YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

STEP UP IN FAITH

Make your gift today to the Annual Bishop’s Appeal!

Beacon of Hope
Diocese of Bridgeport
Annual Bishop’s Appeal
2013
YOUR GIFT AFFIRMS THE LIFE OF FAITH IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT:
Where Mass is celebrated in 14 languages…
Where 11,000 children and young people are secure in schools that are faith-filled learning communities…
Where 240 priests, 103 deacons, and 343 religious women witness to Christ and serve in loving ministries…
Where 82 parishes engage the lives of Catholics through the reception of the sacraments and expression of Christ in worship…
Where 4,343 baptisms, 5,128 first communions, 2,614 marriages carry on vibrant, living faith that connect generations…
Where 460,000 Catholics worship, volunteer and participate in the universal Church
3rd Annual Henri Nouwen Lecture on Contemporary Spirituality

Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, Columnist, Community-builder and Author
Saturday, June 15, 8 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Sacred Heart University
5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, Conn.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. This event is the keynote address of the Thirteenth General Meeting of the ITMS.
Sponsored by SHU’s Division of Mission & Catholic Identity
Vocations

Seven men will be ordained to the priesthood

Seven men will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Bridgeport on May 25 at 10 am at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull. Bishop Christie will be the ordaining bishop. The new priests are: Fr. Juan Acosta, Fr. John Connaughton, Fr. Joseph Gill, Fr. Matthew Krankall, Fr. Krzysztof Kuczyński, Fr. Damian Pietesz and Fr. Ralph Segura.

“IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO PREPARE AND FORM A PRIEST,” says Msgr. Kevin Royal, diocesan director of clergy personnel. “But from their earliest days in seminary, we know these men came to us with a strong sense that the Lord was calling them. They will be a great blessing in the parishes for the people they’ll serve.”

The following month, the diocese will see five men ordained to the transitional diaconate, the last step before priestly ordination.

Fr. Juan Acosta
Fr. Juan Gabriel Acosta, 29, was born in Cúcuta, Cundinamarca, Colombia. He is the only son of Juan de Jesus Acosta and Maria Quevedo Acosta. His parents and a sister, Miriam, currently live in Bogotá, Colombia, where they are members of San Antonio de Padua Parish. He went to elementary and high school in Bogotá, and attended the Seminario Mayor de San José (where he was the champion of the double tennis tournament in 2004) and the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, graduating in 2006 with a concentration in philosophy and theology. Following graduation, he taught at the Colegio Nuestra Señora de Chiquinquira in Bogotá. He worked as an assistant of pathology in the laboratory and studied medicine at the Universidad Manuela Beltran. A friend who is a seminarian for the Diocese of Bridgeport suggested that he consider serving as a priest in this diocese, and he came to Connecticut in 2009. The Church of the Assumption in Westport is now his home parish. Deacon Acosta has completed his seminary studies at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD.

Fr. Acosta will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving on May 26 at 12 noon at the Church of the Assumption in Westport. The homilist will be Assumption’s pastor, Fr. Thomas Thorne.

“I am grateful to God for calling me to share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ, and further, to the Diocese of Bridgeport for their support and generosity. God sends us to preach the Good News to the whole world, and I have personally accepted this task by becoming a priest. Therefore, I ask God to help me with his Holy Spirit and his grace to fulfill faithfully this task.”

Fr. John Connaughton
Fr. John Connaughton, 37, was born in Manhasset, NY. He grew up in Trumbull, where his parents John and Anne Connaughton are still members of St. Theresa Parish. The only boy in a family of four children, he attended St. Theresa Elementary School. He is one of three men being ordained this year who graduated from St. Joseph High School in Trumbull.

After earning a bachelor’s from the University of Dallas in Irving, TX, he worked for several years as an internal sales representative for Alliance-Forest Products in Stamford and later worked for the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch in Bridgeport and Hartford while studying at the University of Connecticut School of Law at night. A year after finishing law school he entered St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford in the fall of 2008. He completed his seminary studies while residing at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Fr. Connaughton worked as an intern for the diocesan Communications Office in 2011 and was a media relations assistant for the North American College in Rome. His experience of the night Pope Francis was elected appeared in the April issue of Fairfield County Catholic.

Fr. Connaughton will celebrate his first Mass at St. Theresa’s on May 26 at 2 pm. His uncle, Msgr. Lawrence Connaughton of the Archdiocese of New York, will give the homily.

“God is always surprising us. There were many years when I thought life as a priest could never make me happy. But I was so wrong” says Fr. Connaughton. “The thing I thought I could never want has become my heart’s desire. I am deeply grateful to Our Lord for the gift of my vocation and for the grace he gave me to finally respond to his tuggings on my heart. I ask the people of the Diocese of Bridgeport to pray for me and the men with whom I will be ordained, that we might serve you worthily as holy, humble, and happy servants of Christ.”

Fr. Joseph Gill
Fr. Joseph Gill, 29, grew up in Frederick, MD, the oldest of five children. His parents, Charles and Anita, are parishioners of St. Peter’s Parish in Libertytown, MD. He put the rural countryside to good use, hiking, camping and earning the Eagle Scout award, the highest honor awarded in Boy Scouts. As a youth he played guitar and piano, and has self-produced two CDs of original music.

Following graduation from high school he entered the pre-theologate program at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He completed his seminary studies at Mount St. Mary’s, graduating with an MA in moral theology. He was ordained a transitional deacon and was assigned to St. Mary Parish in Bethel in 2011.

Fr. Gill will celebrate his first Mass at St. Mary’s on May 26 at 8:30 am. Msgr. James Farmer, pastor of St. John Parish in Westminster, MD, will be the homilist.

“When people ask me why I want to become a priest, I suppose that the short answer is that I fell madly in love with God,” he says. “As a teen, I had a profound and personal encounter with Jesus Christ, who changed my life and gave me a joy and a peace that surpasses all understanding. I want to give my life to him and to make him known and loved, so that he may set souls ablaze with a passion for holiness.”

Fr. Matthew Krankall
The Town of Monroe is honored to claim two men among this year’s ordinandi. Both of them join Fr. Connaughton in being graduates of St. Joseph High School in Trumbull. As of this ordination, more than half a dozen man have followed the path from St. Joe’s to priesthood.

ON THE COVER

Juan Acosta is one of seven men who will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, May 25 at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull. A native of Colombia, he studied medicine before entering the seminary. He is a member of Assumption Parish in Westport. ABOVE THE MAST: Volunteers from St. John’s Parish Men’s Group in Darien help with a home makeover as part of the HomeFront Community Project. They spent a day power-washing, patching and painting for grateful homeowners. Cover photo by Amy Mortensen.

CONTENTS

5 CBS SCOTT PELLEY At New Covenant House Breakfast

7 ST. VINCENT’S HAS HEART Pioneers revolutionary heart valve

12 ANGELS AND COMPANY Monroe store offers items & prayer

15 CONSECRATED LIFE Honoring Religious women & men

20 ANNUAL LADIES LUNCHEON For Catholic Academies in Bridgeport

21 SAINTLY LIVES Ed Waldron draws Francis Duff

22 BITS AND PIECES Mark your calendar
Parishes key to the success of the Appeal

BRIDGEPORT—With the Annual Bishop’s Appeal moving into high gear, a number of parishes have reached or exceeded their goals.

“Four parishes have gone beyond their goals, while a total of 19% of our parishes are approaching 90% of goal,” says Pam Rittman, director of the Appeal. “Parishes are really key to the success of the Annual Appeal and we’re grateful for the leadership of our pastors and priests.”

The Appeal is now approaching the $7 million mark, with the support of over 17,000 gifts as parishes work to reach their goals.

St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Stamford, led by Fr. Edward McAuley, is the first parish to reach goal. At press time, its parishioners have donated over $70,000 representing 117% of goal.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Fairfield, St. Margaret’s Shrine in Bridgeport and Assumption Parish in Westport have also exceeded goal.

“We’re well aware that these are difficult times for many families, but the people of the diocese always rise to the occasion. God love them, they’re very generous people and always ready to respond to needs,” says Fr. Thomas Thorne, pastor of Assumption Parish in Westport and assistant chair of the Priests Advisory Committee (PAC) led by Msgr. Tom Driscoll of Easton.

Fr. Thorne says most parishioners are aware of the litany of good things supported by the Bishop’s Appeal because the services touch the lives of so many families in Fairfield County.

“I think the Appeal also reminds us that the local Church is the sum of our parishes. The Appeal offers a larger perspective and the opportunity to see the big picture,” says Fr. Thorne, noting that diocesan seminarians spoke to his parish this year as part of the Appeal.

“It’s good that our parishioners hear from people who are recipients of their generosity, because their gifts make it possible for seminarians to continue with their formation and studies,” he says.

Fr. McAuley, who took over leadership of St. Bridget Parish last year, says that speakers from Catholic Charities were welcomed by his parishioners.

His strategy was to hit all the bases by distributing material, inviting speakers, listing in bulletins and making personal appeals from the pulpit. But most importantly, he went out of his way to let people know that he was pleased by whatever gift they could afford.

Many of his 700 parishioners are retired and living on fixed incomes, but they reached out to help others.

“I think it’s important for the pastor to let people know that he’s aware that many are struggling with financial limitations. Everyone is in a different position financially. I simply ask them to discern their level of sacrificial giving with financial limitations,” Fr. Thorne says most parishioners are aware of the Appeal.

Among those who choose to designate a gift, the most popular designations in dollar amounts raised in order are: Catholic Charities at 11%; Bridgeport Academies at 6.5%, (plus other schools, 11% all together); and priest and seminarian related support at 4.6%.

Likewise, Bishop Leaders (those who donate $1,000 or more) represent 5% of the total number of gifts and 39% of the overall amount raised.

“There’s plenty of room for participation at every level,” says Rittman. “We hope that people will join us and make the Appeal a success.”

Among the highlights of services were the 1.3 million meals to the poor and homeless, 36,000 children who participate in religious education programs, 3,500 prisoners who receive spiritual counseling, 11,000 students in diocesan elementary and high schools, 22,000 patients receiving pastoral care in health facilities, and 600 couples who attended weekend retreats as they prepare for marriage.

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

(For more information go to www.2013ABA.com, or to make your gift early, please pledge by emailing: 2013ABA@diobpt.org.)

Parishioners work to share Gospel love

DARIEN—Volunteers from the Men’s Group at St. John’s Parish in Darien, joined by members of the parish Youth Group, donated a beautiful May day to refurbish and repaint a home in their homes with an improved quality of life.

The homeowners, Garvis and Silva Merdinoglu are an elderly Armenian couple. They have owned the house for over 21 years, having immigrated to the United States nearly 32 years ago.

“We have so much to be thankful for. These people are wonderful,” Silva Merdinoglu said.

For Fr. Frank Gomez, parochial vicar at St. John’s, this was his fourth time on a HomeFront project since coming to St. John four years ago. “I think this is such a great opportunity to help out others in a practical way,” Fr. Gomez said during a break from painting. “Jesus tells us in the Gospel that we have to love one another, and this is a perfect way to show that we actually care about our neighbors.”

The St. John’s project was one of 80 houses that were repaired or refurbished this year in the Connecticut/New York area, 20 of which were damaged during Superstorm Sandy. The team from St. John’s joined some 2,600 other volunteers from 74 faith communities, corporations, civic and non-profit groups.

A total of five parishes from Diocese of Bridgeport participated in HomeFront projects this year. In addition to St. John, other parishes included Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton; St. Edward the Confessor, New Fairfield; St. Francis of Assisi, Weston; and St. Maurice, Stamford.

(For more information, call HomeFront Project: 800.887.4673 or visit their website: www.HomeFrontprogram.org.)
Recognized for his dedication to education, Msgr. Frank Wissel, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Greenwich was the honoree at the Father Peter M. Rinaldi Awards Dinner, held this year in Port Chester, NY. Msgr. Wissel (center, seated) was joined by fellow clergy Fr. Cyrus Bartholomew (right) and Fr. Jon Gomez, and past alumni and current students of Kolbe House of Studies in Bridgeport.

The event was held on April 13 at Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School in Port Chester for 350 guests. Msgr. Wissel was honored with the Fr. Rinaldi Award for his many years of support of Salesian Catholic education, in particular for his longstanding advocacy of Catholic education for needy children at Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School. The Salesian Society (originally known as the Society of St. Frances de Sales) was founded by St. John Bosco to care for young and poor children.

“God has given us the Bible,” Msgr. Wissel said. “We are, indeed, our brother’s keeper. We have a choice, being blessed with many things, but unless we share them with the needy, all is for nothing.” Five tables of family and friends came from the Greenwich area and beyond to join in celebrating this great priest with a heart for the poor.

A heart for the poor

Fr. Matthew Krankall

in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Two more of St. Joseph’s alumni are seminarians on the path to ordination.

The first of the two priests from Monroe, Fr. Matthew Krankall, 28, was born in Stamford and grew up in Monroe. His parents, Rudy and Martha Krankall, and his brother Aaron are members of St. Stephen Parish in Trumbull, which includes the lower part of Monroe. He attended Stepney Elementary School in Monroe and St. Joseph’s, graduating in 2004. He entered St. John Fisher Seminary and graduated from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield in 2008.

He served his deacon internship at St. Andrew Parish in Bridgeport and completed his seminary studies this year. He holds his masters in theology, with a focus in moral theology, from Mount St. Mary’s.

Fr. Krankall will celebrate his first Mass at St. Mary's on May 25 at 5:30 pm. Fr. Joseph (Skip) Karczinski will be the homilist. Fr. Michael Novajovsky, parochial vicar at St. Jude’s and another St. Joe’s alum, will be among the concelebrants.

“The most important lesson I have learned over my seven years of formation in the seminary is that God, out of true love, remains present in my life always, and it is he whom I love above all and who forms my life at every moment. Without him I can do nothing, but with him anything is possible. I trust in him and desire that all I do and all that I am may continue to be in accord with his will. The greatest joy of my life is to do the work of our Lord, alongside him as my intimate friend.”

Fr. Damian Pielesz

Fr. Damian Pielesz, 26, was born and grew up in Jastrzebie Zdroj, Poland, where his parents Krystian and Urszula Pielesz, are still members of SS. Barbara and Joseph Parish. His sister, Agnieszka, also lives in Poland. He graduated from local schools, including four years of music school (his mother is a parish organist). From 2003-05 he was a television newscaster for TVP Katowice, and had his own program on a local television station, TV KANON.

He entered the seminary of the Archdiocese of Katowice, where he received the Ministry of Lector and Ministry of Acolyte. Realizing that the Church in America had a great need of vocations, he continued his seminary studies at SS. Cyril and Methodius seminary in Krakow, a branch of a seminary by the same name in Orchard Lake, MI, that prepares candidates for the priesthood in the U.S. In 2010 he arrived at the seminary in Orchard Lake to continue his courses in English.

In 2011 he entered St. John Fisher. He now considers St. Marguerite Bourgeoys in Brookfield to be his home parish. Fr. Pielesz completed his final seminary year at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg this spring.

He will celebrate his first Mass on May 26 at 12 noon at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Stamford, a Polish-American parish. Fr. Miroslaw Stachurski, parochial vicar of St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton, will be the homilist.

“My heart is grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of God in this very special way as a priest,” he says. “The priest is sacramentally empowered to represent Christ in a specific way as Bridegroom of the Church. He becomes a sacramental sign of Christ in relation to the Church. Today, people expect the priest to be faithful to God and attentive to those in need. I want to be a priest who knows how to listen, to communicate God’s message effectively and to help those in need. I would like to bring the people of God to Jesus Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist. I am looking forward to that day when I will be able to offer the Eucharist for God’s people.”

---CONTINUED ON PAGE 13---
CHILDHOOD HUNGER is one of the most urgent problems facing the United States, where 25% of children now live below the poverty line, CBS News anchor Scott Pelley told the gathering of 300 at the recent New Covenant House of Hospitality celebrity breakfast held in Darien.

Pelley said that the United States ranks fourth behind Mexico, Chile and Turkey for child poverty rates in the developed world. “That is the company we are in,” said Pelley, who added that nearly 25% of the children in America now live below the poverty line, which translates into children going hungry each night and living in inadequate housing. At 18%, Connecticut’s child poverty rate is lower than the rest of the nation but it is unacceptable “in a state as affluent as ours,” Pelley said.

Pelley said that he and his news producers at CBS look for stories that show the “hidden America,” which is often hidden in plain sight. “We’re busy people rushing through our lives and we miss the hidden America, particularly children living in poverty around us. We just don’t see them,” he said.

During his talk, Pelley played two video excerpts from a 60 Minutes report on children in poverty. In one interview at Casselberry School in Orlando, Florida, just outside of Disney World, many of the children reported going to bed hungry because their parents did not have money for food.

In the second segment, a young family was living in a truck that their father also used to search for work.

The veteran newsmen, who has covered human rights issues including hunger across the globe, said many families are struggling with the fallout of the recession that has left more lingering unemployment than any since the Great Depression.

Pelley said that many people may have no way to respond to tragedies like the Boston Marathon bombings, but we can “save lives” by supporting organizations that feed hungry children and empower the poor.

“The fact that you’re here says that you know this truth and that you want to help,” he said.

Catholic Charities chief executive officer, Al Barber, said that many of the children served in the after school nutrition program at New Covenant House are like the children in the CBS video. “We serve 300 to 400 meals daily. They were eating junk food before we started, now they get a quality meal. It’s one way we can help face the consistent challenge of needing to make sure our children right here in Connecticut are well fed.”

Brian Jenkins, executive director of New Covenant House said the ultimate goal for the soup kitchen is to empower individuals and families by giving them the skills to move away from poverty and what is basically a “survival mode” of existence.

New Covenant House of Hospitality has been serving lower Fairfield County since 1978. Its guests include the homeless; working poor; elderly; mentally ill; HIV/AIDS clients; the disabled and immigrants. It is located at 90 Fairfield Avenue in Stamford. Phone: 203.964.8228 or visit www.nchstamford.org.)
Local News

Faith & family help Bill Sherlach move forward

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Fairfield County Catholic spoke with William Sherlach of Trumbull recently, a day after his 54th birthday and a day before what would have been his 31st anniversary with his wife, Mary Greene Sherlach, the school psychologist at Sandy Hook School who was killed when she tried to protect children from the shootings on December 14, 2012.

Since losing his wife, Bill, a member of St. Stephen Parish in Trumbull, has joined other Newtown families in advocating for social change and common sense measures to prevent future violence. A vice president and financial manager for Morgan Stanley in Fairfield, he has worked to perpetuate his wife’s memory and help others in need through the establishment of Mary’s Fund at Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF) www.fccfoundation.org. He has been joined in the effort by his two grown daughters, Maura and Katy.

A golf tournament to support the fund has been planned for June 28 at Tashua Knolls Golf Club in Trumbull. To date, 128 players have signed up.

Many families have found themselves thrust into a very public role while also dealing with a private, unspeakable grief.

“It’s kind of the same for all of us. We’re in a club that no one wants to belong to. I take one day at a time—it’s difficult to think longer term. I think we all have good days and bad days, good moments and bad moments. You turn on the radio and it’s there. You open a newspaper and see a picture. I imagine it will be that way for quite a while. We’re just trying to do the right thing, to do what we need to do that day at that moment in time.

“I think those of us who have been deeply affected by the tragedy often wonder how you and the other families are able to carry on after such terrible loss. "Just climbing in bed and staying there was never a choice. I have two grown daughters and a son-in-law, and a business I have to take care of. As the first days unfolded, I did not watch TV or listen to the news. Then one of my bosses came over and said, ‘Do you realize how global an issue this is?’ It took me a while to figure out what I needed to do and how I need to do it.

How did “Mary’s Fund” get started?

My company made a donation, then our employees made a sizable donation, and I knew this is something I needed to get behind. We set up a fund with Fairfield County Community Foundation and requested that money go there. It continues her work and helps their constituents understand the need for change?

We never thought it was going to be easy, but we got much done in Hartford and I think we made an impact in Washington.

Do you think there’s still hope that something will pass?

It’s still alive. Maybe we can come back to the table with better discussions and ideas. We were asking for a common-sense first step that wouldn’t have prevented future Sandy Hooks, but every long trip starts with one step forward. It’s time to bring some sanity to the table. We’re not looking to take away anybody’s gun. Background checks are a first step that don’t infringe on the Second Amendment.

So you’re prepared for the

---

“WE GET STRENGTH FROM THOSE who pray for us,” says Bill Sherlach, shown at St. Stephen Parish in Trumbull with his younger daughter, Kate. Bill’s wife, Mary, the school psychologist at Sandy Hook School, was killed when she tried to protect children from the shootings on December 14, 2012.

Maintaining your independence and helping you enjoy life is our only goal at Carmel Ridge and Teresian Towers. Located on the grounds of St. Joseph’s Manor, our unique retirement community provides the support and security you may need to live life to its fullest, including 24-hour medical and security services, nursing staff, shopping transportation, and optional meal plan. Day-to-day living is enhanced by an on-site chapel, library, recreation hall, crafts room, swimming pool, and nearby golfing.

We would like to help you make the next years the finest of your life. To receive more information or to schedule a visit, call 1-800-852-3866 in Connecticut or 203-261-2229 from out of state. Units from $58,000. Inquire about our Rental Program starting from $995 per month.

Teresian Towers/Carmel Ridge Estates

6454 Main Street • Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

A non-denominational facility owned by the Diocese of Bridgeport. Professionally managed by Winn Residential.

---

Perhaps the greatest joy in retiring is knowing you can live life to its fullest.
Robert Packham marked Valentine’s Day this year in a most appropriate way. He had his “broken heart” fixed through a groundbreaking new, non-surgical and minimally invasive cardiac procedure at St. Vincent’s.

Packham, 88, of Fairfield, received a new aortic valve without having to undergo open heart surgery. It was the last hope for the retired Pitney Bowes computer manager, who suffered from aortic stenosis, a disease characterized by the narrowing of the valve. The condition can lead to heart failure.

Open heart surgery, which can correct the problem, was not an option for Packham and many patients, who, for a variety of reasons, are considered inoperable. Until now, these patients have been left with a poor prognosis. St. Vincent’s interventional cardiologist Robert Jumper, MD, a member of Assumption Parish in Westport, led a multidisciplinary team in performing the first minimally invasive transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) on Packham at St. Vincent’s.

The procedure was also the first TAVR in Fairfield County. TAVR requires no more than two-and-a-half hours. A catheter carrying the tiny valve made of natural material is inserted into the aortal vein from a small incision at the groin.

“We guide the catheter to the heart using imaging,” Dr. Jumper said. “Once there, a tiny balloon inflates to squeeze the valve into place. Enormous patience is required and we have to be prepared for any contingency. That’s where our multidisciplinary team comes in.”

Because TAVR involves exceptionally precise imaging and delicate execution on patients who are high risk, it requires the support of specialists, nurses and technicians from a broad range of disciplines. Recognizing the importance of developing safety protocols for such a procedure, St. Vincent’s enlisted the expertise of airline pilot and high-risk-industry safety-systems analyst Joe Brown to prepare the teams drawn from these disciplines.

Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery Rafael Squitieri, MD, an important TAVR team member and a parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton, noted that St. Vincent’s is one of only three hospitals in the state able to offer the procedure. The launch of the TAVR program has put St. Vincent’s once again on a par with the major academic hospitals, the only facilities in the country performing this complex procedure.

“Our hybrid OR is perfect for TAVR’s needs,” he said. “Traditionally, disciplines have been quite individuated. Here, we’ve created an environment of collegiality where all our specialties collaborate using the most sophisticated technology to produce wonderful outcomes for high-risk, inoperable, elderly patients.”

Several weeks after undergoing TAVR at St. Vincent’s, patient Packham was able to report good news. “Before I had the procedure, I really couldn’t do anything anymore,” said the “I couldn’t even cook for myself, which I used to enjoy doing. Now I am able to move around and spend time with my son and grandson, and am happy to be back in the kitchen!”

(For more information on TAVR, please call 203-576-5708 or visit stvints.org/TAVR.)
USCCB weighs in on gun legislation

Bishop Stephen Blair of Stockton, the chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, has weighed in on the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013, which is under consideration in the Senate.

“We ask you to support policies that require effective and enforceable universal background checks for all gun purchases, and establish a vigorous law that makes gun-trafficking a federal crime,” he said in an April 8 letter to senators. “Support provisions that would civilian access to high-capacity ammunition magazines and ban assault weapons.”

“I also urge you to resist amendments that would expand the use of minimum mandatory sentences as punishment for gun violations,” he continued.

Bishop Blaire’s letter mirrors the language of an “action alert” issued on April 2 by the USCCB’s Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

Images of Native Americans found in Vatican fresco

VATICAN CITY—What appears to be the first depicted images of Native Americans have been found in a painting by Italian artist Pinturicchio at the Borgia apartments in the Vatican after a recent renovation, Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano has reported.

Experts, including Vatican Museums Director Antonio Paolucci, believe a detail in the artwork refers to the native explorer Christopher Columbus (Colombo in his native Italian) found when he travelled to the New World for the first time.

Paolucci points to a detail contained in fresco of the Resurrection that was made clear by work carried out by art restorer Maria Pustka.

“Just behind the Resurrection, behind a soldier who is enthralled by the incredible event he is seeing, you are able to discern nude men who painted their bodies red and black. They’re wearing feathers, and appear to be dancing,” Paolucci said.

Upon his return from the New World, Columbus handed over his diary and the information it contained. The diary was kept secret for political reasons, Paolucci explained. “It would be far-fetched, though, to believe that the papal court was oblivious to what Colombo saw when he got to the other end of the world.”

FPA lowers age limit for “morning after” pill

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ruled on April 30 that the “morning-after” contraceptive pill should be freely available without a prescription to all women over the age of 14. “Plan B One-Step” is a large dose of the hormonal drug levonorgestrel.

In early April, a federal judge in New York ruled that the pill must be available to females of all ages. The FDA ruling stops short of the full availability that the judge ordered.

“The FDA has acted irresponsibly by approving sales of the powerful drug, single-dose Plan B, for those 13 and older,” said Deirdre McQuade, a spokesperson for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

“The rule change subjects girls to risks of STDS and manipulation by others, a risk that is compounded by allowing males to purchase the drug even for girls under the age of 15.”

She added, “No public health consideration justifies the unsupervised sale of such drugs to young teens. The FDA is failing here in its responsibility to protect children.”

The Obama administration has announced plans to appeal the judge’s decision.

Christians should not whine, Pope tells congregation

“A Christian who constantly complains fails to be a good Christian,” Pope Francis told the congregation at his daily Mass on May 7. “They become Mr. or Mrs. Whiner, no?”

The Holy Father said that Christians should imitate the disciples—who in turn were imitating Christ—by accepting difficulties with a joyful spirit. The Pope spoke of a “Christian attitude of bearing up—of being patient.” He recommened “silence in endurance, silence in patience.” This attitude, he said, nourishes “a process of Christian maturity.”
Pope appoints cardinals to weigh reform of Curia

Pope Francis has appointed a commission of eight cardinals to advise him on a reform of the Roman Curia.

In the first clear indication that he plans major changes in the administration of Vatican affairs, the Pope named cardinals from every continent to the commission, which will asked to “advise him in the government of the universal Church and to study a plan for revising the apostolic constitution on the Roman Curia, Pastor Bonus.”

The Vatican announcement noted that in convening the group, the Pope was “taking up a suggestion that emerged during the general congregations preceding the conclave.”

The Pontiff chose cardinals who have exercised their ministry in diocesan settings, suggesting that Pope Francis wants to create a system of Vatican administration more responsive to the needs of diocesan leaders.

The cardinals named to the papal commission included Cardinal Sean Patrick O’Malley of Boston.

Pope Francis does not administer Communion

VATICAN CITY—Pope Francis does not distribute Communion when he celebrates Mass in public, a practice he began while he was Cardinal Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 2010, then-Cardinal Bergoglio remarked that some people who come forward to receive Communion “take refuge in the Church and do not live according to the justice that God preaches. And they do not demonstrate repentance.” The future Pontiff said: “I do not want these persons to approach me for a photo.” At the time, Cardinal Bergoglio was speaking about employers who exploited their workers. “It is difficult to be sure that such a person is an unrepentant public sinner,” he said. Nevertheless he did not want to give anyone an opportunity to exploit the Church.

The Pope’s reasoning applies to politicians who flout the teachings of the Church, for example by supporting legal abortion. Pope Francis will not be pictured administering the Eucharist to them.

Benedict XVI celebrates 86th birthday

CASTEL GONDOLFO, Italy—Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI celebrated his 86th birthday quietly on April 16 at the Apostolic Palace in the town of Castel Gandolfo. He was accompanied by his older brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger.

Msgr. Ratzinger arrived to join his brother at Castel Gandolfo a week earlier. He stayed a few weeks, in order to be there on April 23, the feast of his patron, St. George. Pope Francis—born Jorge Bergoglio—celebrated that same saint’s day feast.

Benedict returned to the Vatican on May 2 to take up residence in the Mater Ecclesiae monastery building. The residence includes a guest room that will be used in late-term abortion, which is legal throughout the United States. However, the story has largely been ignored in the national media.

Archbishop Chaput said how we treat unborn children reflects on our attitude towards all human life: “If we can treat unborn children this way, it means we’re capable of treating born children this way, and the elderly this way. Unless there’s a deep profound respect for human life at all levels, people will see a gradual disintegration of respect for human life at all.”

Archbishop Chaput: Babies treated like trash

PHILADELPHIA, PA—A Philadelphia abortion provider has been convicted of multiple counts of murder. Kermit Gosnell was charged with killing four babies who were born alive at his clinic in West Philadelphia. He was also charged in the 2009 overdose death of a patient. The trial has put a spotlight on some of the gruesome practices used in late-term abortion, which is legal throughout the United States. However, the story has largely been ignored in the national media.

Archbishop Chaput said how we treat unborn children reflects on our attitude towards all human life: “If we can treat unborn children this way, it means we’re capable of treating born children this way, and the elderly this way. Unless there’s a deep profound respect for human life at all levels, people will see a gradual disintegration of respect for human life at all.”

Host Families Needed

AIEP for International High School Students

- 10 Month Program
- Local, Caring Support Available 24/7
- Generous Monthly Stipend Offered
- Households of 2 or More Required

Limited placements available for the 2013/14 school year!

To learn more about this rewarding experience call
David Guerrera at 203.768.8079
or email info@aiepusa.com

AIEP offers international students the opportunity to study at top U.S. high schools

Always Best Care Services designed for you

- Non-Medical In-Home Care
- Free Assisted Living Referral Services
- Veterans Assistance Program
- Lifeline Emergency Medical Alert Service
- Free ABC Rx Prescription Discounts
- Philips Medication Dispensing Service

Always Best Care Services

We’re dedicated to exceeding your expectations...always!

Tom Restivo: 203.445.2812 • 203.895.9358 • www.abcofgreaterfairfieldcounty.com

Always Best Care Services designed for you

- Non-Medical In-Home Care
- Free Assisted Living Referral Services
- Veterans Assistance Program
- Lifeline Emergency Medical Alert Service
- Free ABC Rx Prescription Discounts
- Philips Medication Dispensing Service

Always Best Care Services

We’re dedicated to exceeding your expectations...always!

Tom Restivo: 203.445.2812 • 203.895.9358 • www.abcofgreaterfairfieldcounty.com
Seven men

They’re as diverse a bunch of guys as you could ever see. The youngest is 25 years old, the oldest, 51. There is an Eagle Scout, a lawyer, a TV newscaster. One went through college in three years; another dropped out of high school and completed his education later. What draws them together? As one man says, “I fell madly in love with God.” That love, shaped and sharpened by years of prayer, formation and study, will find its realization when these seven men are ordained priests for the Diocese of Bridgeport on May 25.

The fulfillment of that love, though, lies years in the future. You can see it in the lifelong commitment to the needs of the poor demonstrated by Msgr. Frank Wusel, who was honored for his dedication this April. You can see it in the happy face of Sr. Cecile Amore, S.S.N.D., 108 years old, who just celebrated 85 years of religious life. You can see it in the outpouring of warmth for Msgr. William Nagle, former pastor of St. John the Evangelist, who was welcomed home to eternal peace after a lifetime of loving service to the Lord.

So welcome, new priests. You will have years ahead to fulfill your longing. As another one of the new priests concludes, “My single hope is that I serve worthily and well, leading others to the love of God.”

Priest Jubilarians

This month, as we prepare for the ordination of our young priests, it is important that we also celebrate the vocations of men who have given their lives to the diocese. On page 13 of this issue, you will find a list of all priests in our diocese celebrating jubilees from ten to 50 years.

At the top of the class are Fr. Stephen Gleeson, Msgr. Thomas Green, Fr. Robert Hyl, Fr. Bernard Keefe, Fr. Michael Palmer, Msgr. Edward Surwilo, and Fr. David Tracy—all with 50 years of service.

What a remarkable record of faithfulness to the Church, prayerful service, and priestly witness! Each has served as priest, pastor, confessor and friend to so many individuals and families. In a variety of settings and assignments, they have brought the good news of the Gospel and the sacraments.

We ask so much of our priests, and they are always there for us—in the good moments of weddings and baptisms and in the difficult times of sickness and death, when their presence truly brings the healing power of Christ to our suffering and loss.

We can only be grateful that these men answered the call of their vocations and have served us for so long and so well. They do what no one else can do, and in so many cases, change our lives by their very presence.

So, in this month of weddings, ordinations, and graduations, let’s also take the time to congratulate our priest jubilarians and thank them for the many blessings they have brought to us.

News of Boston

News of Boston drifted across our computer screens on a quiet afternoon almost as if it had come in with one of the first warm breezes of spring. Had it happened again? We turned up the volume on another story of death, but as in all the shootings and mass murders we’ve endured, the darkness of the moment was quickly contradicted by the overwhelming acts of courage of First Responders and bystanders. Each time we are tempted to lose faith in mankind, we are stunned by the overwhelming acts of courage of First Responders and bystanders. Each time we are tempted to lose faith in mankind, we are stunned by the overwhelming acts of courage of First Responders and bystanders.

Dear Editor,

I spotted a column in the business section of a newspaper recently, entitled “Why aren’t smart phones making us more productive?” The author reported that, even though “an estimated 130 million smart phones roam U.S. streets,” there has been no marked resulting growth in American productivity since 2004. In contrast, the widespread diffusion of Internet technology through American business from 1995 through 2004 sparked 3% yearly gains in productivity. This author goes on to quote a college professor who says that “the official productivity numbers underestimate technology’s impact” and that they are “merely a pause” before the smart phone revolution truly impact the U.S. economy.

Perhaps. But there could be another explanation. Perhaps the time we save by easily accessing our business emails wherever we are, or by finding an appointment via GPS, or by booking a trip while waiting in a doctor’s office, maybe this and more all gets wasted by our obsession with our high tech toys: posting on a social media site several times a day, texting and calling family and friends incessantly, and surfing the web or watching videos for hours.

I witnessed this personally when I took several high school parishioners to the final “Bishop’s Vocation Dinner” hosted by Bishop Lori last spring at St. John Fisher Seminary Residence in Stamford. Driving down the Merritt Parkway, I sought to use the time for some in-depth conversation with these teens whom I had known since they were boys. Receiving monosyllabic responses to my questions from the guys in the back seat, I looked in the rear view mirror and saw them cradling their smart phones in their hands. “What are you doing?” I asked. “We’re texting our friends that we’re going to have dinner with the bishop,” they replied.

I said in response: “Why don’t you put your phones away until after the evening is over, and then you can tell your friends what you actually experienced?”

It is not just a temptation for teenagers and young adults to pass their time living vicariously, as it were: staring at a screen, tapping away at a keyboard, fondling a remote in their hand, plugged into a headset. Many of us do it. And what is the cost of this monumental waste of time, energy and opportunity? Not just a decline in economic productivity, but worse, the loss of appetite for liberal education, for silent wonder and contemplation, for prayer. The Holy Spirit whispers in the depths of the human heart.

Do we have our souls’ spiritual receivers set to “flight mode”?

Monsignor Chris Walsh
Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish
Shelton, Connecticut

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FATHER MICHAEL P. NOVAJSKY, part time Parochial Vicar, St. Jude Parish, Monroe, and part time Spiritual Director, St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, and part time Spiritual Director, St. Joseph High School, Trumbull and resident priest at St. Jude Parish, Monroe. Effective date was May 1.

Rev. Msgr. Kevin Royal, Delegate for Clergy Personnel

May, 2013
Memorial Day is always the time when we respectfully and fully thank the brave men and women who have risked their lives in war battles from the dawn of our nation to keep us free. Many of these people in uniform have been our African-American countrymen. I think then, this is a good time to remember a milestone that has gone quite unnoticed. For this year on January 1, 2013, we celebrated the 205th anniversary of the date when the United States was prohibited. It was a hard victory to achieve, in spite of the fact that so many black men had fought bravely in the American Revolutionary War. Our great Founding Fathers, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, were both slaveholders, and the importation of “Negroes”—free labor—was vital for the new nation’s economy.

But by the turn of that century, good people began to call slavery “an evil.” John Quincy Adams, as Secretary of State, stood up and proclaimed, “It is among the evils of slavery that it taints the very sources of moral principles. It establishes false estimates of virtue and vice; for what can be more false and heartless than this doctrine which makes the first and holiest rights of humanity to depend upon the color of the skin.”

He remained avidly anti-slavery, championing the cause of the Africans who had mutinied and escaped from the infamous slave ship Amistad, testifying for them before the Supreme Court in 1841. But it took until January 1, 1863, before the black people of our nation were finally set free, an act from the heart of Abraham Lincoln. His words will ever resound: “Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.”

Anyone who has done their history homework knows that our black neighbors did not get “emancipation” overnight! A few years ago I bought a book up to date that had been written by my deceased son Peter on World War I. I discovered that more than 370,000 black American served in the military in 1917-18, and researching what happened to them makes me honor them most especially on Memorial Day.

The conditions these service men found in the Army camps and later overseas were clearly stamped “separate and unequal.” Wanting to maintain strong control over possible “dangerous” alterations between black and white soldiers, the Army kept a “safe ratio,” meaning a camp would have about one black soldier for every 10 white ones. Every camp had separate facilities for blacks and whites, and when there were shortages of anything from food to blankets, it was the black soldiers who did without. Prejudice against them was so severe that black soldiers were exposed to daily humiliation and often unbearable living conditions. They were also expected to take on non-combatant duties, since military leaders, reflecting the country’s racial attitudes, falsely believed black soldiers were lazy, lame-brained and not courageous enough to fight. Most black soldiers were assigned to the Services of Supply (SOS), becoming the muscle power that loaded trains, got the mail through, constructed railroads and barracks, and such tasks. One regiment, however, the 369th Infantry, was the first black unit to go to France, and fought with the French Army, becoming famous for their bravery.

On the home front, black Americans were called upon to work for the war effort, but given wages way below that of white workers. The Red Cross, greatly needing nurses, refused to accept black nurses. Worse, blacks were still being lynched in the south—44 in 1917, 64 in 1918.

The brutality and injustice of lynching—when one in 7 soldiers were black, serving their country—moved President Wilson to address the nation, asking to end “this disgraceful evil,” underscoring, “It cannot live where the community does not countenance it.” It would take another great war, however, before this blemish on American society would be removed.

Memorial Day is a time to remember!
Local News

At Angels & Company, customers become friends

By PAT HENNESSY

“They’re comforting,” says a shopper at Angels and Company religious goods store in Monroe. “They help you through what you need.”

This young woman needs the welcoming attention that owners Midge Saglimbene and Linda Schirillo give every visitor to their store. One of her friends has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Since this friend is a devout Catholic, she may find comfort in a prayer card and statue of St. Agatha, the patron saint of breast cancer patients.

“I didn’t even know there was a saint for people with breast cancer,” the young woman says, as Linda helps her choose the best items for her friend. “Most of the art in the store is now the largest religious goods store in Fairfield County.

“We originally wanted to call our store ‘Queen of Angels,’ so that people would understand right away that this was a religious store,” recalls Midge. “But the recording clerk told us, ‘Oh, no, a listing starting with Q—no one will ever find you in the phone book.’ So we went with Angels; we’re right near the top.”

As the seasons change, so do the gifts customers are looking for. In the spring, parents come in for handsome First Communion ties—easy to fasten for unskilled fingers. Their daughters inspects veils, some flowing from a headband set with seed pearls. “Some girls don’t want a veil at all,” says Linda. “They want a pretty ribbon hairpiece.”

Around Mother’s Day, and throughout the year, husbands show up looking for that special gift for their wives. It might be one of the gentle Willow Tree figurines celebrating family life, or a Rosary bracelet or an angel pin. “We help them choose a gift, we box it, we wrap it, they’re happy,” says Midge with a laugh.

Pope Francis is a “hot item” with Catholic shoppers right now. The store offers his prayer card, including a medal with Pope Francis on the front and St. Francis on the reverse.

The next customer needs a Confirmation present for her son. “He’s not a Rosary kind of boy,” she tells Midge. Together they look up his chosen Confirmation saint, St. Alexander, in a catalog. He turns out to be the patron saint of charcoal burners. Sure enough, Midge can order a handsome St. Alexander medal, the kind any young man would be confident to wear.

Yes, there are saints for all seasons, and all reasons, among the “company” in Angels & Company. There’s the familiar St. Francis, most popular this time of year as a statue for the garden. St. Gerard watches over expectant mothers. St. Dymphna holds out a sympathetic hand to people with depression. St. Martha, the busy hostess of the Gospel story, is the patron saint of cooks. Featured most prominently among them is Our Lady, whose statues and images are available in a multiplicity of formats.

As the day goes on, some visitors are happy to drift among the offerings on their own, picking out a special card or looking at the books for children. Bibles and books on the saints are popular; a modern reality is reflected in a booklet “When Mom and Dad Divorce.” Most of the art in the store is traditional, with a sprinkling of modern icons and contemporary pieces adding to the mix.

And everywhere, there are angels. Crystal angels, string angels, pocket angels, angel statues to add to the beauty of your garden. “It’s not just a sale,” says Linda, giving a cheerful greeting as a frequent customer comes through the door. “Most of our customers become our friends.”

(Angels & Company is located in Crescent Village, 115 Main St., Monroe.)

Calling All Teens!

Summer Vocation Days

June 25 & 26, invite high school students to help them explore their vocations—either to marriage, priesthood, or the religious life. It’s a dynamic event that combines games and fun with a healthy Catholic spirituality. Participants get to meet seminarians, priests, and religious sisters and brothers. There has been a great turnout in the past few years so be sure to register early! Parents are invited to attend Mass on Wednesday, June 25, at 5:30 pm., followed by dinner. $25 registration fee.

For details and registration www.bridgeportvocations.org.

June 25 – 9 am-4 pm
breakfast, lunch and dinner provided
June 26 – 9 am-7:30 pm
breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided

SAINT MARY’S BOOKSTORE 203.854.9013

Offering a wide selection of books, crucifixes, rosaries, sacramentals from Italy and the Holy Land, First Communion and Confirmation gifts, and more.

HOURS: Saturday 10am-4pm | Sunday 9:30am, 11am-2pm | Monday, Wednesday and Friday 12:45-2pm

Located in Parish Center building behind Saint Mary Church | VISA/MC ACCEPTED

SAINT MARY’S CHURCH

“The Mother Church of Norwalk” | 669 West Ave., Norwalk | Est. 1848 | www.stmarysnorwalk.net | 203.866.5546

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

Confessions: Monday-Friday: 11:30-12noon; Wednesday: 6:30-6:50pm; Saturday 3:00-4:30pm
Sunday Masses: 8:00am, 9:30am Ordinary Form High Mass, 11:30am Ordinary Form High Mass, 1:15pm in Spanish

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

May 19: Pentecost: Missa Octavi toni (Lassus); Paracclitus antem Spiritus (de Wett); Loguehantur varis linguas (Tallis); Dom complerentur (Palestrina); organ works of Dufay, with the Student Schola
May 26: Trinity Sunday: Missa Seculum non (Vivera); Honor, virites, et potestas (Tallis); O lux beata Trinitas (Byrd); organ works of Bruhns and Buxtehude
June 2: Corpus Christi: Cantus Missae (Rheinberger); Ave verum corpus (Byrd); Panis angelicus (Byrd); Ave maris stella (Stamp); organ works of Tielouze, Vierne, and Lock, with the Student Schola, St. Mary’s Choir, and Coro Hispano
June 9: Third Sunday after Pentecost: Mass for Three Voices (Byrd); Miserere nostri (de Rore); O nata laxis (Tallis); organ works of Dubois
June 16: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Missa Carmorum (Isaac); Ave dulcissima Maria (Byrd); Ave caelestis (Carri); organ works of Debrus
June 23: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Missa Fons bonitatis (plainsong); Exaudii Deus (Lassus); Voce mea (Crocce)
I wish that I could be an instrument to assist people to feel relief and to restore their good human nature as children of God.”

Fr. Ralph Segura

Fr. Ralph Segura, 51, a member of St. Mary Parish in Norwalk, is one of four children, two boys and two girls. He was born and raised in Norwalk, where his mother, Palma Segura, is a parishioner at St. Mary Parish. His father, Rafael, lives in Costa Rica. He attended Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin elementary schools and earned his GED from Staples High School. He entered St. John Fisher and graduated from Sacred Heart University with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy, and from 1996-98 studied at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

A late vocation, he was a driver and crew chief for Geotjen Moving and Storage, a driver for Ridgefield Supply Co., and an assistant manager in the service department at Mercedes Benz of Greenwich before completing his M.Div degree at Mount St. Mary’s. During this past year he served as a transitional deacon at St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan.

Fr. Segura will celebrate his first Mass at St. Aloysius on June 6 at 5 pm. Msgr.

Stephen DiGiovanni, pastor of the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist, will give the homily. “Through the Word of God, Jesus Christ, his Church, the Scriptures, preaching, teaching, and through the grace of the sacraments, God has called me to do for others what he has done for me through his Church, his priests and his people. I look forward to living a life of sacrifice and service for the Glory of God, in the name of Jesus Christ. Empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit, my single hope is that I serve worthily and well, leading others to the love of God.”

Priests and Deacons Celebrating Anniversaries

The annual Chrism Mass, held during Holy Week, is the setting to honor diocesan priests and deacons who celebrate significant anniversaries this year. Blessings and best wishes go to all our jubilarians:

**Over 50 years:** Fr. Philip Brady, 70 Years (1943); Msgr. John Hossan and Fr. Joseph Parampath, 60 Years (1953); Fr. Emidio Gregori and Fr. Stanley Koziol, 60 Years (1953). Msgr. John Sanders, 50 Years (1963)

**50 Years (1963)**

**25 Years (1988)**
Fr. William Platt  Fr. Matthew Mauriello  Fr. James Vattakunnel, V.C.  Deacon Daniel Jannelli  Deacon James Volpe

**10 Years (2003)**
Fr. David Daigle  Fr. Martin DeMayo  Fr. Henry Hoffman  Fr. John Inserra  Fr. Joseph Marcello  Fr. Juan Jairo Pérez  Fr. Christopher Samele  Fr. Elio Sosa, I.V.E.  Fr. Mirosław Stachurski

**40 Years (1973)**

**40 Years (1973)**

**30 Years (1983)**
Msgr. John F. McVerry  Msgr. Mark J. O’Connor  Fr. Mark A. Trione

**20 Years (1993)**
Fr. John F. Bacon  Fr. Michael J. LaMarra  Fr. James M. LaMantia  Fr. Joseph H. Maher  Fr. Neil S. Mercurio  Fr. Joseph D. Moren

**15 Years (2008)**
Msgr. Roger A. Beal  Fr. John Basil  Fr. Robert D. Castellano  Fr. Peter M. Conley  Fr. Edward A. Hristov

**10 Years (2003)**
Fr. David Daigle  Fr. Martin DeMayo  Fr. Henry Hoffman  Fr. John Inserra  Fr. Joseph Marcello  Fr. Juan Jairo Pérez  Fr. Christopher Samele  Fr. Elio Sosa, I.V.E.  Fr. Mirosław Stachurski
Imagine a story set in Rome, the city steeped in grandeur, history, and beauty. Further imagine it involving the Vatican, Italian nobility, and Hollywood film studios, with a cast of characters including Pope Pius XII, Cardinal Spellman, Louis B. Mayer, and Joseph P. Kennedy. This is the unlikely history of the Pontifical North American College, the seminary and center for graduate studies for American seminarians and priests in Rome.

More specifically, it is the story of the college’s re-founding and expansion of its facilities under the direction of its rector, Bishop Martin J. O’Connor.

We have Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, pastor of the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford, to thank for this story, in the form of his new book, The Second Founder: Bishop Martin J. O’Connor and the Pontifical North American College (Trafford).

The North American College was founded in 1859 for the training of American priests. It was the vision of Blessed Pope Pius IX, who encouraged the Church in the United States: “You should set up, here in this venerable city of ours, your own college for clerics of your own nation. For you, in your wisdom, are well aware what great advantages would accrue to your dioceses from such an institution.” The institution was a success and, by the turn of the century, given the growing Catholic immigrant population in the U.S., was in need of enlargement. As early as 1924 the American Church hierarchy approved the purchase of a 12-acre location for a new, expanded college.

With the coming of World War II the ambitions of a new facility were interrupted. They resumed with the appointment of Bishop Martin J. O’Connor as rector in 1946. He is the improbable hero of this story, hailing not from a great metropolis, but from Scranton, PA. An alumnus of the college, he accepted his position with faithful resignation: “Since I do not seek this office, I consider the decision of the committee as a manifestation of God’s will for me. This gives me strength to assume such a responsibility.”

The bulk of Msgr. DiGiovanni’s work is the account...
Vocations

Consecrated life honored

By PAT HENNESSY

The Diocese of Bridgeport held its annual Celebration of Consecrated Life on May 13 at St. Luke Parish in Westport. The day is the opportunity to recognize religious Sisters, Brothers, and other priests working in this diocese.

There are currently 323 religious women and 31 religious orders. A smaller number of men religious come from nine different orders. Each religious institute fulfills a distinct ministry or charism.

One of the gems of this diocese is the Vikingsborg Guest House in Darien, run by the Sisters of the Order of the Most Holy Saviour of St. Birgitta (Birgittines). The tranquility of this refuge is an expression of the charism of their order. “Our charism is threefold: Adoration, Reparation, and Ecumenism,” says Mother Eunice Kulgrathottiyil, O.S.S.S., superior of the convent. “These are expressed through prayer and hospitality. We open our houses all over the world for all Christians to have their retreats and days of prayer.”

Eucharistic Adoration is part of the daily life of the guest house. The Sisters themselves, part of the daily life of the guest and days of prayer.”

Academics are not enough. We empower the whole person, intellectually, emotionally, morally,” says Sr. Maria Iannuccillo, who is currently on the Provincial Council in Baltimore. “When you educate a person, that ripples out to change the whole world.”

Sr. Maria, who professed her final vows in 1999, served for 12 years in this diocese, the largest part of that time on the campus ministry staff at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull and then as SSND vocations director in Wilton.

The charism of the SSNDs is unity, she explains. An international order, they count 3,000 Sisters worldwide, serving in 34 countries. Two years ago, Sr. Maria was on a retreat in Kenya with other women from her order. “My Sisters were Ghanaian and Nigerian and British and Polish and Slovenian,” she recalls with warmth. “It makes the world so different.”

The Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, another international order, also have a strong presence in this diocese. This order has a generous number of young women who are attracted to their charism. Among them is Sr. Angela Gertsema, ASCJ, who lives at St. Raphael Convent in Bridgeport.

“Sr. Angela recalls. “The Pope said that, if we were thinking about a vocation—act on it.”

She came back home to Kansas City, willing to do just that. Her boyfriend hung in, convinced that she was suffering from excessive enthusiasm after the Pope’s visit. At first it seemed he was right. “I visited a lot of religious communities, but that wasn’t going anywhere.”

She met the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at a youth rally and was inspired by the life of their foundress, Mother Clelia Merloni. Something clicked. “I looked at my boyfriend and thought, ‘Some woman out there is going to make him a great wife.’”

Sr. Angela, now 31, entered the order in 2001 and professed her final vows in 2010. She teaches third grade at St. Raphael School.

“The Sacred Heart of Jesus is at the center of all we do, and we are apostles—we are sent to bring the love of Christ to people,” she explains. “A lot of Sisters are in education, but we have nurses, missionaries, and Sisters in parish work. We have a Sister who is an attorney, working with immigrants.”

Their order holds retreats and opportunities for discernment all over the country, and has attracted a number of young women to explore a religious vocation. One of them, Christine Rattini, is currently a novice in the convent at St. Raphael’s.

Special recognition at the Celebration of Consecrated Life was given to those women and men religious who achieved significant anniversaries this year. Msgr. Jerald Doyle, diocesan administrator, recognized their years of devotion during the Mass that opened the celebration.

Although she could not attend the diocesan celebration, the oldest jubilarian was Sr. Cecile Amore, SSND, 108 years old who is observing 85 years of consecrated life.

SPANNING THE GENERATIONS, a jubilee celebration held for the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) in Wilton included Sr. Cecile Amore, professed 85 years, Sr. Maria Iannuccillo (at left), 19 years, and Sr. Limeteze Pierre-Gilles, professed three years. In addition to the event in Wilton, the Diocese of Bridgeport held a Celebration of Consecrated Life at St. Luke Parish in Westport on May 13.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Assistant Superintendent for School Planning and Advancement

A unique opportunity exists for a dynamic, visionary and proven leader to transform schools and build a solid foundation for a progressive, vibrant and viable network of excellent Catholic schools.

As an integral member of the Superintendent’s team, the Assistant Superintendent for School Planning and Advancement will shoulder a strategic and tactical set of responsibilities primarily focused on facilitating broad-based consultation, with resolution to schools needing reallocation of resources; assist leaders/leadership teams in the strategic planning process; guide schools in a comprehensive development program including annual giving and fundraising; develop large-scale grants for the Office of Catholic Schools for projects and targeted projects on behalf of the schools; and work in collaboration with the Director of Enrollment Management and Marketing and the Director of School Finances to serve schools in strengthening their operational vitality.

A thorough knowledge of the Roman Catholic Church and its teachings and respect for the Catholic vision on important social, moral, and ethical issues is required. A graduate degree in Education or Business, with leadership ability as evidenced by performance in previous educational assignments. Experience in Catholic school education.

Interested applicants should submit a resume including salary requirements to Karen Keen, Director of Human Resources, Archdiocese of Hartford, at kkeen@archhoc.org. Interviews will begin in May with an anticipated starting date no later than July 1, 2013.

Jubilarian Religious:

“For your wonderful life of witness and service to the people of God in the Diocese of Bridgeport, deepest gratitude, warmest affection, and God’s blessings!”

85 years: Sr. Cecile Amore, SSND
70 years: Sr. Agnes Patrice Connors, SSND
60 years: Sr. Mary Sarafine Della Croce, SSND;
- Sr. Julie Lawrence, DC, Sr. Kathleen Wahl, SSND;
- Fr. John Higgins, SJ
50 years: Sr. Carolyn Carlisano, ASCJ;
- Sr. Joan Compagnino, CND; Srl. Luigia Fusaro, POSC;
- Sr. Marie Vianney Gallagher, SSND;
- Sr. Gesuina Gencarelli, POSC; Sr. Teresa Henry, CSJ;
- Sr. Claire LoMaglio, SSND;
- Sr. Joanne Maura Munoz, SSND;
- Sr. Mary Elena Rizzo, OP
25 years: Sr. Sarah Haack, MC
Ladies Lunch for Catholic Academy

More than 200 women attended the Annual Ladies Luncheon at Woodway Country Club in Darien.

The event raised over $140,000 to further the educational and scholarship needs of 1,280 Bridgeport Catholic School children. The Ladies Luncheon also represented the launch of the new “Leaders of Tomorrow” program conceived by Alison Barr. The program gives donors the opportunity to sponsor a current kindergarten student for next year. The Catholic Academies of Bridgeport serve pre-K through eighth grade students at the new Cathedral Academy (St. Raphael and St. Augustine campuses), St. Ann Academy and St. Andrew Academy in Bridgeport.

Preparing Leaders in the Vision of Jesuit Education

- **M.A. in Religious Education**
  Concentrations: Adult and Family, Peace and Justice, Youth Ministry, Latino Studies, Spirituality and Spiritual Direction

- **M.A. in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Care**
  (60 credits) with licensure eligibility for Mental Health Counseling

- **M.A. in Pastoral Care** (36 credits)

- **Ph.D. in Religious Education**

- **Doctor of Ministry**
  Concentrations: Pastoral Ministry, Latino Studies, Spiritual Direction

- **Graduate Certificate Programs** in Spiritual Direction and Faith Formation

- **Online Programs**: M.A. in Religious Education (Youth Ministry), M.A. in Pastoral Care (36 credits), Faith Formation Certificate (18 credits). Some courses in other programs are offered online.

Rose Hill Campus | Westchester Campus | Manhattan Satellite (31st Street)

www.fordham.edu/gre | 718-817-4800

We admit students in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Online coursework can begin midsemester.

Visit our website today to learn more about varied programs or to contact us for more information.

AWARD WINNING ABC News journalist Bob Woodruff discussed his recovery from a traumatic brain injury in 2005, when he was critically wounded covering the Iraq war as ABC News Anchor. In 2007, he and his wife, Lee, wrote a best-selling book on his life after the injury, *A Family’s Journey of Love and Healing*.

LUNCHEON LEADERS (l-r) Sister Joan Magnetti, rscj, executive director of the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport, chats with event co-chairs Alison Barr of Greenwich and Patricia L. Phelan of New Canaan.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS and award winners.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBER Sarita Hanley of Stamford enjoys the luncheon.

LUNCHEON LEADERS (l-r) Sister Joan Magnetti, rscj, executive director of the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport, chats with event co-chairs Alison Barr of Greenwich and Patricia L. Phelan of New Canaan.

AWARD WINNING ABC News journalist Bob Woodruff discussed his recovery from a traumatic brain injury in 2005, when he was critically wounded covering the Iraq war as ABC News Anchor. In 2007, he and his wife, Lee, wrote a best-selling book on his life after the injury, *A Family’s Journey of Love and Healing*.
Senior Citizen Prom 2013

By MIKAYLA KONECNY

The experience at Saint Joseph’s Manor for the senior citizen prom is a moving one. The seniors look forward to the prom all year long, and are beyond appreciative of the students who spend their day with them. The feeling of giving your undivided attention and time to people who are so welcoming is indescribable. All they want is somebody to talk to, considering most of the elders’ spouses have passed away, or that their living family members rarely visit them.

At the prom, I learned many life lessons from the aged men and women because they have lived through everything that you can imagine. They were all eager to tell their life stories. A gentleman I was speaking with, known as Walter, told me everything about his life, from his family, to being a veteran, to getting spinal surgery. He was one of the happiest, healthiest 94-year-olds I have ever met. He was so glad to talk to me, and in return he went into his suit jacket pocket and took out a Milky Way candy bar. Walter told me he “wants me to keep it” and then went into explaining how the world has changed from when he was my age, 78 years ago. His stories and advice are things that I am going to keep with me for the rest of my life.

Further into the afternoon, we distributed lunch to the elders. When they finished eating, we cleaned the tables and gave them dessert. After that was complete, the music began playing throughout the hall. I approached a lady, Ella Miller, who is 90 years old. I have met her before; I brought her a stuffed teddy bear because she had told me about all of her stuffed animals. I talked with her for a while then we went and danced. Although she is in a wheelchair, she was ecstatic to be bouncing in her chair to the beat of the music with all of her friends. We danced for about 15 minutes then went back to her table and talked.

She has a poor memory, so she repeated a lot of her stories she was telling me. Also, because she does not get many visitors she was nervous that she was annoying me, so she kept saying, “Am I driving you crazy?” Even though she has been trapped in the manor for a few years, she is still very alive and happy. She also has one of the best memories I have ever met. She has a poor memory, so she repeated a lot of her stories she was telling me. Also, because she does not get many visitors she was nervous that she was annoying me, so she kept saying, “Am I driving you crazy?” Even though she has been trapped in the manor for a few years, she is still very alive and happy. She also has one of the best memories I have ever met.

STUDENTS AND SENIORS look forward every year to the Senior Citizen Prom, which pairs teens from St. Joseph High School in Trumbull and residents of St. Joseph’s Manor, also in Trumbull. All enjoy the day of music, laughter and story telling.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21
“Dios nos envía a predicar el evangelio a todos”

Por SONIA BURNS

“Estoy muy agradecido con Dios por llamarle a compartir mi vocación al sacerdocio, y con la Diócesis de Bridgeport por su apoyo y generosidad durante estos cuatro años. Agradezco no sólo a mi familia sino a todos ustedes, quienes me han dado fuerza y esperanza, pero sobre todo, estoy muy agradecido por sus oraciones”, dice el Padre Juan Acosta a pocos días de su ordenación sacerdotal.

El próximo sábado 25 de mayo el obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford, Monseñor Christie Macaluso, ordenará a siete sacerdotes en la parroquia de Santa Teresa en Trumbull, entre ellos al nuevo padre hispano, el Padre Juan Acosta.

El próximo 22 de junio, la Diócesis de Bridgeport ordenará como diácono transitorio a otro seminarista colombiano, Rolando Arias Galvay. Éste es el último paso requerido para su ordenación al sacerdocio el próximo año. Rolando Arias es nativo de Armenia, Colombia, donde la mayoría de los sacerdotes de la diócesis son oriundos. “Estas ordenaciones son ocasiones de gran regocijo, no sólo para la comunidad hispana, sino también para la diócesis. Los sacerdotes hispanos, además de dar a los católicos hispanos el beneficio de recibir la Sagrada Eucaristía en su propio idioma, se ordenan para llevar los sacramentos a toda la gente de la diócesis, cualquiera sea su nacionalidad”, dice el Padre Falla.

“Yo le pido a Dios que me ayude con su Espíritu Santo y su gracia a llevar a cabo fervorosamente esta tarea, para que yo pueda hablar como Jesús lo hizo, pensar como Jesús y tener un corazón como el de Jesús para el bien de su rebaño”, dice el Padre Acosta.

Mary’s, otro en Roma, y dos en el Seminario Saint John Fisher en Stamford.

El próximo sábado 25 de mayo, la Diócesis de Bridgeport ordenará como diácono transitorio a otro seminarista colombiano, Rolando Arias Galvay. Éste es el último paso requerido para su ordenación al sacerdocio el próximo año. Rolando Arias es nativo de Armenia, Colombia, donde la mayoría de los sacerdotes de la diócesis son oriundos. “Estas ordenaciones son ocasiones de gran regocijo, no sólo para la comunidad hispana, sino también para la diócesis. Los sacerdotes hispanos, además de dar a los católicos hispanos el beneficio de recibir la Sagrada Eucaristía en su propio idioma, se ordenan para llevar los sacramentos a toda la gente de la diócesis, cualquiera sea su nacionalidad”, dice el Padre Falla.

“Yo le pido a Dios que me ayude con su Espíritu Santo y su gracia a llevar a cabo fervorosamente esta tarea, para que yo pueda hablar como Jesús lo hizo, pensar como Jesús y tener un corazón como el de Jesús para el bien de su rebaño”, dice el Padre Acosta.

Por SONIA BURNS

“Estoy muy agradecido con Dios por llamarle a compartir mi vocación al sacerdocio, y con la Diócesis de Bridgeport por su apoyo y generosidad durante estos cuatro años. Agradezco no sólo a mi familia sino a todos ustedes, quienes me han dado fuerza y esperanza, pero sobre todo, estoy muy agradecido por sus oraciones”, dice el Padre Juan Acosta a pocos días de su ordenación sacerdotal.

El próximo sábado 25 de mayo el obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford, Monseñor Christie Macaluso, ordenará a siete sacerdotes en la parroquia de Santa Teresa en Trumbull, entre ellos al nuevo padre hispano, el Padre Juan Acosta.

El próximo 22 de junio, la Diócesis de Bridgeport ordenará como diácono transitorio a otro seminarista colombiano, Rolando Arias Galvay. Éste es el último paso requerido para su ordenación al sacerdocio el próximo año. Rolando Arias es nativo de Armenia, Colombia, donde la mayoría de los sacerdotes de la diócesis son oriundos. “Estas ordenaciones son ocasiones de gran regocijo, no sólo para la comunidad hispana, sino también para la diócesis. Los sacerdotes hispanos, además de dar a los católicos hispanos el beneficio de recibir la Sagrada Eucaristía en su propio idioma, se ordenan para llevar los sacramentos a toda la gente de la diócesis, cualquiera sea su nacionalidad”, dice el Padre Falla.

“Yo le pido a Dios que me ayude con su Espíritu Santo y su gracia a llevar a cabo fervorosamente esta tarea, para que yo pueda hablar como Jesús lo hizo, pensar como Jesús y tener un corazón como el de Jesús para el bien de su rebaño”, dice el Padre Acosta.

Mary’s, otro en Roma, y dos en el Seminario Saint John Fisher en Stamford.

El próximo sábado 25 de mayo, la Diócesis de Bridgeport ordenará como diácono transitorio a otro seminarista colombiano, Rolando Arias Galvay. Éste es el último paso requerido para su ordenación al sacerdocio el próximo año. Rolando Arias es nativo de Armenia, Colombia, donde la mayoría de los sacerdotes de la diócesis son oriundos. “Estas ordenaciones son ocasiones de gran regocijo, no sólo para la comunidad hispana, sino también para la diócesis. Los sacerdotes hispanos, además de dar a los católicos hispanos el beneficio de recibir la Sagrada Eucaristía en su propio idioma, se ordenan para llevar los sacramentos a toda la gente de la diócesis, cualquiera sea su nacionalidad”, dice el Padre Falla.

“Yo le pido a Dios que me ayude con su Espíritu Santo y su gracia a llevar a cabo fervorosamente esta tarea, para que yo pueda hablar como Jesús lo hizo, pensar como Jesús y tener un corazón como el de Jesús para el bien de su rebaño”, dice el Padre Acosta.

Mary’s, otro en Roma, y dos en el Seminario Saint John Fisher en Stamford.

El próximo sábado 25 de mayo, la Diócesis de Bridgeport ordenará como diácono transitorio a otro seminarista colombiano, Rolando Arias Galvay. Éste es el último paso requerido para su ordenación al sacerdocio el próximo año. Rolando Arias es nativo de Armenia, Colombia, donde la mayoría de los sacerdotes de la diócesis son oriundos. “Estas ordenaciones son ocasiones de gran regocijo, no sólo para la comunidad hispana, sino también para la diócesis. Los sacerdotes hispanos, además de dar a los católicos hispanos el beneficio de recibir la Sagrada Eucaristía en su propio idioma, se ordenan para llevar los sacramentos a toda la gente de la diócesis, cualquiera sea su nacionalidad”, dice el Padre Falla.

“Yo le pido a Dios que me ayude con su Espíritu Santo y su gracia a llevar a cabo fervorosamente esta tarea, para que yo pueda hablar como Jesús lo hizo, pensar como Jesús y tener un corazón como el de Jesús para el bien de su rebaño”, dice el Padre Acosta.

Mary’s, otro en Roma, y dos en el Seminario Saint John Fisher en Stamford.

El próximo sábado 25 de mayo, la Diócesis de Bridgeport ordenará como diácono transitorio a otro seminarista colombiano, Rolando Arias Galvay. Éste es el último paso requerido para su ordenación al sacerdocio el próximo año. Rolando Arias es nativo de Armenia, Colombia, donde la mayoría de los sacerdotes de la diócesis son oriundos. “Estas ordenaciones son ocasiones de gran regocijo, no sólo para la comunidad hispana, sino también para la diócesis. Los sacerdotes hispanos, además de dar a los católicos hispanos el beneficio de recibir la Sagrada Eucaristía en su propio idioma, se ordenan para llevar los sacramentos a toda la gente de la diócesis, cualquiera sea su nacionalidad”, dice el Padre Falla.

“Yo le pido a Dios que me ayude con su Espíritu Santo y su gracia a llevar a cabo fervorosamente esta tarea, para que yo pueda hablar como Jesús lo hizo, pensar como Jesús y tener un corazón como el de Jesús para el bien de su rebaño”, dice el Padre Acosta.
Obituaries

Msgr. Nagle, 89, pastor of St. John’s

STAMFORD—Msgr. William A. Nagle, former pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, entered into eternal rest on April 25 at the age of 89.

Msgr. Nagle had retired in 1998 after serving for 25 years as pastor at St. John’s. He is remembered as a kind, humble and brilliant man who taught the faith by personal example.

He was born in Hartford on June 1, 1923, and completed high school at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. He won a scholarship to attend Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he was a Theodore Basselin scholar. He graduated in 1945 with a bachelor’s and two masters degrees, in philosophy and theology. He was the top scholar in his class.

Msgr. Nagle was ordained by Bishop Henry J. O’Brien in Hartford on May 26, 1949.

His first assignment in Fairfield County was as parochial vicar at Holy Family Parish in Fairfield. He would later serve at St. Joseph Parish in Shelton, Sacred Heart Parish in Georgetown, St. Joseph Parish in Norwalk and St. John Parish in Darien.

His last two assignments, as pastor at St. Bridget of Ireland and St. John the Evangelist parishes in Stamford were particularly meaningful, as these were both parishes that his parents belonged to. “He loved St. John’s,” says Msgr. Steven DiGiovanni, St. John’s current pastor, who succeeded Msgr. Nagle. “He held it together during Stamford’s redevelopment, when so much of the downtown was demolished and parishioners were displaced. The area was dangerous—he was robbed in his own rectory—but he kept it going through all that.”

Deacon Thomas Davis, Msgr. Nagle’s nephew and a deacon at St. Ann Melkite Greek Catholic Parish in Danbury, who gave the homily at the parish vigil Mass, recalls those difficult years at St. John’s. “It was a hard city, and the dispossessed and the needy and the malignant roamed about. Bill Nagle’s response was to open the church to the homeless, who took shelter on the cold winter nights, and to open his heart to any in need.”

Amidst the havoc of deconstructed Stamford, Msgr. Nagle opened the doors of St. John’s every morning. He was in the confessonal every day. He welcomed the fledgling Haitian community into St. John’s, where it thrives to this day.

St. John’s is now a jewel of Stamford’s downtown.

He found joy in the midst of the struggle. He was a chaplain to many organizations, including the Knights of Columbus (where he was a 4th Degree Knight), and the Stamford and Darien police and fire departments. Most cherished of all was his work as chaplain to the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He loved the role of Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, which he held on several occasions.

Following his retirement in 1998, Msgr. Nagle became one of the first residents to live at the Catherine Keefe Queen of the Clergy Priests’ Retirement Home.

He continued to serve as a visiting priest in neighboring parishes for many years.

On the 60th anniversary of his ordination, Msgr. Nagle reflected back on his years of priesthood. “The important thing as a priest is to worship God and realize he’s above all and try to do everything for him. Being a priest is my biggest happiness in life.”

A parish vigil Mass was celebrated for Msgr. Nagle in the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist on April 30. Msgr. Louis DeProspo, director of Queen of the Clergy and a close friend of Msgr. Nagle’s, was the celebrant. Deacon Davis gave the homily.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Msgr. Nagle at St. John’s on May 1. Msgr. Jerald Doyle, diocesan administrator, was the principal celebrant. Msgr. DiGiovanni was the homilist. Burial followed at St. John’s Cemetery in Darien.

May 2013
Remembering the Eucharistic Miracle

By Fr. Matthew Mauriello
Fr. Mauriello is pastor of St. Roch Parish in Greenwich.

This year we joyfully commemorate the 750th anniversary of the Miracle of Bolsena, which led to the establishment of the Feast of Corpus Christi. That feast, established in 1264, has been celebrated by the Church ever since. It falls on June 2 this year.

The story of the miracle is a moving one. There was a priest from Bohemia named Peter of Prague, who had doubts that the bread and wine were changed to the Sacred Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus during mass with the words of consecration. In 1263, he went on pilgrimage to the tomb of his patron saint, St. Peter in Rome, to ask for an increase in his faith.

On his return back to his home, he offered Holy Mass at the Basilica of Saint Cristina, in the town of Bolsena. When, at the appropriate time during the Mass, he broke the consecrated host, blood began to flow that stained the corporal, the square piece of linen on the altar. The Lord had heard his prayer and increased his faith. Peter rushed into the sacristy with the bleeding host, which he had folded inside the corporal. However, the blood left stains on both the corporal and on the marble floor. The participants at Mass saw the dripping blood and followed the priest into the sacristy. When they inquired if he was ill, he explained the entire matter to them. This occurred on a Thursday, after the octave of Pentecost Sunday.

Word soon got to the local bishop, who right away sent delegates to Orvieto, just a few miles away, to explain all this to the Pope, who was there at his summer residence. Pope Urban IV (1195-1264) personally went to investigate, and met Bishop Giacomo at the bridge over the Charo River. He then returned, accompanied by the cardinals and the faithful, and carried the blood-stained corporal in procession to Orvieto, and showed it to the faithful from the front of the Cathedral. This is considered the first Corpus Christi procession.

The blood-stained cloth is enshrined to this day in the Chapel of the Corporal inside the cathedral, where all of this has been illustrated in beautiful frescos. One year later, the same Pope instituted the feast day of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, to be celebrated in perpetuity, throughout the Church. This was the first papal mandated universal feast in the history of the Latin rite.

An interesting, earlier, part of this story is that in 1246, there was a religious sister in Liège, Belgium, St. Juliana of Mont Cornillon, who had a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. He showed her a luminous moon with a black spot on it. He told her that the moon represented the Church’s liturgical year, but that there was something missing. He told her, “I desire to set up a special feast for my Church Militant, because this feast is most necessary. It is a feast of the Most High and Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. At the present time, the celebration of this mystery is only observed on Holy Thursday. But on that day, it is mostly my sufferings and death that are thought of. Therefore, I desire that another day be set apart, in which the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar shall be celebrated by all of Christendom!”

St. Juliana went to her Mother Superior and together they explained the matter to the Archdeacon of the diocese of Liège. That same year, at his urging, their bishop established the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ for their diocese. That Archdeacon was Jacques Pantaleon; he was elected to the papacy in 1261 and took the name Urban IV. Perhaps this helps to explain his readiness to establish the feast day of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, and extend it to the Universal Church with the papal Bull, Transstaurus de hoc mundo, which he promulgated on August 11, 1264.

Pope Urban IV invested the great St. Thomas Aquinas with the task of composing the Office, or the “official prayers,” for the feast. The prayers he composed are considered the most beautiful amongst the prayers of the Church and are the source of the Eucharistic hymns, “O Salutaris Hostia;” “Tantum Ergo Sacramentum;” “Pange Lingua Gloriosi” and the Sequence for the Mass, “Lauda Sion Salvatorum.”

In many places throughout the world, this feast is celebrated with a Eucharistic procession, in which the Sacred Host is carried through the town and is adored by the faithful as the procession passed by their homes. This feast day is held the Sunday after Trinity Sunday in order that there may be a greater participation of the faithful in honoring the Sacred Body and Blood of our Eucharistic Lord.

Of Bishop O’Connor navigating between the Vatican, the Italian Government, and imposing figures from the American Church hierarchy, notably Cardinal Spellman of New York, to design, fund, and build the new North American College.

All the while he suffered silently with severe health problems. In addition, his “day job,” if you will, included the reconstruction and re-opening of the existing college, which had closed during the war years, and hosting a steady stream of visitors and dignitaries, managing all their needs. These ranged from scheduling papal audiences for tens of thousands, to providing advice on “where to get the best bargains in linen.”

The most fascinating, almost surreal juxtaposition chronicled in the book is the relationship between the construction of the new college and the Hollywood film industry. Funding for this costly project was a great challenge. A breakthrough came in the form of pre-war earnings of American film companies reserved by law for spending in Italy only. These funds, or “blocked lire,” eventually became the conduit for financing the new North American College.

That this work is a labor of love is demonstrated early on, when Msgr. Di Giovanni describes his arrival at the college as a seminarian in 1973: “As we moved up the Janiculum Hill, we could hear the three college bells ringing our welcome. The large iron gates opened wide, and we turned to the right along the northern side of the chapel, coming to a stop at the formal seminary entrance along the avenue of pines, facing St. Peter’s Basilica.”

This book is also a work of impressive scholarship, painstakingly footnoted and annotated. The research is thorough and detailed. The reader even learns that the name of the Vatican chauffeur on the day of groundbreaking for the new college in 1948 was a Mr. Primo Spaghetti, called the “Prime Noodle” by students.

Msgr. Di Giovanni has done a great service in shedding light on an institution not well known to the average American Catholic. Its importance was captured stirringly in the words of Pius XII at the college dedication on October 14, 1953, reflecting on the priesthood:

“He [the priest] is commissioned to carry on the task of salvation, bringing souls to God and giving God to souls. Never then, unmindful of the supreme importance of such a vocation, the priest will not busy himself with useless things. Modeling his life on that of Him he represents, he will gladly spend and be spent in the world, this feast is celebrated

In many places throughout the world, this feast is celebrated with a Eucharistic procession, in which the Sacred Host is carried through the town and is adored by the faithful as the procession passed by their homes. This feast day is held the Sunday after Trinity Sunday in order that there may be a greater participation of the faithful in honoring the Sacred Body and Blood of our Eucharistic Lord.

The most fascinating, almost surreal juxtaposition chronicled in the book is the relationship between the construction of the new college and the Hollywood film industry. Funding for this costly project was a great challenge. A breakthrough came in the form of pre-war earnings of American film companies reserved by law for spending in Italy only. These funds, or “blocked lire,” eventually became the conduit for financing the new North American College.

That this work is a labor of love is demonstrated early on, when Msgr. Di Giovanni describes his arrival at the college as a seminarian in 1973: “As we moved up the Janiculum Hill, we could hear the three college bells ringing our welcome. The large iron gates opened wide, and we turned to the right along the northern side of the chapel, coming to a stop at the formal seminary entrance along the avenue of pines, facing St. Peter’s Basilica.”

This book is also a work of impressive scholarship, painstakingly footnoted and annotated. The research is thorough and detailed. The reader even learns that the name of the Vatican chauffeur on the day of groundbreaking for the new college in 1948 was a Mr. Primo Spaghetti, called the “Prime Noodle” by students.

Msgr. Di Giovanni has done a great service in shedding light on an institution not well known to the average American Catholic. Its importance was captured stirringly in the words of Pius XII at the college dedication on October 14, 1953, reflecting on the priesthood:

“He [the priest] is commissioned to carry on the task of salvation, bringing souls to God and giving God to souls. Never then, unmindful of the supreme importance of such a vocation, the priest will not busy himself with useless things. Modeling his life on that of Him he represents, he will gladly spend and be spent in the world, this feast is celebrated

In many places throughout the world, this feast is celebrated with a Eucharistic procession, in which the Sacred Host is carried through the town and is adored by the faithful as the procession passed by their homes. This feast day is held the Sunday after Trinity Sunday in order that there may be a greater participation of the faithful in honoring the Sacred Body and Blood of our Eucharistic Lord.

The most fascinating, almost surreal juxtaposition chronicled in the book is the relationship between the construction of the new college and the Hollywood film industry. Funding for this costly project was a great challenge. A breakthrough came in the form of pre-war earnings of American film companies reserved by law for spending in Italy only. These funds, or “blocked lire,” eventually became the conduit for financing the new North American College.

That this work is a labor of love is demonstrated early on, when Msgr. Di Giovanni describes his arrival at the college as a seminarian in 1973: “As we moved up the Janiculum Hill, we could hear the three college bells ringing our welcome. The large iron gates opened wide, and we turned to the right along the northern side of the chapel, coming to a stop at the formal seminary entrance along the avenue of pines, facing St. Peter’s Basilica.”

This book is also a work of impressive scholarship, painstakingly footnoted and annotated. The research is thorough and detailed. The reader even learns that the name of the Vatican chauffeur on the day of groundbreaking for the new college in 1948 was a Mr. Primo Spaghetti, called the “Prime Noodle” by students.

Msgr. Di Giovanni has done a great service in shedding light on an institution not well known to the average American Catholic. Its importance was captured stirringly in the words of Pius XII at the college dedication on October 14, 1953, reflecting on the priesthood:

“He [the priest] is commissioned to carry on the task of salvation, bringing souls to God and giving God to souls. Never then, unmindful of the supreme importance of such a vocation, the priest will not busy himself with useless things. Modeling his life on that of Him he represents, he will gladly spend and be spent in the world, this feast is celebrated

In many places throughout the world, this feast is celebrated with a Eucharistic procession, in which the Sacred Host is carried through the town and is adored by the faithful as the procession passed by their homes. This feast day is held the Sunday after Trinity Sunday in order that there may be a greater participation of the faithful in honoring the Sacred Body and Blood of our Eucharistic Lord.
The Holiness of the Ordinary

Potpourri
By Thomas H. Hicks

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

I never pray to any canonized saints, except one. I pray to my mother. I pray to my father, and my godmother. There’s an uncle and a cousin to whom I sometimes pray. Above all, I pray to my wife. These are the people I carry within myself; they are “the we of me.” They were mine, and shall ever be. They are the dead who are enduringly with me. They are the heavenly people who not only like me but are rooting for me, and extend their protection and care. There are times when I sense their presence, come to know how delicate is the veil which separates time and eternity. I know that they live, and would not steer me wrong. It never occurs to me to pray to any canonized king or pope—we’re too far apart. But there is that one canonized saint to whom I do pray—Therese of Lisieux.

Most Catholic churches have a statue of Therese of Lisieux. She wears a brown Carmelite habit with perfect folds, and holds in her hands a cross embroidered in long-stem roses. The statue has become famous the world over. In many churches the statue is banked with flowers. The statue makes me think of her as having just won the “Miss Lisieux” contest.

Therese’s popularity is a paradox. She did nothing spectacular. Her story is lacking in outward drama. Yet, like so many people, I am captivated by Therese of Lisieux. She took such an extraordinary hold on me—this woman from the 19th century. Generally speaking, people are dimly acquainted with her story. She has been too easily sentimentalized, which distorts her reality. Much devotion to her (the “Little Flower”) is emotional and superficial.

This woman led a short undramatic life in a little world tucked away in a little part of Normandy, France. She was a young, inadequately educated woman who died at the age of 24, at the age most people are beginning their careers. Her life was like a shooting star. Few of her fellow Sisters in the Carmelite convent at Lisieux thought her extraordinary. This is expressed in a well-known anecdote: When she was very ill, from the window of her sickroom, Therese heard one nun say to another, “Sister Therese will die soon; what will our Mother Prioress say in her obituary notice?” She entered the convent, lived and died—there really is no more to say.

At her beatification hearings, one of the nuns who had lived with her for seven years testified: “There was nothing to say about her. She was very kind and very retiring. There was nothing conspicuous about her. I would never have suspected her sanctity.”

The same echo came from one of Therese’s sisters, Leonie: “She was very nice, Therese, but still, to canonize her!” I suppose that is the point of her appeal, at least for me—she was one of us.

At my ripe stage in life I’ve come to see life as a treadmill of worries; as an onion which one peels crying. It seems there is a sort of calamity built into the texture of life, the petals fall and the beloved dies. We lose the people we love, we lose our vigor, and we lose our lives.

Therese reminded me that it is on the small corners of life that sanctity comes. There is the glory of the ordinary, the sublime within the everyday. Her message is that everyday life is the place where most people find holiness. For Therese, the way to sanctity was the faithful accomplishment of little things. For the most part, we live lives of little things. They can become a bit blissful if you see them as filled with holy significance; if you can sense the ultimate in the common and the simple.

Therese’s insight calls us to give ourselves fully to what we are doing, to the duty of the present moment. Therese said about herself: “I just keep concentrating on the present moment.” She spoke about the small gestures of love, the little acts of kindness and consideration that mean so much. She also said about herself: “I seek tiny occasions to give a smile or a friendly word.”

I still have my sorrow for the way the world cuts into us all. The world is not gentle; there is all the wrecked happiness. But this young girl, who had a dog named Tom and who liked snow and flowers, and who despite everything had a zest for life and a sense of humor, taught me how the daily treadmill of life is full of holy significance. Routine things have taken on a renewed beauty. Every day is filled with simple adventures in living. Little things can become great if you do them mindfully and lovingly.

One wonders what effects age and maturity might have had upon Therese? Anyway, her sanctity was not sensational or spectacular. She became a saint by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, and taught us how to live with contentment in humble conditions.

Did you know that Therese is venerated as “daughter of Allah” in Islamic circles, with her own shrine in Cairo?
YEAR OF FAITH: Adult Formation: Every Fri. morning, from 10:30 am-12 noon at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport, discuss a chapter from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. For more information or to join the group, contact Gina Donnarummo: 203.416.1446 or gdonnarummo@diobpt.org.

MARIAN LADIES of St. George Parish, Bridgeport, will have their final meetings of the year on Wed., May 22, and Wed., Jun. 5. The meeting begins with Mass at 9 am. “Catholicism” will continue to be discussed. For more information, call Pat: 203.261.8020.

AN EVENING OF CHANCE, an event to support the Morning Glory Breakfast Program in Danbury, will be held at St. Mary School, Bethel, on Sat., Jun. 1, from 7-10 pm. Enjoy food and drink, play casino and party games, and vie for the title of High Roller. A raffle will offer prizes from restaurants and entertainment venues. Tickets: $50/person. RSVP requested by Thurs., May 23, but tickets will be available at the door. For more information or to RSVP, go to www.ccfafield.com or contact Michele Conderino: MConderino@ccfc-ct.org or 203.748.0804, ext. 231.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE MASS sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Assembly 107, will take place at St. Margaret Shrine, Bridgeport, on Sun., Jun. 9, at 11 am. This will also be the last day of the annual Feast of St. Anthony at the Shrine. If you celebrated your marriage vows or had wedding photographs taken at the Shrine, take this opportunity to participate in the event by Sun., May 26. For more information, call Art: 203.345.3244.

FREE AND LOW-COST MAMMOGRAPHY will be offered through St. Vincent’s SWIM Women’s Imaging Center for women age 35 and older on Tues., May 28, at Carriage Green at Milford, 77 Plains Road, Milford, from 10 am-2 pm; and Thurs., May 30, at Baldwin Plaza, 77 Canan Street, Bridgeport, from 10 am-2 pm. Mammograms are free for those who do not have health insurance or have financial limitations, and discounted for those who do not have insurance but do not qualify for free services. Appointments are recommended; bring a physician’s order to the appointment. If you do not have a physician’s order, call 203.576.5505; for those with an insurance card, please bring it to the screening. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 203.576.5500.

YOUNG PERFORMERS, the children of St. Margarette Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield will perform Shakespeare’s comedy, Much Ado About Nothing, on the parish grounds on Sat., Jun. 1, (rain day, Jun. 8) at 11 am. An English Low Tea follows the performance. Cost: Adults, $15; Seniors, $10; children age 6-12, $7; children 5 & under, free. A Family Package is $35. For more information call the parish: 203.775.5117.

SHRED IT! is being held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull, on Sat., Jun. 1, from 9 am-12 noon. Box it or bag it, and shred thirty pounds of paper for $10. Drop it off or stay and watch. No need to worry about staples, paperclips, or rubber bands. For more information, contact the parish: 203.377.3133.

TAG SALE will be held at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Shelton, on Sat., Jun. 1, from 8 am-2:30 pm. Vendors: cost of inside table is $20; parking space for trunk sales: $15. Food and snacks available. For more information, call LuAnn: 203.209.2441.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS are held at locations around the diocese: Tues., Jun. 4, at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton, at 7:30 PM.
**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE** at our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield, will be sponsored by the Knights Assumption Council #11077, on Sun., May 26, starting with a 12 noon Mass celebrated by Knights Chaplain Fr. Liam Quinlan and Fr. Joseph Sidera, C.S.C. Assisting will be deacons Kevin Moore and Ray Chervenak, both veterans. The Fairfield Police Dept. Honor Guard and community scouts will participate, along with Town of Fairfield dignitaries. A military Service honoring the War Dead of our Country will take place on the parish grounds immediately following the Mass. For more information, contact Fred Costaglia: 203.371.8161.

**SPORTS & ENRICHMENT FOR KIDS!** Summer camp will be held at Lauralton Hall, Milford, from Jun. 24-Aug. 16. For a complete list of programs, dates and cost, or to register, visit www.seforkids.com, or contact Nicolle Camara: 203.877.2786, ext. 136 or ncama-ra@lauraltonhall.org. There is no registration deadline, but classes fill up quickly.

**HILLTOP BASKETBALL CAMP** hosted by Notre Dame H.S. in West Haven will take place over two weeks, July 1-3, 5 and July 8-11. The camp emphasizes skill improvement, games, and contests. Ages 7-13 from 8:45 to 11:30 am; ages 13-16 are from 12 noon-3 pm. Cost: $235; there is a two-child discount of $400. Other family discounts available. To register, contact Coach Palladino: 203.933.1673, ext. 225 or email gpalladino@notredamehs.com.

**NATIONAL CIRCUS PROJECT**, a week-long, full-day camp for children ages 4 to 12, will be hosted by Our Lady of Fatima School, Wilton, the week of Jul. 8-12. Children will receive instruction in juggling, plate spinning, balancing, still walking and more. The camp will operate from 9 am-3 pm and is open to children ages 4 to 12. Cost: $295/child; children bring a packed lunch. Registration deadline is Fri., Jun. 28. For more information and for registration, contact the school: 203.762.8100 or email dmonti@olfcatholic.org or clarataveras@aol.com.

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

**RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE** has opened at St. Matthew Parish, Norwalk. Bibles, crucifixes, Rosaries, First communion set, medals, cards, and much more. Hours of operation: Sat. after 4 pm Mass and Sun. after 9 am & 10:30 am Masses. For more information, call the parish: 203.838.3788.

**ST. JOSEPH’S CENTER**

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

**HANSSEN’S FLOWER SHOP**

24 Hour Service Available
Family Owned and Operated Since 1920
Floral Designing Weddings & Parties
Sympathy Arrangements Our Specialty
www.hansensflowershop.com
1040 Post Road Fairfield
203-255-0461

**ST. JOSEPH’S CENTER**

6448 Main Street • Trumbull, CT • 06611
Telephone: 203-268-6204 • www.sunhealthcare.com

Accepting Medicare, Medicaid, Commercial Insurances and Private Pay,

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

CATHOLIC
Illness and injury don’t make appointments.

And neither do you.
Walk into St. Vincent’s Urgent Care Centers with life’s unexpected ailments.
THE APPEAL IS BREAKING BREAD... on the altars of our parishes and at the diocesan houses of hospitality where the poor are fed and affirmed in the 1.3 million meals provided by Catholic Charities.

THE APPEAL IS PARISH HEROES... who are recognized each year for a lifetime of service at the St. Augustine Medal Prayer Service for their faith and service.

THE APPEAL IS RED, WHITE AND BLUE... The Red, White and Blue Masses celebrated each year to honor and pray for Police, Fire, Rescue, Healthcare and Legal Professionals in the diocese.

THE APPEAL IS A LIFELINE... to the abandoned and most vulnerable who have nowhere else to turn for help.

THE APPEAL IS 47,000 CHILDREN... in the safe, loving, faith-filled learning communities of Catholic Schools and enrolled in religious education programs.

THE APPEAL IS NEWTOWN... where one parish and its pastor became “America’s Parish” during one of the worst tragedies in American history.

THE APPEAL IS THE ORDINATION OF 7 NEW PRIESTS... this month at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull.

THE APPEAL IS WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND JUBILEES... that honor and support our married couples and Priests and Religious on milestones in their vocations.

THE APPEAL IS HANDS AND HEARTS... of all those who care enough to give, and wish to bring healing and wholeness to others.

THE APPEAL IS GENERATIONS... of faith passed down through families, strengthened through sacrifice, compassion and personal giving.

THE APPEAL IS CHRIST’S LIVING PRESENCE IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY... through the power of prayer and witness of faith.
WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE 2013 ANNUAL BISHOP’S APPEAL

PLEDGES - A gift to the Appeal may be paid through December 31, 2013.

GIFTS - Checks may be made payable to the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. Please do not send cash.

CREDIT CARD - A credit card gift may be payable online or by pledge card.

ONLINE GIVING - www.2013ABA.com

MATCHING GIFTS - Many organizations will match gifts to Catholic Charities and Catholic Schools. Please contact 203-416-1312 for more information.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES - If you own securities that have appreciated in value, they can be given to the Appeal and their full market value becomes a tax deductible gift. Please contact 203-416-1470 for more information.

If you have questions, please e-mail us at: 2013aba@diobpt.org or call us at: 203-416-1479. All gifts to the 2013 Annual Bishop’s Appeal will be acknowledged by the Diocese of Bridgeport and are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult with your tax advisor on the tax treatment of all gifts, as they may vary from individual to individual.

Give online: www.2013ABA.com

Please fill out the enclosed Annual Bishop’s Appeal envelope provided in the center of this Fairfield County Catholic.