadowlands was memorable," Yerina said. "Today, it was great to see my old coaches, Terry O'Connor and Mitch Buonaguro, and catch up with players from other eras."

Two of the university's earliest stars, lifelong friends, 1955 classmates and Hall-of-Famers Bob Gerwien and Jack O'Connell, were present and delighted to share their memories of playing home games at the Bridgeport



Armory—now the Cardinal Shehan Center.

"When we played UB or Arnold or one of the New York teams, we'd fill the place with 800 to 1,000 fans," said O'Connell, a guard who amassed 1,016 points across four varsity seasons. "We faced some great players, too, like Richie Guerin

of Iona and Maurice Stokes of St. Francis (Penn.)."

Gerwien, who spent much of his working lifetime as principal at Immaculate High School in Danbury, was a forward who scored a then-record 1,062 points. He recalled a home-and-home sweep of Providence (in 1952-53) as a highlight.

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



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Column: Joe Pisani



Save America, pray the Rosary

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

On the back of my SUV, plastered onto the spare tire, is a bumper sticker I found in the vestibule of a church that proclaims, “Save America—Pray the Rosary.”

Most people probably think I’m a subversive, one of those weirdos who puts bumper stickers all over his car about peace, love and legalized pot. You see, I have a few others, including one that says, “Live Free or Fry,” urging an end to high-tension power lines through the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

But when you think about it, the bumper sticker about prayer and saving America is more radical in our secular society than any other cause, including global warming, animal rights, rain forest preservation and so-called marriage equality.

People probably assume I’m peculiar when they pull up

behind me at the stop light and read that message, or if I cut them off on the highway and plant my rear bumper right in front of their windshield.

When one of my daughters saw it, she asked, “Aren’t you afraid someone will vandalize your car?”

I have to admit that her anxiety unsettled me a bit. Did you ever think we’d see the day when advocating prayer would provoke anger and vandalism? Welcome to the culture wars.

Like other Catholic subversives, I also have Rosary beads dangling from my rear-view mirror, and I’m sure some people think I use them as a good luck charm, but that’s not the case. Sacramentals are powerful.

“Save America—Pray the Rosary.”

Unfortunately, not enough people realize America needs to be “saved.” To the general public, everything’s fine. It’s business as

usual. However, when it comes to morality, everything’s not fine. Look at the statistics for abortion, crime, poverty, teen sex, domestic violence and sex abuse. Then, spend a few hours watching “reality” TV, and it will be apparent that something is drastically wrong. Our value system has been perverted, and in many areas, what was once considered “sinful” is now socially and scientifically acceptable.

Over the years, I’ve met countless political activists who are convinced the solution to America’s problems is to promote their cause. They believe we need more laws, more programs, more taxes, more regulations, more slogans, more speeches, more celebrity endorsements.

But for a person of faith, prayer is the true way to save America. Sad to say, I’ve reached that cynical age in life when I no longer have confidence in politics, legislators, officials, the media, advocacy groups or “The System,” as it was called during the ‘60s.

Yes, praying the Rosary can save America. St. John Paul II said, “Pray, pray much. Say the Rosary every day.” St. Padre Pio called it “the weapon for these times.” What’s more powerful than the intercession of the Blessed Mother, who has a direct line to her Son, Jesus?

“Go to the Madonna. Love

her!” St. Pio said. “Always say the Rosary. Say it well. Say it as often as you can! Be souls of prayer. Never tire of praying. It is essential. Prayer shakes the heart of God, it obtains necessary graces.” (Show me a politician whose motto is “more grace, fewer taxes,” and he has my vote.)

I’ve often thought that once we get to heaven and they hand out the celestial equivalent of the Oscars, the souls who walk up to the podium to give acceptance speeches won’t be the powerful and famous, or the people on the Forbes 100 list, or those who are successful by the world’s standards. The true heroes will be the lowly and humble, the prayerful and spiritual—people like the silver-haired little ladies who go to daily Mass and pray the Rosary for their children and grandchildren, for the sick and the dying, for the Blessed Mother’s intentions and for the

world.

Padre Pio often told a story about the efficacy of the Blessed Mother’s intercession, and it went something like this: One day Jesus was walking around Paradise and saw some unfamiliar faces, so he went to St. Peter and asked, “Who are these people? Did you let them in?”

St. Peter responded, “No.” Jesus looked at him quizzically.

“There’s nothing I can do,” St. Peter said.

“What do you mean?” Jesus asked. “You have the keys.”

“There’s nothing I can do,” he repeated, “and there’s nothing you can do either.”

Jesus was confused.

Peter sighed, “It’s your mother. She let them in. She has her own key.”

May is Mary’s month, so as Padre Pio said, “Go to the Madonna! Love her!” And pick up your Rosary and start praying. ■

New candidates



CONGRATULATIONS Chris Ford and David Roman, Jr. on being admitted to candidacy for priesthood. They were recognized at the recent End of Year Mass and dinner at St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford. Bishop Frank Caggiano celebrated the Mass. Chris is a native of Naugatuck, where he was a parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. David Roman is a native of Waterbury and member of St. Joseph Parish in Danbury. Both men, who have been in formation studies at St. John Fisher, are headed for major seminary at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, New York. St. John Fisher Seminary was founded in 1989 by Bishop Edward M. Egan for young men between the ages of 18 and 38 who are discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood. The seminary is accredited by the State of Connecticut to offer undergraduate courses in philosophy, theology, Latin and Greek in conjunction with Sacred Heart University and St. John’s University. Plans have recently been approved for its relocation to Daniels Farm Road in Trumbull, the site of the bishop’s residence. This year, 595 men are expected to be ordained to the priesthood in the United States! Pray for these men and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. ■

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Qualified candidates may apply at:

www.DioceseofBridgeportCatholicSchools.org via the Careers page.



Column: Thomas Hicks



The Master of Cities

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

I want to be a part of it, New York, New York. These vagabond shoes, are longing to stray Right through the very heart of it, New York, New York.

Genesis 4:17: "Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city and called the name of the city after the name of his son, also called Enoch." Thus according to the Bible, the first city was built by the descendants of the first murderer, Cain. This is a way of saying that cities are places of evil.

If someone should ask me, "How is New York?" I would reply, "It's dirty, noisy, dangerous, sinful, but I LOVE IT." To me, New York is the Master of Cities, the one that all others echo.

New York City seen from a number of bridges, but especially from the Queensboro Bridge, is always the city seen for the first time. The skyline jutting into a cornflower blue sky seems to be stretching itself, standing up straight and saying, "Don't I look good?" If you look down on the city at night from a plane on its landing run to LaGuardia, the city is a jeweled wonder, breathtaking; it glimmers and sparkles.

Now I only occasionally go to the city. But, always, when I arrive on the Metro North train at Grand Central, there is the old acceleration of the pulse. I'm swallowed up by the crowd of detraining people and borne along till we eddy out of the station onto the street.

I am stunned by the noise, the endless roar, brakes squealing, trucks grinding gears, horns blowing, sirens screaming. Some find the noise appalling. But for me, Manhattan's steady noise is the roar of life, part of the trembling energy of the city—The Kingdom

of Man.

I walk along the streets of the city excited, with constant wonder, in this man-made forest of towering steel, of rushing, bustling humans. I draw energy from the crowds, the noise. Kierkegaard would stroll among the crowds of Copenhagen to take his daily "people bath."

I enjoy the feeling of being anonymous on a crowded sidewalk watching numerous people pass by, each person belonging to someone or something. Flannery O'Connor said about the crowds in NYC: "Although you see several people you wish you did know, you see thousands you're glad you don't know."

I find especially exciting the city on the brink of evening. There is the tidal exodus of the homebound while, at certain times of the year, there is still sunlight on the west faces of the buildings, rendering them rose-colored in the setting sun.

The skyscrapers at night are as dazzling as any wonder of the world.

One summer, while in college, I worked as an elevator operator in the Cotton Exchange building on William Street. For two weeks, the job called for me to arrive on the job at 6 am. How I remember the city stirring itself in the early morning. I loved that crescendo as the city rumbled to life; all the life and color and movement of the great city coming to life again at the first light of day.

I remain fascinated by the Flatiron Building on 23rd Street, where Broadway crosses Fifth Avenue, the Diamond District, Rockefeller Center. And, of course, there is Grand Central Station with its surging sense of life; so many faces on so many errands, so many preoccupations, hopes, passions, lives in progress.

Writer Aline Weiller captured the character of Grand Central well when she writes that among the swarming ponds of humanity "some are anxious, seeking specialists for second

opinions, others arriving with hopeful anticipation for a blind date or lovers' reunion, still others apathetic, approaching their mundane nine-to-five grind. It's a place of connections, where commuters scroll their phones. Grand Central is a constant, a make-shift friend upon which you can depend."

There are the New York theaters, museums, concert halls,

churches, etc., but it is the spectacle of human life, the mass of human striving, that is so fascinating. A million faces on city streets, all with names, all with

"We're all caught in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth."

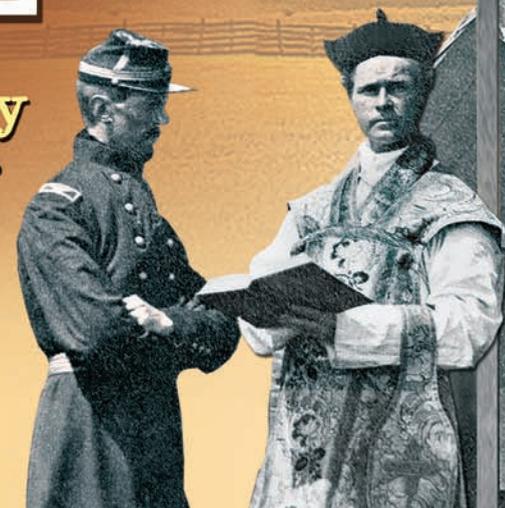
souls, as we used to say. The Christian belief is that God cares individually for all those souls he has made—all those millions seemingly so little distinguished by any vivid faith or real intimacy with things of eternity. Do most of them have a self before God? There is Therese of Lisieux's comment about "poor ignorant sinners filled with earthly thoughts."

When I'm with the mobs clustering at intersections on a sunny day, I have noble thoughts about the human journey we all make; we all love and suffer and hope and dream. Deep down we're all scared and lonesome. Tragedy comes to everyone. We all have secret fears to face. We may speak different languages, have different cultural roots. But we share the one sky and one earth, are children of the same God. We're all caught in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth.

But on a cloudy overcast day, sometimes there resonates in me something Chuck Colson said: "The greatest myth of the 20th century is that people are good. We aren't." And there's Dostoyevsky's observation: "We are all emotional cripples, every one of us, more or less."

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Bits & Pieces

ENCOURAGE apostolate for friends and family of loved ones with same sex attractions meets the third Saturday of the month at 10:30 am and is strictly confidential. For more info contact the Norwalk Chapter: EncourageNorwalk@gmail.com.

CARNIVAL for St. Mary Parish, Bethel, at the Bethel Municipal Green on School St., held Sat., **May 16**, from 12 noon-10 pm; Sun., **May 17**, from 12 noon-2 pm and 4-8 pm, timed to enjoy the Bethel Memorial Day Parade and Veterans Memorial Ceremony. Wristbands for all day riding: \$25. For more info, call 203.744.5777.

YOUNG ADULTS (ages 21-35) fellowship, Mass & BBQ at St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan, on Sun., **May 17**. Mass at 11:30 am, BBQ to follow. For more info

and to RSVP, go to starcc.youngadults@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN ROCK featuring the Vince DeFelice Band: Mass, concert and tailgate party Sun., **May 17**, at St. Maurice Parish, Stamford, beginning with 5 pm Mass. Tailgate party/food at 6 pm, concert 7 pm. For more info, call 203.324.3434.

MUSIC RECITAL at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, on **May 17**, at 4 pm featuring Charlotte Dobbs, soprano, and David Hughes, piano, performing the music of Karg-Elert, Copeland and Hughes. A reception follows. Cost: \$15; students \$10. For more info, call 203.866.5546 or visit www.stmarynorwalk.net/recitals.

MASSES OF HEALING & HOPE on Mon., **May 18**, at 7:30 pm at St. Lawrence

Parish, Shelton, with Father Ed Nadolny, and at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Father Larry Carew; and Mon., **June 22**, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King with Fr. Carew. For more info, call 203.268.8253.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS to be held on Mon., **May 18**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford at 7:30 pm; Thurs., **May 21**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, 7:30 pm; and Tues., **June 2**, at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton, at 7:30 pm. For more info, email jko-vacs@snet.net. Looking for a deeper relationship with God? Grow in faith? What is Cursillo? Find out at Cursillo of Fairfield County www.natl-cursillo.org/bridgeport.

ITALY TRIP info meeting open to all in the Bridgeport diocese will be held at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, on Wed., **May 20**, at 5:30 pm at the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce office, 10 Progress Dr., Shelton. The 9-day, all-inclusive trip (including air), will visit Rome, Florence, Tuscany, and Venice. Travel dates: Nov. 1-9, 2015. For more info, call 203.926.0947 or e-mail jdedad@cruiseplanners.com.

YOUNG ADULTS (ages 18-35) will meet Fr. Peter Cipriani at St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, in the parish center lower level on Fri., **May 22**, at 7:30 pm to discuss "Relationships." Open to all. For more info, email dominick.angi-olillo.3@hotmail.com or raytar.

POST-ABORTION HEALING MINISTRY

On Saturday, **June 13**, the Project Rachel Healing Ministry will hold an "Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing" at a conveniently located gathering spot in this diocese.

Project Rachel is the Catholic Church's response to those who have been wounded by the effects of abortion.

This program of support addresses post abortion stress. The Church recognizes that many women experience deep, unresolved conflicts with abortion. For Catholics, the pain of abortion is intensified by a sense of alienation from both God and Church. The intent of this ministry is to respond to that estrangement by fostering reconciliation and spiritual healing.

The diocesan Project Rachel Healing Ministry ensures strict confidentiality and its response is based on the particular needs of the individual seeking help. Project Rachel provides an integrated network of services that include day retreats, healing services, spiritual support and referrals to licensed mental health professionals, if needed.

In the future, it will also have weekend retreats.

The June 13 retreat, "Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing," is meant to be the start of the healing journey. The intention is for each retreatant to leave the day with hope that healing is possible for her.

(Maureen Ciardiello is director of the diocesan Respect Life Ministry. Any woman who would like to attend the Day of Prayer and Healing, or anyone who is seeking help, can call the confidential phone line: 203.416.1619 or email projectrachel@diobpt.org.)



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Women's Day of Reflection



"The Rosary of Our Lives"
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All ladies are in invited for a day with talks, quiet time, reflection, and prayer.

Saturday, May 30
Saint Margaret Shrine
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8:15am Mass to 2:30pm
Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Bring a rosary.
\$25/person



Would you like to see the rosary in a new light?
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RSVP by Friday, May 22
Maureen Ciardiello at 203-416-1445
Gina Donnarummo at 203-416-1446
womensconference@diobpt.org

To register, mail check, made payable to: "Office of Faith Formation"
Attn: Gina, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606

theresa@gmail.com.

VIGIL OF PENTECOST

Mass with Bishop Caggiano Mass for all Ecclesial Movements, Apostolic Societies, Fraternities, Third Orders and Cursillistas on Sat., **May 23**, at 6:30 pm at St. Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport. Reception will follow. For more info, contact Fr. Peter Towley: 203.209.5958 or FrTowsley@diobpt.org. For free tickets, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/vigil-of-pentecost-ecclesial-movement-mass-tickets.

MEMORIAL DAY Mass to honor veterans held Sun., **May 24**, at 11:30 am, St. Andrew Parish, Bridgeport, sponsored by

the Knights of Columbus Cabrini Council. There will be a special presentation to those who served during Desert Storm and the Iraqi conflict. Reception follows. For more info, call 203.374.6171.

MEMORIAL DAY Mass at Assumption Parish, Fairfield, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Assumption Council on Sun., **May 24**, at 12 noon. The Fairfield Police Dept. Honor Guard will participate along with community Scouts. A full military honors Service will take place following Mass. For more info, call Fred Coseglia: 203.371.8181.

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Bits & Pieces

18-35) by Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury on Tues., **May 26**, at St. Marguerite Parish, Brookfield, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Bring a date, bring group of friends—great night out and to meet other young adults in our area. For more info, email: catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or call Maria at 610.505.7272.

GOLF CLASSIC to benefit St. Rose of Lima School held at Richter Park in Danbury on Wed., **May 27**. Cost: \$250 per player. For more info, go to www.stroseschool.com or contact Marcy McDougall: 203.984.1912 or email: golf@stroseschool.com

TAG & BAKE SALE at St. Patrick Parish, Redding Ridge on Sat., **May 30**, from 8:30 am-4 pm. Boutique items, designer purses & jewelry, folk art and country decor, name brand NEW clothing, furniture, toys & more. For more info, go to www.stpa-treeding.org or call 203.938.2253

MARY'S FUND GOLF CLASSIC, Mon., **June 22**, at Tashua Knolls Golf Course, Trumbull. Proceeds will help children and teens receive quality mental health care. Mary's Fund was established in memory of Mary Sherlach, who lost her life during the Newtown killings. Tee-off 7 am or 12 noon. Evening reception, auction and dinner. Registration is open through Mon., **June 1**. Call 203.319.5183 during business hours or email William.sherlach@ms.com.

FAMILY COMMUNION BREAKFAST sponsored by the Knights at St. Matthew

YOUTH MINISTERS AND LEADERS: Bishop Caggiano has called a "Leaders of the Youth" meeting at St. Luke Parish, Tues., **June 2**, from 7-9 pm. Food, fellowship, guest speaker Sr. Clare Matthiass, CFR, information on the Sept. 19 Synod Closing Mass and a special youth service initiative. Sign up by Mon., **May 25**. To RSVP, go to www.signup-genius.com/go/10c084dafad-2caafb6-bishop1. For more info, email Julie Rodgers: youthministry@diobpt.org or 203.416.1449.

Parish, Norwalk, on Sun., **June 14**, after the 9 am Mass. Guest speaker: Sr. Lucie Monast. Cost: \$15 adults; \$10 children 10 and under. RSVP by Sat., **June 6**. For more info, call Ron: 203.561.0523 or George: 203.856.7101.

ST. CECILIA GOLF CLASSIC on Thurs., **June 4**, at Sterling Farms in Stamford. For more info, contact Pat Boyle: 203.605.1499 or patrick.boyle@rrd.com. To volunteer, go to www.stceciliahsa.ivolunteer.com.

VENDORS NEEDED for tag sale at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Shelton on Sat., **June 6**, from 8 am-2 pm. Inside tables \$20; outside tables \$15. Rain date: Sat., **June 13**. For more info, call LuAnn: 203.209.2441.

YOUNG ADULT Holy Hour & social (ages 18-35) by Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury on Tues., **June 9**, at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

Parish, Brookfield, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Open to all! Bring a date, bring group of friends; meet other young adults in our area. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or call Maria: 610.505.7272.

TRIP TO ITALY: All are invited to an informational meeting, Tues., **June 12**, at 7:30 pm at St. John Parish, Darien. Leaving **Aug. 22, 2016**, returning **Sept. 2, 2016**. The Includes Verona, Venice, Assisi and Rome. For more info, call 203.655.1145.

ST. ANTHONY FEAST at St. Margaret Shrine, Bridgeport, starting Fri., **June 12**, from 6-1 pm; Sat., **June 13**, from 2-11 pm; and Sun., **June 14**, from 12 noon-10 pm. Food, fun, rides and a raffle. Sun., **June 14**, outdoor Mass at 10 am celebrated by Bishop Frank Caggiano with a renewal of marriage vows sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, followed by a procession in honor of St. Anthony. For more info, call 203.333.9627.

"COME & SEE" if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Holy Spirit Fraternity. Msgr. Ernest Esposito will celebrate Mass at St. Emery Church, Fairfield, on Sat., **June 13**, at 9:30 am, followed with a social. For more info, call 203.255.8801.

FAMILY FAIR at St. Mary Parish, Stamford, Thurs.-Sun., **June 18-21**, from 5-10 pm. For more info, call 203.324.7321, email stmarystamford@yahoo.com or visit stmarystfd.org. **"KIDSHINE"** Performing

Arts Day Camp at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside, for Grades 3-8 (entering in fall of 2015) the week of **June 22-26**, 9 am-3 pm. Kids' performance Fri.,

June 26, at 7 pm. Cost: \$175 (first 50 campers). For more info, call 203.637.3661, ext 330. To register: www.kidshineonline.org/day-camps.html#register.

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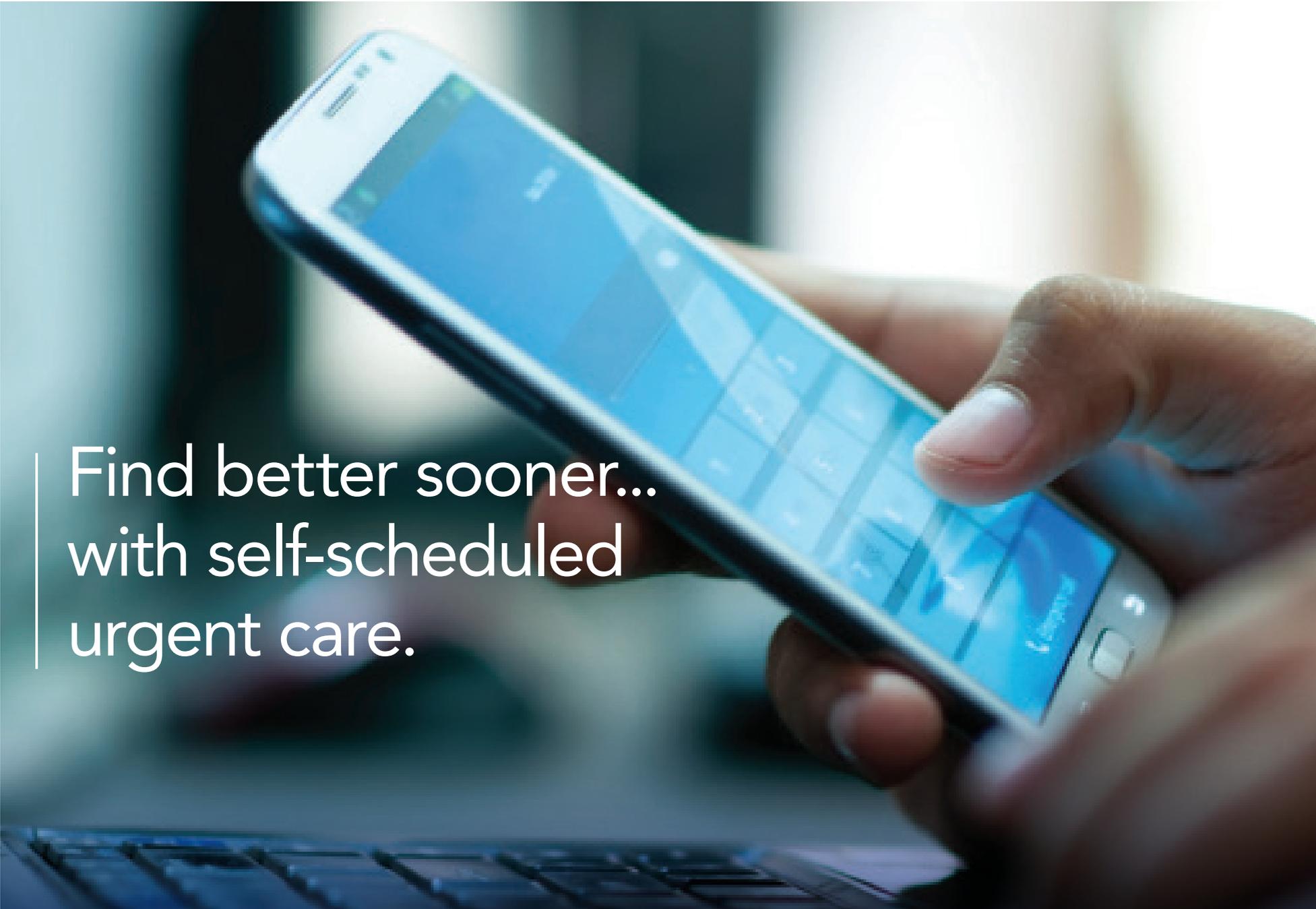
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