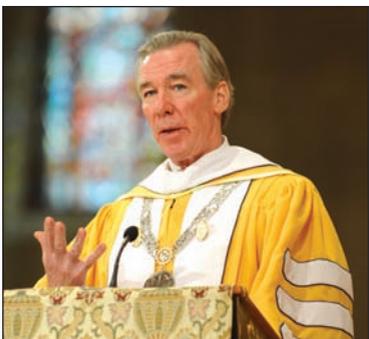




# FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 2012 | VOLUME 29, NUMBER 8 | RESPECT LIFE ISSUE

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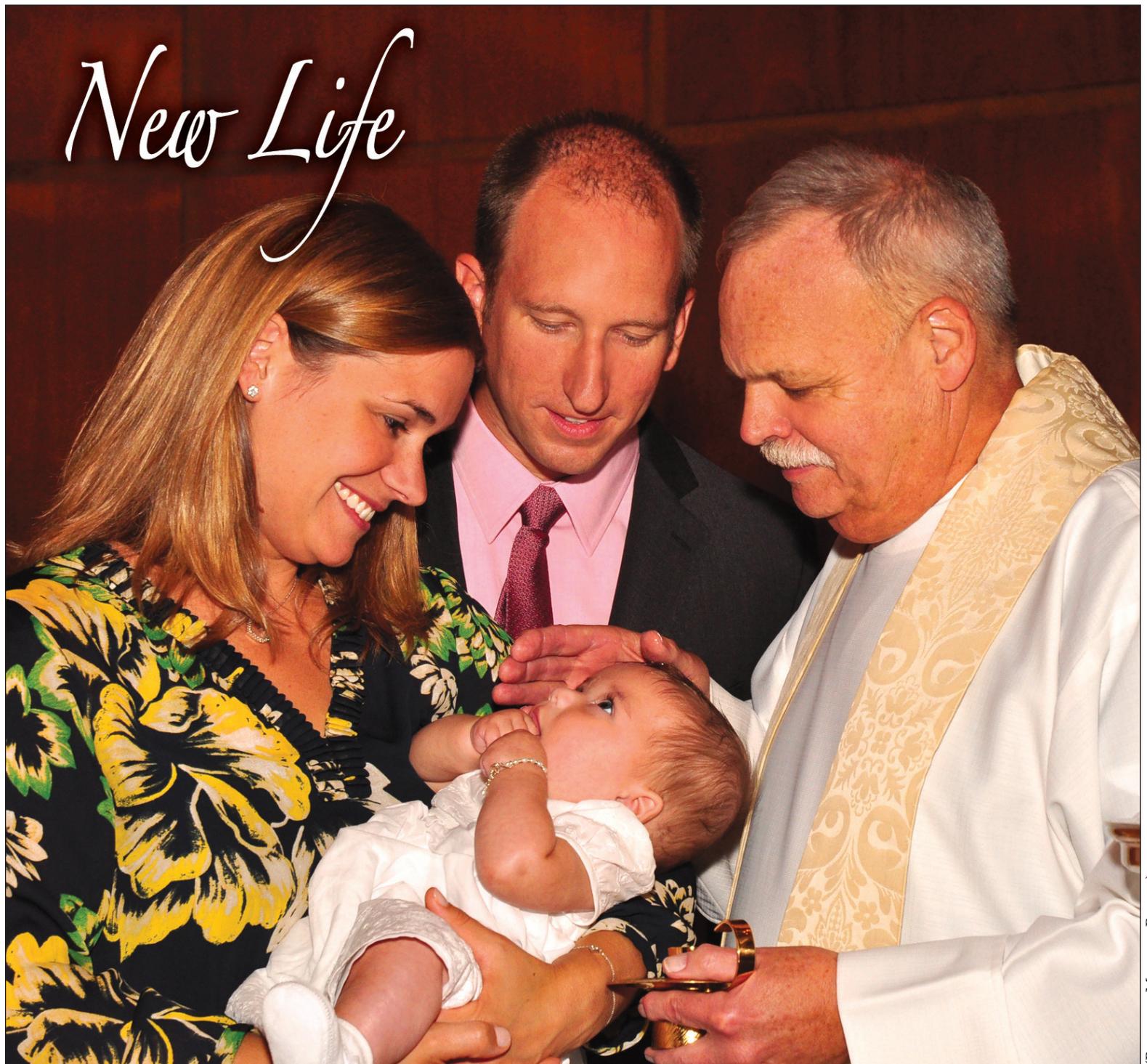
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(PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BABYAK)

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## CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VATICAN II

SEE PAGE 6 FOR FULL EVENT DETAILS AND ADDITIONAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY VATICAN II EVENTS.

*Mass of the New Light* and additional work by Peter Togni

Saturday, October 13, 2012 | 7:00 p.m. | Chapel of the Holy Spirit

This event is free and open to the public. For further information, contact Ami Neville at 203-371-7904 or [nevilllea@sacredheart.edu](mailto:nevilllea@sacredheart.edu).



Concert Performance Premiere with SHU CHOIR and soloists, jazz quartet and noted composer Peter Togni

## Local News

One step at a time  
toward the priesthood

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

The four area men who recently entered St. John Fisher Seminary Residence to explore their vocations say that the “call to priesthood” is experienced as a whispering that often begins in early life and develops gradually with prayer and understanding.

“It wasn’t like I was walking around one day and saw a burning bush,” says 19-year old Andrew Kolenberg, a Trinity High School graduate who has been attending the University of Connecticut Stamford campus as

a history major.

“Being a priest was always in the back of my mind, but it has been a gradual understanding. Now it’s time to give it a try and see if it’s for me,” says Kolenberg, whose twin brother, Steven, recently joined the military after training in ROTC.

Andrew’s growing sense of vocation is shared by the other men who moved into the John Fisher Residence in Stamford on August 21 to begin orientation for a life of prayer, learning, discernment. Among the group are a research chemist, a talented musi-

cian, an inveterate traveler and a cyclist. This year, all of them grew up in local parishes.

“Welcoming new seminarians is always a joy for the Church,” says Fr. Robert Kinnally, director of vocations, but four home-grown vocations are particularly good news for the diocese. “What a blessing to have men from Fairfield County respond to God’s calling to the priesthood in the Church in Bridgeport. We’ve been out and about constantly, always inviting and asking young people interested in a vocation to join in the conversation at St.



MOVE-IN DAY—Tim Iannacone of Norwalk moves in to St. John Fisher Seminary Residence in Stamford. He is one of four Fairfield County men who will be discerning their vocations as they take the first important step toward the priesthood. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

John Fisher.”

Fr. Kinnally says there are now 16 seminarians in residence in Stamford and a total of 37 men studying for the priesthood from the diocese. He says that men often hear the call, but need an

environment of regular prayer and spiritual direction that gives them the opportunity to know if it’s real.

For 22-year old Tim Iannacone of Norwalk, the idea of priesthood

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Danbury school receives Blue Ribbon status

DANBURY—St. Joseph School in Danbury has received a National Blue Ribbon award for 2012 from the United States Department of Education. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan made the announcement on September 7. St. Joseph’s is one of only 50 private schools nationwide to receive the award.

“Schools honored with the National Blue Ribbon Schools award are committed to accelerating student achievement and

preparing students for success in college and careers,” says Duncan in making the announcement.

To be eligible for a Blue Ribbon designation, St. Joseph School had to demonstrate academic excellence, but that was only the beginning of the process. “It’s not just about test scores, Principal Lisa Lanni said in an interview with Danbury’s *News-Times*. “Test scores just get you in the door.”

Lanni became principal of St. Joseph’s three years ago. Starting



WHETHER PARTICIPATING IN THE LIFE of faith or engaging in a national Lego League Robotics competition, the students of St. Joseph School continue to grow in faith and knowledge. (ROBOTICS PHOTO BY DEANNA GEORGE; SECOND-GRADERS AT FIRST HOLY COMMUNION BY SHARON VARIAN)

with an already excellent school, she introduced rigorous programming to improve reading and math scores, provided enrichment for students and staff, and gave parents greater opportunities for involvement.

She credits “the dedication of

our teachers, the constant support of our parents and, most notably, the students. All have helped us reach for the stars and receive this recognition.”

“St. Joseph’s joins 12 Blue Ribbon schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport,” says Dr. Margaret

Dames, superintendent of schools for the diocese. “Their collective achievement reaffirms the excellence of education in our Catholic schools.” She notes that, with the addition of St. Joseph’s, 43% of diocesan schools have been recognized with the National Blue Ribbon School award. Additional schools are on track to apply for the recognition in the coming year.

Principal Lanni points out that, notable though Blue Ribbon status is, the strong Catholic faith that runs throughout life at St. Joseph’s is the school’s most outstanding attribute. “St. Joseph School is and will continue to be an exemplary school where faith and knowledge come together,” she says.

Principal Lanni will be in Washington, DC, November 11-13, when the Department of Education honors the 219 public and 50 private schools who earned the 2012 National Blue Ribbon Award.



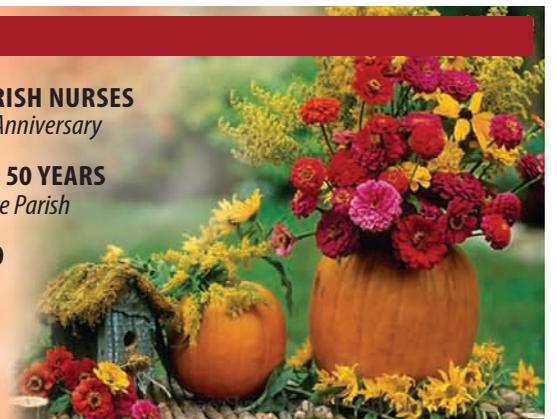
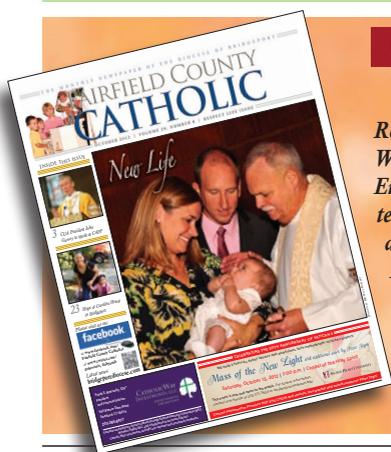
## ON THE COVER

**CELEBRATING LIFE!** Four month old Emma Rose Souza of Shelton is baptized by Msgr. Robert Weiss, Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown. Emma, born May 23, 2012 in New Haven, is the daughter of Stephen and Melissa Souza. Her grandparents are also members of St. Rose of Lima Parish. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughter of God. The sacrament is the gateway to the life of the spirit. ABOVE THE MAST: Young members of the family celebrate the birth of Emma Rose as she is also welcomed into the larger Church family. Photos by Michelle Babyak

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## Local News

## Archbishop &amp; CUA president to speak at Red Mass

STAMFORD—The annual diocesan Red Mass for members of the legal profession will be celebrated on October 14 at 10 am in the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist. Archbishop Francis A. Chullikatt, Titular Archbishop of Ostra, will be the principal celebrant and homilist. Msgr. Jerald Doyle, diocesan administrator, and Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, pastor of St. John's, will concelebrate.

The general public is invited to attend the Mass along with members of the legal profession.

John H. Garvey, Esq., president of the Catholic University of America, will be the guest of honor and featured speaker at the reception at the Knights of Columbus Hall immediately following the Mass.

"The Red Mass requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice, and offers the opportunity to reflect on the responsibilities and challenges faced by Catholic legal practitioners," Msgr. Doyle says. "Both of our speakers have been involved

with religious liberty issues on a national and international basis and continue to speak out concerning the plight of religious minorities across the globe. We look forward to their insights."



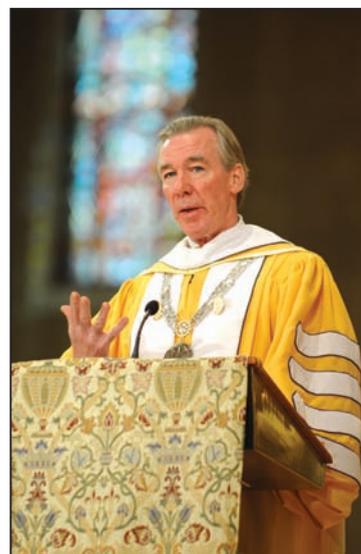
ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS A. CHULLIKATT

Archbishop Chullikatt was born in Bolghatty, India, in 1953 and ordained a priest for the Diocese of Verapoly in 1978. He completed a doctorate in canon law and entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See in 1988. He later served at

the Apostolic Nunciatures in Honduras, various countries of southern Africa, the Philippines, at the Mission to the United Nations in New York and at the Secretariat of State in the Vatican.

He was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Iraq and Jordan in April 2006, and ordained Titular Archbishop of Ostra in June of that year. Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York in July 2010. He has been eloquent in his concern for the Christians of Mosul who were targeted during the Iraqi conflict.

John Garvey, J.D., a nationally renowned expert in constitutional law, religious liberty and the First Amendment, took the helm at the Catholic University of America last July. He is the university's 15th president. Garvey came to CUA from Boston College Law School, where he had served as dean since 1999. He brings 30 years of experience as a professor and administrator in higher education to his posi-



JOHN H. GARVEY, ESQ.

tion at Catholic University.

Garvey's faith and his belief in the Catholic intellectual tradition have played a central role in his teaching and scholarly research at many of the nation's top law schools.

He was assistant to the solicitor general in the U.S. Department of Justice from 1981-84 and president

of the Association of American Law Schools from 2008-09. He also served on the Task Force on Terrorism for the American Bar Association.

Garvey is the author of *What Are Freedoms For?* (Harvard University Press, 1996) and the co-author of four books, including *Sexuality and the U.S. Catholic Church: Crisis and Renewal* (Herder & Herder, 2007), which won a Catholic Press Association award, and *Religion and the Constitution* (Aspen Publishers, second edition, 2006), which won the Jesuit Book Award from Alpha Sigma Nu.

Garvey earned his J.D. in 1974 at Harvard Law School, where he served as treasurer of the *Harvard Law Review*, and he earned an A.B. in 1970 from the University of Notre Dame.

(The reception brunch will be served at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 507 Shippin Ave., Stamford. Cost: \$35. For more information or reservations, contact Jean Talamelli: [jtalamelli@diobpt.org](mailto:jtalamelli@diobpt.org) or 203.416.1358.)

## Archbishop Lori to be honored at Inner-City Foundation dinner

GREENWICH—The Twenty-First Annual Benefit Dinner for The Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education will be held October 25 at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich.

Archbishop William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, will be honored at the event. Archbishop Lori is a past president of the Inner-City Foundation. During his tenure, more than \$18 million in grants were awarded to nearly 150 agencies and institutions providing assistance, including food, clothing, shelter, counseling and education to at-risk and needy children and adults of Fairfield County.

The Midtown Men—four stars from the original cast of *Jersey Boys*—will be the featured performers at the black tie gala. The group took Broadway by storm in one of the biggest hits of all time and now they are reunited.

Tony Award winner Christian



THE MIDTOWN MEN

Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and Tony Award nominee J. Robert Spencer star in this one-of-a-kind concert experience bringing to life their favorite "Sixties Hits" from The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Motown, The Four Seasons and more. During their time in the mega-hit musical *Jersey Boys*, these four talented artists shared the stage for over

a thousand performances and delighted television audiences with appearances on the "Today Show," "The Late Show with David Letterman," and "Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve."

Barbara and Ray Dalio are the event sponsors. Jennifer and Peter Cieszko are chairing the 2012 Benefit Committee, assisted by Audrey and Daniel Dornier,

Helen and Dan FitzPatrick, Leah and Alain Lebec, Vilma and Dick Matteis, and Bill Mitchell, who are serving as co-chairs of the committee.

Dave Price, a five-time Emmy Award winner and anchor for WNYW "Good Day New York," will serve as master of ceremonies.

The Inner-City Foundation For Charity & Education has awarded more than \$24 million in grants since 1992. In addition to providing scholarship funds for students attending diocesan schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport, other organizations receiving grants include the Cardinal Shehan Center, Caroline House, Center for Women & Families, Community Closet, Domus Kids, George Washington Carver Center,



Homes for the Brave, Homes with Hope, Junior Achievement, Kids in Crisis, Literacy Volunteers of America, Malta House, Mercy Learning Center, Norma F. Pfriem Breast Cancer Center, Regional YMCA of Western CT, Shepherds and the Thomas Merton House of Hospitality.

(Donations and ticket purchases may be made by visiting the Foundation's website, [www.innecityfoundation.org](http://www.innecityfoundation.org), or by calling 203.416.1363. All contributors will be listed in the dinner program.)

## Local News

## Blue Mass celebrates courage of first responders

NEW CANAAN—With bagpipes sounding under a clear blue September sky, fire, police, and EMS personnel from Fairfield County filed into St. Aloysius Church for the 11th Annual Blue Mass after a night of storms that hit the region.

The Mass, established by Archbishop William E. Lori when he served as Bishop of Bridgeport, is celebrated as a memorial to the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and to honor First Responders throughout the diocese. It was held in New Canaan for the first time.

“Bishop Lori always attended this Mass out of gratitude and esteem for you, our brothers and sisters who look after our health and safety,” said Msgr. William Scheyd, pastor of St. Aloysius, who concelebrated the Mass with Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator, and other priests.

In his homily, Msgr. Scheyd said he grew up by a firehouse in Bridgeport and respected the fire and policemen for their willingness to help others. “They are people who care about others, and when there was something bad, they were out to change it,” he said, noting that the work of First Responders has its founda-



tion in God’s mercy as described in the reading from Isaiah, “Be strong, fear not. Here is your God come to save you.” He added that “people of faith partner with God in caring for the world.”

During the offertory procession a fireman’s helmet, police officer’s cap and EMS stethoscope were brought forward by uniformed personnel and placed on a table in front of the altar.

Msgr. Scheyd reminded those in attendance that in the last

week alone, First Responders put their lives on the line to rescue accident victims “on I-95, the Merritt Parkway and a country road in Weston.”

After Mass, three First Responders were called forward to the altar to receive Special Awards presented by

Msgr. Doyle and Deacon John Moranski, a Bridgeport police chaplain and co-chair of the Blue Mass Committee.

Police Officer Jeffrey Deak, an 18-year veteran of the New Canaan Police Department, was recognized for “embodying the spirit and character seen at 9/11 each and every day he goes to work.” Deak and some of his fellow New Canaan officers also rushed to New York City on September 11, 2001.

New Canaan Fire Department Captain Michael Socci was honored for his efforts behind the development of the 9/11 Memorial standing in the center of New Canaan. Socci understood that the loss of 343 firefighters on 9/11 touched the lives of firefighters and other first responders across the U.S.

Grant Nelson, a member of Post 53 Darien Emergency Medical Service, was honored for joining other Darien youth who

comprised the teen emergency post and “take a bold stand” to help others. Msgr. Frank McGrath, pastor of St. John Parish, accepted the award on behalf of Nelson, who is away at school.

In a stirring conclusion to the service, fire, police and EMS workers processed out of the church after Taps was sounded and the National Anthem was sung. The entire congregation then joined in singing “God Bless America” as the first responders

walked out into the bright sun under a huge American flag that was suspended from ladder company trucks.



The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Fairfield County Assemblies formed an honor guard and sponsored the reception following the Mass. Sir Knight Michael F. Basso, Past District Deputy 36, co-chaired the event.

## St. Augustine Medal of Service honors parishioners

BRIDGEPORT—The Saint Augustine Medal of Service prayer service and awards ceremony will be held at Saint Augustine Cathedral, on October 27, beginning at 1 pm. A reception will follow.

“The awarding of the St. Augustine Medals is a day of joy and pride for the entire diocese as we recognize the faithful service of so many parishioners,” says Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, diocesan administrator, who will present the medals. “We look forward to this day throughout the year as a special time of recognition and gratitude.”



Pastors, priests and deacons throughout the diocese accompany the recipients as they come forward to be presented the medal. More than 100 medals will be awarded to individuals and couples from every parish and diocesan ministries.

Archbishop William E. Lori, then Bishop of Bridgeport, instituted the medal service in 2005 to recognize the “unsung heroes” who unselfishly give of their time and talents to build up parish communities. On one side of the medal is an image of Saint Augustine of Hippo, patron saint of the diocese. The reverse features the coat of arms of the diocese.

(For more information, contact Jean Talamelli: 203.416.1358 or [jtalamelli@diobpt.org](mailto:jtalamelli@diobpt.org).)

# Appeal hits \$11.2 million...thank you

## Your gift made a difference in 2012

**1.3 million** meals were served through Catholic Charities at Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport, New Covenant House in Stamford, Morning Glory Program in Danbury, food pantries and senior nutrition programs

**100,000** households received the *Fairfield County Catholic* each month

**36,000** children participated in religious education programs in our parishes; the Annual Bishop's Appeal funded support services and speakers for directors of religious education and catechists



**22,000** patients were offered pastoral care, the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of the Sick and attended Mass in the chapels at Bridgeport Hospital, Danbury Hospital, Greenwich Hospital, Norwalk Hospital, and Stamford Hospital

**15,000** clinical sessions were provided through Catholic Charities through various mental health disciplines, including counseling, clinical social work, medication management, and marriage and family therapy

**11,000** children were educated across 32 Catholic elementary schools, five high schools, and a special needs school in Fairfield County; 40% of the schools are ranked among the top 10% of schools in the country

**3,500** prisoners received spiritual counseling, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Mass at the Bridgeport Correctional Center, Garner Correctional Institution in Newtown, and the Federal Correctional Institute in Danbury

**1,323** financial scholarships were provided to inner-city Catholic elementary school students to cover the gap between the cost of education and amount afforded by families

**945** residents were given spiritual counsel, received the sacraments and participated in Mass at St. Camillus Health Center in Stamford, St. Joseph Manor in Trumbull, and Pope John Paul II Center for Health Care in Danbury

**724** teens participated in diocesan-wide retreats, including Convivio at Sacred Heart University and Fan the Fire Youth Rally at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown

**600** couples attended a series of weekend retreats to explore their relationships with one another and the Church in preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony. This program is partly funded by participants

**48** retired priests were supported, including 17 in residence at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence in Stamford

**37** men are in the process of discerning a vocation to the priesthood at St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford; Mount St. Mary in Emmitsburg, MD; the Pontifical North American College in Rome; and St. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, MI. This year, **1** man was ordained to the priesthood and **6** men were ordained to the Transitional Diaconate

**6** men were ordained to the Permanent Diaconate; **6** more are currently in formation

### Individual Parish Results

	Donors	Pledged	Goal	% Goal	
<b>VICARIATE 1</b>	Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford	309	88,502	100,000	89%
	Holy Name of Jesus, Stamford	225	38,100	40,000	95%
	Holy Spirit, Stamford	249	105,635	100,000	106%
	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford	141	105,121	75,000	140%
	Sacred Heart, Greenwich	209	50,422	50,000	101%
	Sacred Heart, Stamford	222	39,065	45,000	87%
	Saint Agnes, Greenwich	79	50,175	50,000	100%
	Saint Benedict-Montserrat, Stamford	260	38,439	60,000	64%
	Saint Bridget, Stamford	246	72,941	55,000	133%
	Saint Catherine of Siena, Riverside	407	178,532	205,000	87%
	Saint Cecilia, Stamford	313	104,327	105,000	99%
	Saint Clement, Stamford	119	59,365	50,000	119%
	Saint Gabriel, Stamford	184	48,815	55,000	89%
	Saint John, Darien	341	349,240	200,000	175%
	Saint Leo, Stamford	389	375,755	200,000	188%
	Saint Mary, Greenwich	410	444,960	275,000	162%
	Saint Mary, Stamford	275	40,741	45,000	91%
Saint Maurice, Stamford	190	57,185	60,000	95%	
Saint Michael, Greenwich	354	388,233	250,000	155%	
Saint Paul, Greenwich	305	121,051	110,000	110%	
Saint Roch, Greenwich	91	146,620	55,000	267%	
Saint Thomas More, Darien	395	548,186	400,000	137%	
<b>VICARIATE 2</b>	Assumption, Westport	414	222,029	160,000	139%
	Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton	493	235,353	215,000	109%
	Saint Aloysius, New Canaan	553	857,531	500,000	172%
	Saint Francis of Assisi, Weston	145	108,235	95,000	114%
	Saint Jerome, Norwalk	276	85,656	70,000	122%
	Saint Joseph, South Norwalk	385	61,558	50,000	123%
	Saint Ladislaus, South Norwalk	71	15,837	15,000	106%
	Saint Luke, Westport	302	219,987	200,000	110%
	Saint Mary, Norwalk	394	108,217	90,000	120%
	Saint Matthew, Norwalk	675	209,815	180,000	117%
	Saint Philip, Norwalk	369	77,304	80,000	97%
Saint Thomas the Apostle, East Norwalk	293	127,864	115,000	111%	
<b>VICARIATE 3</b>	Holy Cross, Fairfield	92	29,270	25,000	117%
	Holy Family, Fairfield	347	89,605	85,000	105%
	Notre Dame, Easton	249	119,642	105,000	114%
	Our Lady of Assumption, Fairfield	468	190,102	130,000	146%
	Saint Andrew, Bridgeport	295	78,256	65,000	120%
	Saint Ann, Bridgeport	183	41,748	50,000	83%
	Saint Anthony of Padua, Fairfield	182	132,189	80,000	165%
	Saint Emery, Fairfield	88	22,549	20,000	113%
	Saint George, Bridgeport	116	20,000	20,000	100%
	Saint Peter, Bridgeport	321	41,383	40,000	103%
	Saint Pius X, Fairfield	399	316,870	225,000	141%
Saint Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield	477	187,267	175,000	107%	
The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport	478	100,029	100,000	100%	
<b>VICARIATE 4</b>	Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport	63	16,584	10,000	166%
	Christ the King, Trumbull	291	77,686	75,000	104%
	Holy Name of Jesus, Stratford	234	60,652	60,000	101%
	Our Lady of Fatima, Bridgeport	130	26,020	30,000	87%
	Our Lady of Grace, Stratford	464	88,176	85,000	104%
	Our Lady of Peace, Stratford	264	55,713	60,000	93%
	Saint Catherine of Siena, Trumbull	488	185,464	155,000	120%
	Saint Charles Borromeo, Bridgeport	434	41,740	45,000	93%
	Saint James, Stratford	744	131,725	140,000	94%
	Saint Joseph, Shelton	391	79,049	90,000	88%
	Saint Jude, Monroe	558	210,250	160,000	131%
	Saint Lawrence, Shelton	702	199,753	225,000	89%
	Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Shelton	192	45,775	50,000	92%
	Saint Mark, Stratford	481	133,026	130,000	102%
	Saint Mary, Bridgeport	221	28,137	25,000	113%
Saint Michael the Archangel, Bridgeport	347	45,000	45,000	100%	
Saint Stephen, Trumbull	349	133,823	95,000	141%	
Saint Theresa, Trumbull	760	180,037	180,000	100%	
Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Bridgeport	57	23,320	18,000	130%	
<b>VICARIATE 5</b>	Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman	110	65,810	60,000	110%
	Immaculate Heart of Mary, Danbury	151	21,330	20,000	107%
	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Danbury	267	25,494	25,000	102%
	Sacred Heart, Danbury	196	42,150	40,000	105%
	Sacred Heart, Georgetown	234	100,684	65,000	155%
	Saint Edward, New Fairfield	679	199,688	195,000	102%
	Saint Elizabeth Seton, Ridgefield	285	119,028	80,000	149%
	Saint Gregory the Great, Danbury	335	90,000	90,000	100%
	Saint Joseph, Brookfield	357	126,882	115,000	110%
	Saint Joseph, Danbury	565	130,316	125,000	104%
	Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, Brookfield	297	73,497	65,000	113%
	Saint Mary Parish, Bethel	646	166,862	145,000	115%
	Saint Mary, Ridgefield	589	308,464	295,000	105%
Saint Patrick, Redding Ridge	146	74,685	45,000	166%	
Saint Peter, Danbury	443	126,641	110,000	115%	
St. Rose of Lima, Newtown	915	239,130	215,000	111%	

## Vatican II

## Vatican II: "Patience...fifty years is nothing"

By GUIDO HORST

ROME—In an interview with *Vatican Insider*, Church historian and scholar of the Second Vatican Council, Walter Cardinal Brandmüller, says that Catholics should not be surprised by the continuing confusion over the teachings of Vatican II, even 50 years after the Council.

Church history shows that it is common for decades to pass before the faithful fully adjust to the teachings of a Council, the cardinal observes. He notes that Christological disputes continued to rage for a century after the Council of Nicea. "Frankly, even the Council of Trent was not very fruitful until the Golden Jubilee of 1596," the German cardinal adds.

**The Second Vatican Council was a pastoral council that also provided dogmatic explanations.**

**Had there ever been anything like it previously in the history of the Church?**

Vatican II marked the beginning of a new type of Council. The language that was used during it and the completeness of the texts show that the Council fathers were not as much motivated by the need to pass judgement on controversial new ecclesiastical and theological issues, but rather by the wish to turn their attention to public opinion within the Church and the entire world, in the spirit of the Annunciation.

**Shouldn't a Council be declared a failure if fifty years on it has not been warmly received by the faithful?**

This is one of those cliché questions that stem from a new existential sentiment; that feeling of confusion that is typical of our times. But what is fifty years after



all?! Cast your mind back to the Council of Nicaea in 325. The disputes surrounding the dogma of this Council—about the nature of the Son, that is, whether he was made of the same substance as the Father or not—continued for more than a hundred years. St. Ambrose was ordained Bishop of Milan on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and had to fight hard against the Arians who refused

to accept the Nicene provisions. Shortly afterwards came a new Council: the First Council of Constantinople of 381 which was deemed necessary in order to complete the profession of the faith at Nicaea. During this Council, St. Augustine was given the task of dealing with requests and fighting back heretics until his death in 430. Frankly, even the Council of Trent was not very fruitful until the Golden Jubilee of 1596. It took a new generation of bishops and prelates to mature in the "spirit of the Council" before its effect could really be felt. We need to allow ourselves a little more breathing space.

**Let us talk now about the fruits which Vatican II produced.**

First of all, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in comparison with the Tridentine Catechism: after the Council of Trent, the "Catechismus Romanus" was launched in order to provide parish priests, preachers etcetera with guidelines on how to preach and announce the Gospel or evangelize.

Even the 1983 Code of Canon Law can be considered a consequence of the Council. I must emphasize that the form of the post-conciliar liturgy, with all its distortions, is not attributable to the Council or to the Liturgy Constitution established during Vatican II, which, by the way, has not really been implemented even to this day. The indiscriminate removal of Latin and Gregorian Chants from liturgical celebrations were not acts prescribed by the Council. However, the liturgy has come to be seen as a mirror image of Church life, subject to an organic historical evolution. ■



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**October 10, 11 and 13, 2012**

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All events are free and open to the public.

#### PANEL DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

Wednesday, October 10, 7:00 p.m. | University Commons

PANELISTS:

Ladislav Orsy - Visiting Professor of Law, Georgetown University

Nicholas Lash - Theologian and Author

Gregory Baum - Professor Emeritus of Theological Ethics and Sociology of Religion at McGill University, Canada

#### CONVOCATION

Thursday, October 11, 2:00 p.m. | Chapel of the Holy Spirit

#### PREMIERE OF A CONCERT PERFORMANCE OF "MASS OF THE NEW LIGHT" AND ADDITIONAL WORK BY NOTED COMPOSER PETER TOGNI

Saturday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. | Chapel of the Holy Spirit

"Mass of the New Light" was commissioned by Sacred Heart University in celebration of its 50th anniversary and in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. It is a new, exciting setting of the mass, based in the jazz tradition and scored for soloists, the Sacred Heart University Choir, piano, bass, percussion, soprano saxophone, handbells and organ.

For more information, visit [www.sacredheart.edu/VII50.cfm](http://www.sacredheart.edu/VII50.cfm), or contact 203-371-7904 or [nevillea@sacredheart.edu](mailto:nevillea@sacredheart.edu).

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# Pastoral Services

## New director named for Respect Life Ministry

BRIDGEPORT—The Office for Pastoral Services is pleased to announce the appointment of Maureen Ciardiello as the new director of the Respect Life Ministry.

“Maureen is uniquely suited for this ministry,” says Damien O’Connor, director of Pastoral Services, who notes that Maureen and her husband, Mario, have worked as volunteer presenters in the Marriage Preparation Program. “Her background has given her the opportunity to work face to face with people dealing with sensitive issues. She truly is a gift from God as she continues to build upon the foundation laid by the Sisters of Life.”

Sr. Mary Concepta, SV, the former director, and Sr. Bernadette Thérèse, SV, have been assigned by their order to a new ministry.



**MAUREEN CIARDIELLO**

A Bronx native and mother of three children, Ciardiello and her husband are members of

St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. Her path to this ministry is an unusual one. “I was born and raised Catholic and went to Catholic schools, but I didn’t have a good handle on my faith,” she says.

When her oldest child was preparing for his First Holy Communion at St. Catherine’s, she felt a pressing need to learn about her faith from an adult perspective. That learning process led her to become an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, with a particular ministry to the homebound. Her faith deepened when she took part in a Cursillo retreat. The three-day Cursillo retreats lead participants

to a “fourth day”—which takes in the rest of their life.

Visits to the sick, homebound and hospitalized as a Eucharistic minister drew Ciardiello to enroll in the CPE (Clinical Pastoral Experience) program at Bridgeport Hospital. “You become involved in all stages of life,” she says of the experience. “You meet new moms with their infants and families facing end of life decisions. In the emergency room, you may see a man who was walking down the street on a normal day, and in a split second his life changed. It really makes you see things in a different light. The experience gave me a new appreciation of our incredible gift of life.”

Ciardiello has already met with parish Respect Life coordinators and hopes to use the office to help coordinate their efforts. “We want them to know that

they’re not alone out there,” she says. “Together, we can find out what the needs are and see where we can help.”

Although the Respect Life Ministry is committed to supporting the right to life, that support is not solely focused on the issue of abortion. Rather, Ciardiello believes that Catholics are called to assist people at every stage of life’s journey. “It encompasses everyone. We’re already collaborating with the diocesan ministry for people with disabilities. We want to support the elderly in their later years and assist families who have a member dealing with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease. It’s about loving people wherever they are.”

*(The Respect Life section of this issue begins on page 16. To contact Maureen Ciardiello, call 203.416.1444 or email mciardiello@diobpt.org.)*

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# World and National News

## Year of Faith begins

Pope Benedict XVI has called the Church to observe a "Year of Faith" beginning October 11 of this year. This coincides with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the

publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This Year of Faith will continue until the Solemnity of Christ the King in November 2013.

The Pope had made the announcement last year at a Vatican conference on new

evangelization. The Pope said the Year of Faith would give "renewed energy to the mission of the whole Church to lead men and women out of the desert they often are in and toward the place of life: friendship with Christ who gives us fullness of life."

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, first published in 1992, should serve as the handbook for helping Catholics rediscover the truths of faith and deepen their understanding of church teaching. In addition to studying the catechism and gaining a greater understanding of the creed, Pope Benedict said that the Year of Faith also must be accompanied with more acts of charity.

Faith helps people recognize the face of Christ in those who are suffering, and "it is his love that impels us to assist him whenever he becomes our neighbor along the journey of life," the Pope wrote.



A WORKER erects a Lebanese flag atop a billboard depicting Pope Benedict XVI at the main airport road in Beirut in preparation for the Pope's arrival. (PHOTO COURTESY OF REUTERS/MOHAMED AZAKIR)

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is suggesting ten ways in which Catholics may observe the Year of Faith: going to Mass and Confession, reading the Bible, saints' lives, the Catechism, the documents of the Second Vatican Council, helping the needy, inviting others to Mass, volunteering at a parish, and striving to follow the Beatitudes.

(For information on events in this diocese, check the "Bits and Pieces" calendar section or visit the diocesan website: [www.bridgeportdiocese.com](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com).)

## Pope Benedict's message of peace for the Middle East

BEIRUT, Lebanon—On September 16, as he concluded a three-day trip to Lebanon, Pope Benedict XVI remarked that his visit had provided an example of inter-faith unity at a time of extreme tensions in the Middle East. The primary purpose of the Pope's trip was to release his apostolic exhortation, *Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*, concluding the work of the Synod for the Middle East. But the timing—which took place as angry demonstrations were erupting all around the Islamic world—made the Pope's visit a case study in inter-religious affairs.

Despite the turmoil in the region, the entire papal visit took place without incident. Muslims seemed nearly as numerous as Lebanese Christians in the crowds that turned out to greet the Holy Father. Nevertheless, the bitter tensions of the Middle East were foremost in the minds of those who heard the Pope's public addresses and in his meetings with Lebanon's political and social leaders.

On Sunday morning, at an outdoor Mass, the Pope deliv-

ered a powerful appeal for peace. "Sadly, the din of weapons continues to make itself heard, along with the cry of the widow and the orphan. Violence and hatred invade people's lives, and the first victims are women and children." The Church, the Pope said, is called to work tirelessly for peace, paving the way for "the victory of love over hate, forgiveness over revenge, service over domination, humility over pride and unity over division."

Pope Benedict had a special word of praise for his host country, Lebanon, noting that the nation has a proud tradition of religious tolerance. "The happy coexistence of Islam and Christianity, two religions that have helped to shape great cultures," he said, "is what makes for the originality of social, political and religious life in Lebanon."

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# World and National News

## Africa's Christians now outnumber Muslims

EL JADIDA, Morocco—African Christians now outnumber the continent's Muslims, according to figures from the

## Cardinal George calls for just immigration policies

CHICAGO, IL—In a column for the Chicago archdiocesan newspaper, Cardinal Francis George has called for “a more

out documents and are, therefore, outside the law, but they are, nevertheless, woven into the fabric of our family and social life, our parishes and communities, our economy and public life.”



PARTICIPANTS IN THE AFRICA SYNOD in Rome returned to Africa via London, where they concelebrated a special Mass for Africa with English bishops and clergy. (PHOTO BY CAFODSOUTHWARK)

Center for Studies of New Religions (CESNUR).

Speaking at an international conference at Chouaib Doukkali University, Massimo Introvigne, the head of CESNUR, observed that “not everyone is happy about this development.” Islamic fundamentalists, in particular, are dismayed to see the rising tide of Christianity in Africa.

Christians now comprise 46.5% of the African population, with Muslims accounting for 40.5% and the remainder divided among traditional African faiths. Africans now represent 20% of the world's Christian population, and current trends suggest that within a decade Africa will outstrip Europe and the Americas to become the continent with the world's largest Christian population.

human and just system of protecting our borders and of admitting immigrants legally.”

Cardinal George criticized “schizophrenic” U.S. government policies that allow undocumented immigrants to receive college educations, only to face the threat of deportations. He observed that the number of immigrants deported last year—roughly 400,000—was double the number from 2000. These deportations frequently divide families, he said: “About 80,000 children in this area have been separated from at least one of their parents.”

The cardinal said that there seems little willingness among political leaders to tackle the difficult problem of dealing with immigration, despite the fact that 11 million people “are here with-

## Ancient catacomb discovered

L'AQUILA, Italy—*L'Osservatore Romano* reported in August that safety measures taken in the wake of the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake have led to the discovery of a fourth-century catacomb. In the small village of San Lorenzo di Beffi, Acciano, 30 kilometres from L'Aquila, the local church of San Lorenzo was seriously damaged by the earthquake. During repairs, an ancient Christian catacomb was found.

The discovery adds it to the list of three in the Abruzzo region east of Rome. The new subterranean cemetery consists of a main tunnel 100 feet long and approximately five feet wide, which branches off into two secondary tunnels at a right angle. The small catacomb, dating back to the fourth century, reveals the presence of a Christian community in that area, following religious peace.

The Church had been severely persecuted throughout the Roman Empire until the Edict of Milan in 313 gave them the liberty to practice their religion without molestation. Often the celebration of Mass, as well as burials, was conducted in the security of the underground catacombs.

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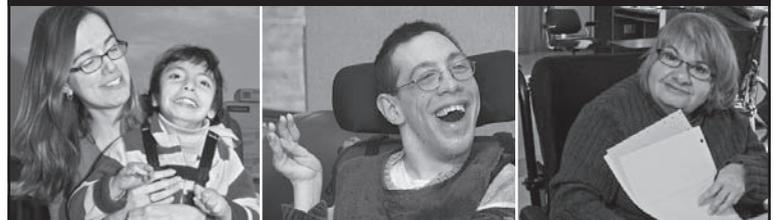
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## Local News

## Larry Kudlow to speak at Charities breakfast

DANBURY—Noted financial commentator, CNBC-TV host and economist, Larry Kudlow, will be the featured speaker at the Annual Catholic Charities of Danbury Celebrity Breakfast on November 19. Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit Catholic Charities programs including counseling and behavioral health and a wide range of family and community services.

“We’re honored that Larry Kudlow has chosen to support our work at Catholic Charities. He has been a true friend of the Diocese of Bridgeport and of other groups that work to empower people and give them the skills to lead independent lives,” says Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities.



Maureen Knup of Brookfield, president of the Catholic Charities Danbury Advisory Board, and Anita Ragona of Danbury, board member, are serving as co-chairs of the annual event.

Kudlow is host of CNBC’s prime time “The Kudlow Report” (7 pm Monday-Friday). He

is also the host of the “Larry Kudlow Show,” which broadcasts each Saturday from 10 am-1 pm on WABC radio and is syndicated nationally. He is also CEO of Kudlow & Co., LLC, an economic research firm. His blog, “Money Politics”, can be found at [www.kudlow.com](http://www.kudlow.com).

He is a nationally syndicated columnist, contributing editor of *National Review* magazine, as well as a columnist and economics editor for National Review Online. He is also the author of *American Abundance: The New Economic and Moral Prosperity*.

During President Reagan’s first term, Kudlow was the associate director for economics and planning of the Office of Management and

Budget, Executive Office of the President, where he was engaged in the development of the administration’s economic and budget policy. He was formerly chief economist and senior managing director of Bear Stearns & Company. He started his professional career at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York where he worked in open market operations and bank supervision.

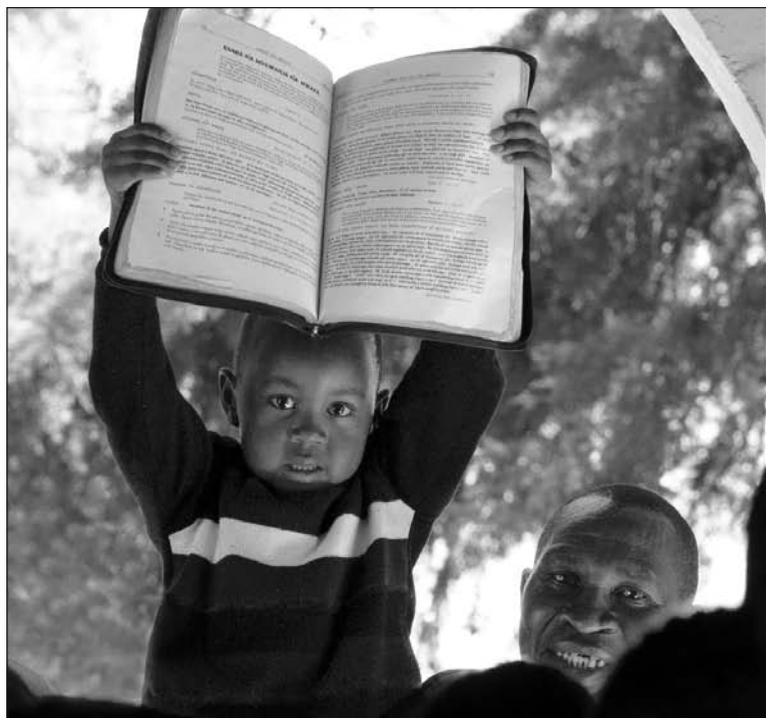
Kudlow is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Bishop’s Humanitarian Award from Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens, Ambassadors for Mission Award from the Pontifical Mission Societies of the United States and Visionary Award from Council for

Economic Education. He is presently on the Board of Directors of Cathedral Cluster Schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport, and a former Fordham University Board of Trustees member.

Kudlow was educated at the University of Rochester and Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Catholic Charities Danbury has served people of all faiths in the greater Danbury area since 1939. It provides counseling, adoption, a family loan program, intensive family preservation, parent education programs, and other services.

(To make a reservation or to serve as a table sponsor, call Fran Pennarola: 203.744.1929, ext. 22.) ■



## Missionaries of Faith

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## \$1.8 million state grant for St. Vincent’s College

BRIDGEPORT—Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced in August that the State will provide a \$1.8 million grant to St. Vincent’s College for the expansion of its facilities, which will lead to the education of hundreds of more students in nursing and other allied health disciplines. The grant comes at a time when the college has expanded its enrollment and course offerings to meet the growing needs of the healthcare marketplace.

“St. Vincent’s has been a partner in helping provide valuable skills in the nursing and healthcare fields to Connecticut residents, and this grant will help the school to expand and allow even more course offerings and room for larger enrollment,” Governor Malloy said in announcing the grant. “Skills learned through institutions like St. Vincent’s are among the reasons why we have one of the most talented workforces in the country.”

“The nation is facing shortages in nursing and other healthcare disciplines, especially in Connecticut,” says Susan L. Davis, EdD, RN, president and CEO, St. Vincent’s Health

Services. “The Governor understands the issues we face in providing quality health care to the residents of Connecticut, and this grant will enable St. Vincent’s College to offer more students an opportunity for an education.” Currently, the College enrolls more than 800 students who utilize a 40,000 square foot space adjacent to St. Vincent’s Medical Center. Estimates show that enrollment, which has increased by 180 students in the past 18 months will continue to grow.

“The college has played a significant role in educating students in the Fairfield and New Haven areas for more than a century,” says Martha Shouldis, EdD, president of St. Vincent’s College. Understanding the need for a larger footprint, the college, in conjunction with the St. Vincent’s Medical Center Foundation, has raised \$3.2 million of a \$5 million investment needed to renovate the third floor of a recently acquired building two blocks from the current St. Vincent’s College. This \$1.8 million grant closes the funding gap to complete the \$5 million facility expansion project. By retrofitting the third floor of this property, the College will gain 13,000

square feet of space, which will include new classrooms, laboratories, student study and gathering spaces as well as faculty office space by the fall of 2013.

The additional space will enable the college to add degree programs as well as increase enrollment. Proposed educational programs include a four-year bachelor degree program in nursing, a bachelor degree completion program in radiologic sciences and a bachelor degree completion program in healthcare administration. Increased enrollment estimates figure at 200 to 400 students by 2017.

“More than 90 percent of St. Vincent’s College students are residents of Fairfield or New Haven Counties at the time of entry. Upon graduation, the majority of them historically remain in Connecticut and seek out employment in the state; therefore, St. Vincent’s College is poised to be a key player in addressing the healthcare shortages we face,” adds Dr. Davis.

(For information on enrolling in St. Vincent’s College, call 800.873.1013 or visit the college website at [www.stvincentscollege.edu](http://www.stvincentscollege.edu).) ■

# Vocation

SEMINARIANS  
FROM PAGE 2

was formed very early in his life when he discovered a love for the Mass. His uncle, an Augustinian priest, also created interest by providing a role model.

"I remember kneeling during the Consecration, looking at the priest and thinking, 'That's what I really want to do.' There was no real explanation for it," says Tim. Though he first thought of becoming a priest at the age of 12, he put it in the back of his mind and didn't consider it seriously again until he graduated from Merrimac College this May. He has played tenor and alto sax in college bands and jazz ensembles and would be working as a musician if he did not pursue the priesthood.

Like others interviewed for this article, 26 year-old Shane Nunes of Fairfield heard the call early in his life, but at some point turned his back on it. "I walked away from my faith for years beginning in college. I really stopped going to church," says Shane, who was born and raised in Shelton. But three years ago, his faith came back "stronger than ever," and he knew he had to come to terms with his calling.

After graduating from Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 2008, he found a job at Enthone, a specialty



TIM IANNAZONE

chemical and technology company in Orange. He was well paid and about to be promoted last month when he told his employers that he was leaving to become a priest.

"They were shocked but very supportive and happy for me," he says. "I was really good at what I was doing, but it came down to a career in research or a vocation—and this is what I want."

Shane says that he had a new car, and a girl friend who loved him, but still "felt a God-sized hole" in his life that wasn't being filled. "I couldn't figure out the emptiness until I started going back to church. I realized that the idea of priesthood has always been there. As I got older, it became stronger, even though I tried to ignore it."

Bryan Samaniego, 17, of Bridgeport, says that his vocation was formed by the example of Msgr. Aniceto Villamide, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport. The 2012 graduate of Central High



ANDREW KOLENBERG

Magnet School has always been drawn to the beauty of the Mass.

"I think an interest in Mass and the Eucharist are a strong foundation for anyone's faith. My idea of becoming a priest was with me in my freshman year. I was just so used to attending Mass. It makes me feel calm, peaceful and very happy," says Brian, who graduated from the Regional Aquaculture School in Bridgeport and has a strong interest in science.

Though the self-described "baby of the group," Bryan is mature in faith. Though he's drawn toward the priesthood, he realizes it's important to test his vocation and to remain open-minded at his age.

"I'm going into the seminary a little bit nervous and scared, but I know I'm going to be around a good bunch of priests and seminarians there, and the program is really well structured," he says. "I've always worked hard



SHANE NUNES

and never given up on anything I wanted. If I don't come out a priest, I know I'll be a more rounded Christian."

Getting to the point where they're ready to tell others that they are going to pursue the priesthood is an important step in the lives of the young men who come to the Fisher residence. Andrew Kolenberg says his buddies at UConn were taken back when he first told them—they thought he would be locked away and would never see them again.

"It was definitely a 'Whoa' moment, but then some of my Catholic friends came around and said I would be good for the job. My other friends were pretty cool. They said they never heard of anyone doing it before, but they wanted to know more about the job details and the life," says Andrew, who loves to travel and has visited Russia and Iceland in his recent adventures and is planning to go to Egypt in December.



BRYAN SAMANIEGO

As the seminarians begin studies at St. John Fisher Residence, Sacred Heart University and St. John's University in Queens, NY, they're looking forward to deepening their prayer life. They know that, as priests, they'll stand out in a secular culture, but they're eager to proclaim the message of the Gospel.

"I think priests of the future are really going to have to deal with people where they are and to evangelize," says Shane Nunes. "People are coming in with more struggles. Our job is to show them the Lord as someone who loves them no matter how much society tells them they're not lovable."

Tim Iannacone says he finds joy in answering the call of a lifetime. "God calls men to the priesthood every day. The call is often silent and mysterious. We are each called in different ways to do something for God in our lives. For me, the answer to that call is, 'Yes.'"

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## Local News

## “Faithful Citizenship” topic of CAPP breakfast

FAIRFIELD—Fr. Richard Ryscavage, S.J., a leading expert on immigration and founding director of Fairfield University’s Center for Faith and Public Life, will be the keynote speaker at the seventh annual Communion Breakfast for Business Leaders on October 28, held in Fairfield University’s Oak Room.

The breakfast, co-sponsored by the Center for Faith and Public Life and the Fairfield Chapter of CAPP (Centisimus Annus Pro Pontifice) will begin with a 9 am Mass in the Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola. Business professionals Brendan Fisk, of Fairfield, and Barnet Phillips, IV, of Greenwich, will be honored by

CAPP at the breakfast.

Fr. Ryscavage’s talk, “Faithful Citizenship: Catholics and the Presidential Election,” will touch upon topical issues as Election Day approaches.

Fr. Ryscavage is professor of sociology and international studies at Fairfield University. The Center for Faith and Public Life studies problems where religion and socio-political issues intersect. Among its many endeavors, Fr. Ryscavage is leading a Ford

Foundation-funded national study examining the issues of undocumented students in higher education. Fr. Ryscavage is also helping a Hagedorn

Foundation-funded pilot project to demonstrate a more civil and less coarse way of public debate about immigration by framing the dialogue in the language of faith.

In addition, he has held leadership positions with the Jesuit Refugee Service USA and Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC). While running the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration and Refugee Services Office, he was the main advisor to the U.S. Catholic bishops on immigration and refugee policy. In 2006, the Vatican invited Fr. Ryscavage to join the delegation of the Holy See to the General Assembly of the United Nations where he participated in the dialogue on migration sponsored by the UN Secretary General.

Fisk and Phillips will be honored with the Business

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FR. RICHARD RYSCAVAGE, S.J.

Leadership Award for their work in co-founding Shepherds Inc. in 1997, as well as for their ongoing involvement in the program. Shepherds is a nondenominational, nonprofit program that provides funding for disadvantaged inner-city Connecticut youth, giving them the opportunity to attain a quality education at Catholic high schools while pairing them with a mentor who serves as a role model over the four-year high school journey.

“Brendan and Barney were chosen for this award because

they exemplified the application of the core principles of the Church’s social doctrine, namely human dignity, solidarity and subsidiarity,” said Bill Fox, president of CAPP’s Fairfield County Chapter. “Shepherds recognizes the human dignity of all their students and, with the support of mentors and sponsors, enables students to obtain a quality Catholic high school education. Most are the first in their families to go on to college.”

For 23 years, Fisk was an FBI agent who upon retirement from the bureau pursued a career as a business owner and consultant to a number of major corporations and banks. Phillips is a recently retired partner with the New York City law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and affiliates.

(For additional information about CAPP and its Fairfield County Chapter, visit [www.capp-usa.org](http://www.capp-usa.org). Additional background on Fairfield University’s Center for Faith and Public Life is available at [www.fairfield.edu/cfpl/index.html](http://www.fairfield.edu/cfpl/index.html). There is limited seating for the breakfast. To register, please call Cindy Russo, at 203-254-4000, ext. 2927.)

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## Retreat

## An Oasis for Your Soul

By PAM RITTMAN

I'd always wondered what a retreat would be like. The brochures and information I read in magazines or at church listed interesting topics at near and distant retreat houses, some along the ocean or nestled in beautiful mountains. I thought if I attended one, it would be a way to get away from the daily demands and challenges of life, deepen my faith and love for God.

My first retreat was given to me as a gift. I was blessed to have someone who cared about my faith as much as he cared for me. In the canyons of New York City, my retreat house was a hide-away from the glamour, noise and struggles of a city that never sleeps. Secure in the warm hospitality of the nuns, I knew I was in store for a wonderful weekend, surrounded by those who shared a similar love of God.

Over the weekend, we listened to presentations, had group discussions and took time for private reflection. The teachings touched my heart and mind and the Scriptures came alive. At meals, we shared with each other what inspired us in a special way. I cher-

ished the quiet time as I reflected on Scripture and took time for Adoration and prayer in the chapel, and I left a renewed individual grounded in Christ's love.

I found the experience so peaceful and restful that I have scheduled a retreat every year since.

I've attended group and directed retreats throughout the years; there are also individual, semi-silent and silent ones. Whatever the choice, my retreats are a period of time set aside for prayer, meditation and study that enhances my personal faith walk. They put life in perspective. Through them I have made lifelong friends who share my Catholic faith.

Last January I had the privilege of attending a women's retreat at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford. The Passionists, a religious order founded by Saint Paul of the Cross, focus on preaching missions and retreats.

This retreat was held in January, after the holy season of Christmas, and I thought it would be a wonderful way to start the New Year after celebrating the birth of our Lord. Workshops led us to experience Christ's presence

in ordinary places, introduced us to the practice of centering prayer, and acquainted us with the role of saints in Catholic life.

Women of all ages attended the group; some gave the retreat as a gift to a friend or family member. I meditated while walking the labyrinth on a surprisingly mild January afternoon; other women took time to follow the outdoor Stations of the Cross. Heart-lifting music in the chapel increased the depth of the experience.

When the stress of everyday living and responsibilities has left you tired—or even questioning the point of your faith—the weekend or even one-day retreats are a chance to recharge. “People arrive weary and depleted,” says Dr. Brandon Nappi, the associate retreat director. “On retreat, people are able to open their eyes to what they have been too busy or distracted to see—the presence of God bringing peace along each step of life's journey.”

“A Season of Promise” is the retreat center's theme from now through June of the coming year. “When I am preparing a new theme, I always ask, ‘What good news do I personally need to hear in my own life?’” says Nappi. “We



HOLY FAMILY RETREAT Associate Retreat Director Dr. Brandon Nappi enjoys a visit to the sunlit labyrinth on a mild winter day.

sift through what is happening in our culture and the events that are touching people's lives. The Holy Spirit always moves us in the direction of hope and peace.”

In the same way that I take time to plan a vacation every year—I need the fun and the relaxation and the time away from my job—I make retreat plans to nourish my spiritual life. Other people I know do it, too. Husbands give the gift of a retreat in recognition of their wives' hard work, and women want to see their men experience

the grace and blessings of God. Children treat their parents to a spiritual break, and parents treat their children.

My friend and I parted our ways, but I will always remember and treasure his life-changing gift of that first retreat.

(To learn more about retreats offered at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, visit [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org), call 860.521.0440, or find them on Facebook and Twitter. Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center is located at 303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford.)

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## EDITORIAL

## For Me

Without life and breath, we have no other rights. That's why "life," as noted in the Declaration of Independence, comes before "liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Building a culture of life, though, is not about saving unborn children and caring for their mothers. It's not about bringing hope to those in prison or helping immigrants or visiting the sick, nor about parish nurses or preschools. All the care and concern that is poured into these things contribute to the culture of life. None of them, not even the struggle to end the carnage of abortion, are at its foundation.

None of them will ultimately be successful unless we recognize the heart of all these works: "You did it for me" (Matthew 25: 40). We must see Jesus in the face of a frightened teenager contemplating abortion, in a man who has—yet again—failed to conquer the addiction that led him to jail, in adult children dealing with their mother's painful last months. We may not approve or agree with their choices. We must love them, every bit as much as God loves us. Jesus, his love and his sacrifice, is the cornerstone supporting every action, every program that helps build a world overflowing with love and life.

For the Blue Mass on September 11, Msgr. William Scheyd, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, spoke to fire, police, and EMS personnel. His homily, delivered in that context, produced one of the best descriptions of what it means to build a culture of life: "People of faith partner with God in caring for the world."

## The Catholic Vote

Now we're in the home stretch of an election that seems to have captured all the contention and confusion of an increasingly divided country. And if we can believe what we read, Catholics themselves are divided, about to split their votes equally between Democratic and Republican candidates.

Yet beyond all of the hot-button issues, this is no ordinary year. We can now add new and growing concerns over Religious Liberty to the list that divides us. Archbishop William E. Lori, who so capably led the Diocese of Bridgeport for a decade, has become a national leader in articulating the threats to religious liberty posed by the federal health mandate and other incursions of the state into the governance of churches.

"This is a big moment for Catholic voters to step back from their party affiliation," he said at this year's Knights of Columbus annual convention in Anaheim, California. "Are any of the candidates of either party, or independents, standing for something that is intrinsically evil, evil no matter what the circumstances? If that's the case, a Catholic, regardless of his party affiliation, shouldn't be voting for such a person."

Meanwhile, in offering a benediction at the Democratic convention, New York's Cardinal Timothy Dolan drove home an important message when he prayed, "Thus do we praise you for the gift of life. Grant us the courage to defend it, life, without which no other rights are secure. We ask your benediction on those waiting to be born that they may be welcomed and protected." He also renewed the call for religious liberty, defense of marriage and opposition to a healthcare mandate that asks the church to violate its own teaching.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has stated that it will not tell Catholics how to cast their ballots nor insist that they vote on one issue, but as we prepare to head into the voting booth, the message of our bishops is unified and clear: the dignity of the human person and fundamental right to life should never be violated. We should first and foremost protect the most vulnerable among us with our vote.

Yet the bishops do not let anyone off the hook, regardless of party. They also instruct the faithful in a consistent life ethic that is opposed to the death penalty, to the excessive use of military force, to the exploitation and rejection of immigrants, and to the blaming of the poor for their own suffering.

By this yardstick we all fall short. Indeed, the Church's respect for life across the board challenges us to heed Archbishop Lori's exhortation that we not think as partisans but as Catholics. Based on that demanding ethic, we will all have a great deal of work left to do when the election is over.

(For updates on election issues, see the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).)

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

Cradled  
in the Hereafter

(Reflection of Sr. Frances Smallkowski, pastoral care director at Pope John Paul II Center for Health Care, after the funeral of Regina Mattia.)

The loving image of a beloved mother  
Being laid to rest  
Will remain in my heart's memory  
For as long as God permits.

Cremains so gently contained  
And encircled by soft touches  
Of caring hands molding cloth  
Over a forever Tiffany vase.

But the crown, the crown of glory  
Coronating not just God's Mother in heaven  
But also Michele and Denise's mother  
Whose crown of thorns was replaced with glorious roses!

Would that each of us  
Could be humanly returned to God  
By our loved ones  
In such untold majesty!

Would that each of our lives  
Merited such loudly-spoken accolades  
That can only be given  
By those closest to tell!

How blessed you are, Regina,  
Queen of Hearts who love you most!  
How blessed are all who have known you;  
All whose lives you have graced!

## Fan Farewell

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the wonderful article on Colleen Taylor. Like many other listeners, I can say it has been a treat listening to Colleen on WFUV radio over

the last few years. It was nice to learn that during that time she has deepened her faith and is now heading off to Ireland for further studies. *Fainne oir ort!* Well done!

Greg Byrnes  
Greenwich



## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

## PASTOR

REV. JULIO LOPRESTI, IVE, Pastor, Saint George Parish, Bridgeport, to reassignment by his community. Effective date was August 23.

REV. WALTER FRUTADES, IVE, to Pastor, Saint George Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date was August 23.

MSGR. THOMAS J. WHALEN, Pastor, Saint Margaret Mary Parish, Shelton, to Retirement. Effective date is October 28.

## ADMINISTRATOR

REV. JOHN J. STRONKOWSKI, Sabattical, to Administrator, Saint Margaret Mary Parish, Shelton. Effective date was September 1.

## PAROCHIAL VICAR

REV. MARCEL ST. JEAN, Parochial Vicar, Saint Joseph Parish, Shelton, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish and Saint Benedict/Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Stamford. Effective date was September 17.

## PART-TIME PAROCHIAL VICAR/ PART-TIME SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

REV. MICHAEL P. NOVAJOSKY, Parochial Vicar, Saint Jude Parish, Monroe, to Part-time Parochial Vicar, Saint Jude Parish, Monroe, and Part-time Spiritual Director at St. Joseph High School, Trumbull. Effective date was September 1.

## DEACON

DEACON THOMAS CURRAN, to Deacon, Department of Campus Ministry at Fairfield University, Fairfield. Effective date was July 1.

DEACON WILLIAM A. KONIERS, Deacon, Saint Pius X Parish, Fairfield, to Deacon, The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date was September 1.

Rev. Msgr. Kevin Royal, Delegate for Clergy Personnel  
October, 2012

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## Editorial



## Remembering a Great Priest of Vatican II

## A WOMAN'S VIEW

BY ANTOINETTE BOSCO

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

They say “time flies,” and I have long come to believe that, especially each year when I celebrate my birthday! But the passing of time so quickly really hit me recently when I read stories celebrating the 50th anniversary of Vatican II!

As that incredible period in the Catholic Church began, I was living in the newly-formed Diocese of Rockville Centre on Long Island, NY, and had the good fortune of being hired by Msgr. Richard Hanley to write for the *Long Island Catholic*, the diocesan

paper he had founded. I was a reporter and feature writer for that fine publication for the next 10 years. And yes, we did cover Vatican II, thanks to this brilliant editorial leader, who sadly died too young, but lived long enough to launch what he called a “Vatican II diocesan paper!”

During this time I met so many incredible people, one especially I shall never forget. He was a Belgian prelate, the incredible Cardinal Leo-Jozef Suenens, who played a strong role in that momentous event of the Catholic Church, particularly in his call for

“a triple dialogue—with the faithful, with our separated brethren, with the non-Christian world.”

I got to meet him in an unusual way. I had been asked to be one of the speakers at a major conference being held at the major seminary on Long Island, and Cardinal Suenens was there. He was so “impressed” (his words, not mine) that the seminary had asked a woman to be a speaker that he wanted to meet me. Long story short—we became friends!

It meant a great deal to me as a reporter, a Catholic and a woman to hear the wise words of this holy man. He was way ahead of his time, such a progressive thinker, a promoter of ecumenism (which was still not overly popular at that time), and strongly devoted to Mary, mother of Lord Jesus. Later, when I found out that he had lost his father at age 4 and was raised by a devoted mother, I was not at all surprised at his profound devotion to Jesus’ Mother Mary. I told him he should write a book

that would “inspire” Vatican II Catholics, and he smiled.

In 1993, I got a surprise from his close friend, Margie Grace, wife of industrialist Peter Grace, who wrote me, “I know in those good old days of Vatican II we had corresponded with you and I thought you would be interested in reliving some of those experiences.” She sent me a copy of a new book—by Cardinal Suenens!—titled *The Hidden Hand of God*. In this book he emphasizes the magnitude and importance of the role women can take in the Church. Obviously, that is one of my cherished volumes in my bookcase!

A sentence I underlined in that book are his words, “Faith is a magnifying glass which helps us to see and to discover God, secretly and anonymously at work, in the chance events of human life.” And he adds, the point is that God acts in mysterious ways to bring people to Him, but always “through other people.”

Most important for me is that

I received a card with a message in his own handwriting in April, 1993, three years before his death on May 6, 1996 at the age of 91. “Received with joy your kind letter and your comments on the book... May the Lord be your strength in daily life and your joy forever. I send you a little booklet for Easter reading. With my cordial blessing,” L.J. Cardinal Suenens. This is a gift I keep!

When I got the news about his death, I reread a treasure this great priest had sent me, the homily he delivered at the opening of the second session of the Vatican Council, “in memory of Pope John XXIII of holy and venerated memory:”

“He came, like John the Baptist, to bear witness to the light; to make the rough ways plain, to prepare a path, to show Christ to the world; like him, too, his mission was short, cut off by death... History will surely judge that he opened a new era for the Church...” I believe sincerely that Cardinal Suenens took that same path! ■



## Morning has broken

## A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

Mornings are a gift. Do you think of them that way? I didn’t used to. But the kids are sometimes catatonic when I get home in the evening, so morning is often my only real time with them. I’m learning to love it.

We are early risers. I fought it for years, begging and pleading to be allowed just a few more precious moments of shut eye. Occasionally the kids would oblige, briefly. Ninety seconds later they’d be back from their own beds, twice as eager to go downstairs.

“Do you know how early it

is?” I croak. You might as well ask who they’re voting for. You’d get the same blank look.

So I’ve resigned myself. For the next few years, I’ll be getting up well before the proverbial cock crows.

Most mornings I’m wakened by my middle child, Magdalena. She is six. Getting out of bed is what she was born to do. She is blessed to have discovered her true calling at an early age. There are other things she does well, and other things she loves to do, but rising and shining is the trigger clause of her contract with the world.

I sometimes imagine that

Magdalena wakes to the sound of urgent voices whispering only to her. “Get up!” they say. “Get up! Dora and Elmo are eating your breakfast and playing with your toys! You’re missing everything! Get up!”

Most of the time we let Magdalena into our bed. Strictly speaking, this is something you are not supposed to do, as it rewards the child for being an early bird and provides an incentive for tomorrow’s bad behavior. But bitter experience has taught me that it’s either the bed or the breakfast table, so we pull back the covers and let her climb in. As she is mostly elbows and knees, it isn’t long before one of us gives in and takes her downstairs.

My son usually isn’t far behind. Paddy is an American boy of the four-year-old variety, which means there is no middle gear in his transmission. He has two speeds: out cold and full blast. His eyes open at first light, his naked feet hit the cold floor, and in an instant he is by your side in the kitchen, bleary-eyed

and demanding to know, “Wass for breffest, huh Dad?”

“You have a choice,” I say. “Dirt Flakes or Mini Worms.”

“No, Dad, yer juss been silly. Wass the reeeeee breffest, huh?”

Clara, the eight-year-old, is the only one to have figured out what every parent knows to be true: sleeping late is its own reward. At her age, lounging in bed while your siblings eat their breakfast is at least as good an option as being awake and having them annoy you while you eat yours.

At the table, I cut bananas into their cereal and ask what they dreamt about. Mostly they don’t remember. I ask them what they’re looking forward to about the day ahead. Mostly they can’t answer. They are madly devoted to the here and now.

Yesterday means nothing. Who reads old news? Tomorrow is a non-entity to a child. Why worry about it when today is

already here?

I watch them eat. They see me watching and smile with mouths full. What a blessing to be so present. I have many dreams I wish I could forget. And there are many mornings when I positively

dread the day ahead. But being with them for an hour or two is tonic enough to beat back my mild misanthropy.

No matter how tired I am in the morning, or how much I wish I could stay in bed just a few minutes more, I summon the strength to rise. I know one day I’ll be eating breffest in a glooming peace with silence to spare. On that day I’ll wish I had a little noodge to drag me out of bed before dawn to ask me who puts the milk in the carton or why don’t spoons have names?

As Yogi Berra said, it gets late early around here. I don’t want to miss a minute of it. ■

“You have a choice,” I say. “Dirt Flakes or Mini Worms.”

# Respect Life

## Billboards carry a gentle message of life

By PAT HENNESSY

An infant gazed in puzzlement from a billboard on a busy corner in Danbury. "What about MY right to choose?" he asked.

The billboard, the first of several sponsored by the Respect Life Committee at St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield this season, was in no way aggressive or confrontational. "We try to change hearts and minds by encouraging people to use logic," says Hank Vossinkle, co-chair of the committee and head of the billboard

project. The Pro-Life Committee has carefully chosen their billboard locations, both in Danbury and in Bridgeport, placing them where they will be seen by thousands of people on a daily basis.

"The campaigns have never been negative," adds John Papa, the committee's other co-chair. "I think that's important. In a gentle and forgiving and caring way, we're starting a dialog. We've had nothing but positive responses."

St. Mary's is proud of its Respect Life activities, which go

on throughout the year. From the March for Life in Washington, DC, to support for Birthright pregnancy counseling centers and Project Rachel post-abortion healing, the committee works to develop the culture of life in Fairfield County. Because of their impact on so many people, the billboards are an important part of that effort. The successful billboard campaign has been in place for over ten years, leading thousands to consider the message of life they carry.

"I'm pleased that our par-



ish Respect Life Committee has arranged for billboards to advertise a truth that lies at the heart of our Catholic faith—the sanctity of every human life, created in the image and likeness of God," says Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz, St. Mary's pastor.

In a letter to parishioners, Msgr. Bronkiewicz pointed out that over a million children are aborted every year. "The vast majority of abortions occur because the mother is influenced by fear, ignorance, or pressure from others and does not realize that she has other options," he wrote. "The billboards which you sponsor provide factual information about the development of the pre-born child, information about adoption, and toll-free telephone numbers of organizations that assist women in carrying their pregnancies to term, or in healing for those hurting after an abortion." He added that, "Sadly, these may continue to be the only pro-life messages that many ever see."

The Respect Life Committee is currently sponsoring two Respect Life billboards in Danbury, both at busy intersections. Due to the way traffic moves through the city, they lie at either side of the campus of Western Connecticut State University (WestCONN).

Because they are focused on developing a respect for life, the committee takes great care in choosing the images and wording for their message. "We try to put them in the areas that need the most help, that need the most hope," says Papa. While the questioning baby graced the billboards in August, during September the message showed a pensive young woman, and asked "Pregnant? Worried?" Offering practical support, the billboard carried the phone number for the Birthright Counseling Center in Danbury.

"The Birthright office is right

down the block, so the billboard may direct a young woman to someone who can help her," observes Vossinkle.

St. Mary's is also sponsoring two billboards in Bridgeport in October. In keeping with its intent to reach the most people, the one in downtown Bridgeport will carry its message in both English and Spanish.

St. Mary's is hoping that other parishes will join the billboard campaign. One that already has is St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown. "We started two years ago," says Helga Roegele, chair of the Respect Life Committee at St. Rose. "Our first billboard showed a young, pretty woman with a baby in her arm. It said 'Love is simple—choose life.'"

The billboards St. Rose sponsors are along Route 25, the main artery between Bridgeport and Danbury. "Route 25 is a heavily traveled road, and I think this a good way to spread our message," says Roegele. "It's planting a seed; getting people to think."

As at St. Mary's, the Respect Life movement at St. Rose is active throughout the year. "Our baby bottle drive is ongoing, all year long," Roegele says. "We've collected over \$5,000 to help local pregnancy centers. During a baby shower for the Daughters of Charity, parishioners sent a van full of baby items for women in crisis pregnancies."

In October, both parishes plan to sponsor billboards with a Vote for Life message, featuring an unborn child with the message "So I will have a chance, too."

As the seasons change, so will the message. Both parishes are planning to sponsor billboards during the Christmas season showing the unborn Christ, a halo framing his head, with the

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

## Direct Your Future at Sacred Heart.



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# Respect Life

## St. Francis Preschool appoints new director

By **ALINE WEILLER**

St. Francis of Assisi Preschool has appointed Marianne Keith as its new director. The preschool is located at the parish, in the heart of Weston.

St. Francis of Assisi Preschool was founded in 1999 and is one of Fairfield County's only parish preschool programs. "Our preschool is an integral part of the parish. It not only provides the academics that are stepping stones for kindergarten, but nurtures the children's faith life and fosters self-discovery and a respect for others," says Fr. Michael Dunn, St. Francis' pastor.

Keith arrives at St. Francis with teaching experience twenty years strong. A native Westonite, she obtained her B.S. in English literature from Manhattanville College and a masters degree in elementary education from the University of Bridgeport. She has taught at both the elementary and preschool level, was a preschool director at New Canaan's Top of the Rainbow and a program coordinator at St. Paul's Preschool in

Westport. In addition, Keith was a Mentor Teacher at Norwalk Community College and a preschool consultant for children with special needs.



MARIANNE KEITH was named director at Saint Francis of Assisi Preschool.

With her husband and three children, she is a member of St. Francis. "Children are born with an innate desire to learn. At St. Francis, we are committed to developing well-rounded children and lifelong learners able to reach their potential. Both our pre-literacy and pre-math programs will

ensure students are equipped for their elementary years," she says.

Though the preschool is parish-run, children of all denominations attend. The school is accredited by the State of Connecticut. In recent years the staff has broadened the curriculum with the addition of technology, foreign language, and social science instruction.

Based on current demand, a "Mommy and Me" once-a-week, year-round class for parents and children 18 months-2 years old, will be added to the St. Francis Preschool schedule. "Our

'Mommy and Me' program allows parents to observe their child's unique nature and help them par-

ticipate in meaningful, age-appropriate activities," Keith says. (Fall enrollment for the preschool is

still open. To register, visit the school or call Keith: 203.984.7586. For more details, visit [www.sfaparish.com](http://www.sfaparish.com).)

### Entrance Exams

Saturday, October 13, 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday, November 3, 8:30 a.m.

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### BILLBOARDS FROM PAGE 16

saying "He's on his way."

Papa hopes that many more parishes will get involved, if not with billboards then with lawn posters on the parish grounds.

love to get numerous parishes to put one up. It's a gentle way, particularly at Christmas time, to get people thinking about the beginning of life."



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"In many towns, just like in Ridgefield, billboards aren't allowed," he notes. "But every parish has a campus, and the lawn posters are inexpensive. I'd

(For more information on Respect Life billboards or posters, contact Maureen Ciardiello, diocesan director of Respect Life Ministry: 203.416.1444.)



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## Respect Life

## Parish Nurse Program celebrates 20 years

By **DON HARRISON**

"I've had pastors tell me, 'That nurse saved my life,'" says Sr. Mary Jean Tague, DC, RN, founder and coordinator of St. Vincent Medical Center's Parish Nurse Program.

Nurses, by and large, are often taken for granted, seen but not heard. But this 57-year member of the Daughters of Charity order is determined that the 250 volunteer nurses who comprise the Parish Nurse Program will be recognized for their vital work.

On October 17, the Medical Center will play host to the 20th anniversary of the program with a dinner at Testo's Ristorante in Bridgeport. The keynote speaker will be Msgr. William Scheyd, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan and a longtime supporter of the parish nurses.

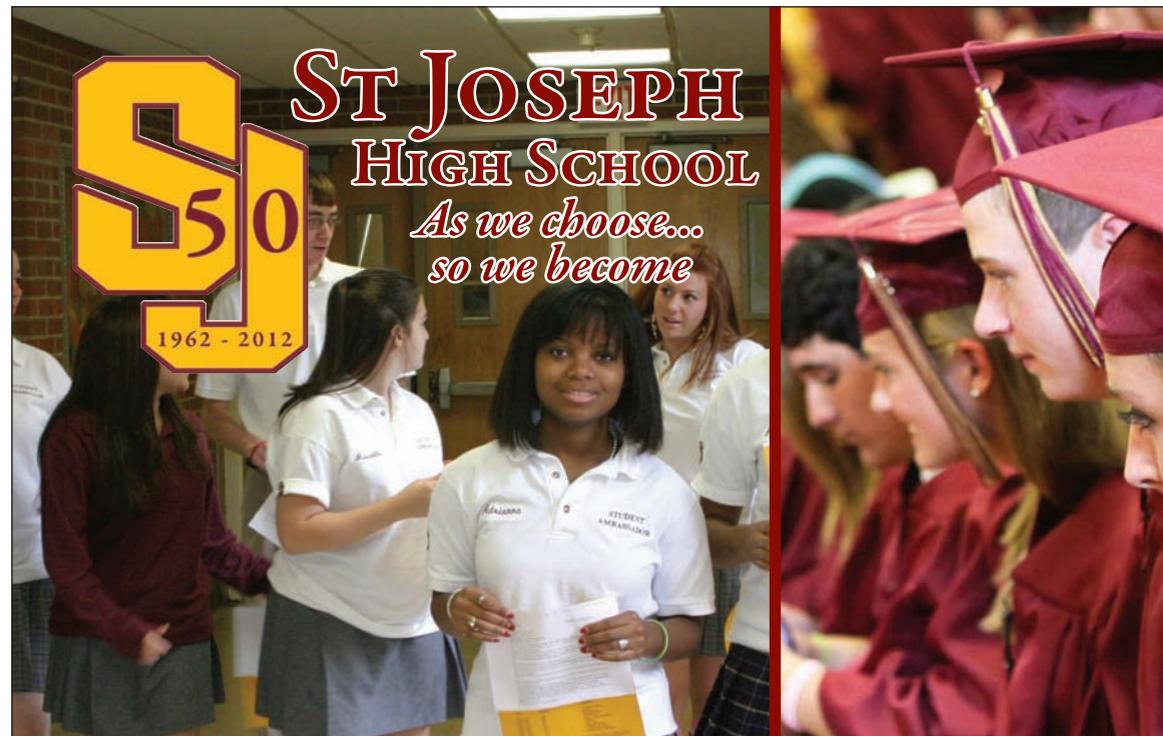
"The Parish Nurse Program was started when I was pastor at St. Augustine Cathedral (now part of the Cathedral Parish) in Bridgeport. We had a very diverse community there, and I was happy to be part of it,"

says Msgr. Scheyd. "When I moved on to St. Thomas in East Norwalk, I brought the program there. And then we established the Parish Nurse Program here at St. Aloysius. It's helpful in so many ways."

What are the duties of a parish nurse? Well, depending on the moment or the situation, she or he will serve as a health educator. As a health counselor. As a referral service. And often as a promoter for wellness, by offering blood pressure screenings and other programs.



SR. MARY JEAN TAGUE, DC, RN (center), the founding coordinator of St. Vincent Medical Center's Parish Nurse program, is flanked by Marilyn Faber (left), the program's liaison nurse, and Claire Frillici, a retired nurse who is active in the program at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Fairfield. (PHOTO BY DON HARRISON)



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"We just want to keep the community healthy," says Sr. Mary Jean, whose years of service embrace missionary work as both nurse and pharmacist in Bolivia (1967-83) and Angola (1995-98). "Some of the participating nurses are full-time at the hospital, others work in agencies, and some are employed in doctors' offices. Some of the nurses are retired, but they remain active by volunteering at their parishes."

Msgr. Scheyd calls Sr. Mary Jean "an enthusiastic, wonderful person" and the "perfect salesman for dealing with the public."

Griffin Hospital in Derby launched the first Parish Nurse Program in Connecticut. St. Vincent's Medical Center followed suit shortly thereafter, and now Danbury Hospital, the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London and St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury also sponsor a program.

Indeed, the Parish Nurse Program has become international in scope, with nurses participating in Canada, Great Britain, Scotland, Australia, Ukraine, Korea, Malaysia, Palestine, South Africa, Nigeria and several other African nations.

"We do so many things for the parish," says Claire Frillici, RN, a retired nurse who has been involved with the St. Vincent's Parish Nurse Program for some 18 years at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Fairfield. "In the early years, we did many fairs... children's fairs, health fairs. On the second Sunday of

every month, we do blood pressure screenings after every Mass. Once a month, we prepare an entire meal for Operation Hope. We also conduct flu clinics in October and November."

One might assume that the St. Vincent's program is largely Catholic in scope, but that isn't the case. Nearly 35 Protestant churches are among the 73 parishes and congregations—located in 16 Fairfield County towns and cities—currently active in the program. Ironically, the Parish Nurse Program was created by a Lutheran minister in Chicago in the 1980s.

Marilyn Faber, RN, who works in Sr. Mary Jean's office and holds the title Liaison Nurse, is involved with the Parish Nurse Program at her church, Nichols United Methodist, in Trumbull. Among her duties are editing the program's quarterly newsletter, aptly named "Vital Signs," and assisting with the annual fall retreat (October 27 at the Nazareth Spiritual Life Center in Monroe) and the annual statewide spring symposium.

The pastor at Nichols United Methodist, the Rev. Joseph Piccirillo, is an enthusiastic supporter of the program. "I just can't say enough how wonderful the program is," he says. "The nurses are there for people in time of need. They do blood pressure screenings and so many other things. They're great."

(To register for the 20th anniversary celebration of the Parish Nurse Program, contact the St. Vincent's Parish Nurse Office: 203.576.5558 or visit [mkuchma@stvincents.org](mailto:mkuchma@stvincents.org).)

# Respect Life

## Angels in the prison

FR. BERNARDO RODRIGUEZ

*(Fr. Rodriguez is the Catholic chaplain in the Bridgeport Correctional Center and Garner Correctional Institution in Newtown.)*

The "chow hall" was full of tables and chairs. In one corner, about twenty inmates were listening to the explanation of a volunteer about the Gospel of the day. A young man, looking down and with tears in his eyes, said: "If someone had told me this before, I wouldn't be in jail." This is the great work that the volunteers bring to the jail. Sometimes we wonder how things keep working, when everything around looks so hard and difficult, and then we see the hand of God multiplying the few pieces of bread that everybody may eat it.

"I was in prison and you visited me" (Matt. 25, 36). That is included in the test that we have to pass at the end, and the Diocese of Bridgeport is doing its part. Lay people, Sisters, deacons and priests every week bring the word of God to the prisons in Fairfield County.

Sometimes I wonder why these wonderful people are visiting the inmates. And I wonder because this is the least glamorous and

often most frustrating of the ministries. You need to fight some of the prejudices that exist in our society. The fear for your safety, for example, when the reality is that you will never be as safe as inside of a prison. Not just because the officers, but because the inmates themselves will protect you.

You do need to have a lot of faith, because you almost never see the fruit of your work. The inmates that succeed don't come back to the jail and you only see the failures, the people that didn't make it this time. But you keep working, not because you trust in your talents, but because you know that God is behind the scenes multiplying your efforts.

You need to fight the public understanding of "why waste your time and work with people that hurt society," when you know that every inmate is your brother and God didn't give up on him. And you keep going to jail bringing hope, the love of God and the joy of a Christian, telling the inmates that they are not forgotten.

Prisons are a battleground where the forces of evil try to conquer as many children of God as they can, and you see the working of God clearly as never before. Sometimes I'm amazed as I see

the lighting of God in the darkest situation, when by your own efforts it was impossible to plant a seed of hope. The volunteers are the first line in this battleground.

Yes, we have people like that. Christians who are coming from Bridgeport, Newtown, Fairfield, Stratford, Shelton. Good people; committed people with the fire of the love of God in their hearts.

I'm so grateful to them. The need is so great and I couldn't even make a dent by myself. Because this wonderful group of volunteers, many of these needs are solved. Please keep them in your prayers and, if God is calling you, try to serve in the prison ministry. Remember the test that we have to pass.

*(For more information on volunteering for prison ministry, contact the Office for Clergy and Religious of the Diocese of Bridgeport: 203.416.1453.)*



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# Respect Life

## Our Lady of Grace School Celebrates 50 Years

In 1948, nine Sisters of the congregation of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary left Calabria, Italy. Their order was already expanding to other countries, following their mission to serve the people of God according to the needs of each locality.

In the United States, increasing industry after World War II often called both parents of young families into factory work. The nine Sisters ultimately decided to settle in the growing city of Stamford, where they would provide care and education to children of working parents. Other groups of Sisters

would eventually set up houses in Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

Over the next several years, with great sacrifice and perseverance, the Sisters purchased property on Glenbrook Road in Stamford, self-funded the construction of the convent and

Lady of Grace School continues to serve as a non-profit facility focused on the educational and developmental needs of the children of working parents. It was the first school in lower



childcare center, and opened Our Lady of Grace Pre-School and Kindergarten in 1962.

True to the Sisters' mission to serve others in need, Our

Fairfield County to offer a full-day program.

During the past 50 years, over 5,000 children have been educated in a loving and nurturing environment. In fact, current enrollment includes the children and grandchildren of former students, demonstrating the loyalty and legacy this thriving institution has generated.

In celebration of its Golden Jubilee and its 50 years of commitment and faithful to young children, Our Lady of Grace will host a Dinner Dance and



CHILDREN THRIVE under the care of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, who started Our Lady of Grace preschool in Stamford 50 years ago. At the newly-founded school, (far left) Sr. Fernanda Scarlato, Mother Lillian Cairo, and Sr. Daria Gencarelli take pleasure in the newly-installed image of Our Lady with her infant son. This year's newcomers benefit from the nurturing love of Sr. Rosana Ybanez and Sr. Gesuina Gencarelli.

car raffle of a 2013 Fiat 500 at the Italian Center on October 27. All proceeds from this event will be used toward the construction of a year-round gymnasium for the children.

(For more information on the dinner dance or to obtain raffle tickets, contact Mary Lou Rinaldi, Jubilee Committee chair: 203.840.6323 or [marylou.rinaldi@ge.com](mailto:marylou.rinaldi@ge.com). Detailed information can also be found at [www.ourladyofgraceschool.net](http://www.ourladyofgraceschool.net).)

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# Respect Life

## A story of faith and hope

The heartwarming story of faith and hope began when Eli—the unborn son of Chad and Ashley Judice—was diagnosed in the womb with a dreaded birth defect called spina bifida.

The Judices were faced with the troubling question of whether to abort the baby or continue with the pregnancy.

Chad Judice, author of *Waiting for Eli: A Father's Journey from Fear to Faith*, will tell his moving pro-life story starting at 7 pm on October 22 at Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Fairfield. His talk, hosted by the Respect Life Office and the Ministry for People with Disabilities, is

augmented by an audio-visual presentation that includes music, family photos and passages from the Scriptures.

The medical literature indicates that 80 percent of parents in the U.S. who are informed of this diagnosis choose abortion. But the Judices did not want to be in that number. Instead, they chose to pray for a miracle. Prior to the diagnosis of his son, Chad Judice, a high school civics and American history teacher, had told one of his classes that his greatest fear in life would be to have a baby born with a mental or physical handicap.

“And in the blink of an eye, it became my reality,” he says.

An inspiring story of the fears and hopes of a young couple, his book bears witness to the power of faith, prayer and perseverance. It is made even more compelling by the author’s descriptions

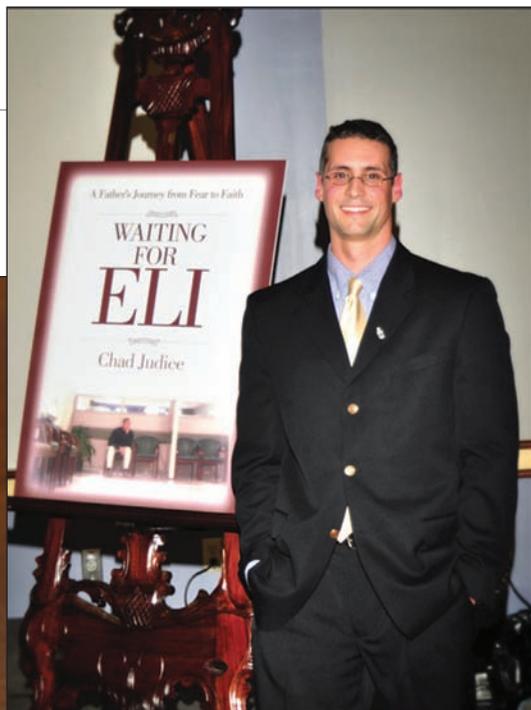


ELI JUDICE (above) and his dad Chad, author of *Waiting for Eli: a Father's Journey from Fear to Faith*.

of little miracles along the way. These include the conversion of hundreds of high school students to heartfelt prayers for the unborn child, the author’s radical evolution to a place of deep faith and

trust in God, and the birth of their precious child.

Judice will sell and sign *Waiting for Eli: A Father's Journey from Fear to Faith*. (Acadian House, \$16.95) following the



presentation in Fairfield.

(In addition to the talk by Chad Judice, the Ministry for People with Disabilities is hosting an Inclusive Family Mass for people with special needs and their families, friends and staff on October 21 at 1 pm at St. Cecilia Parish in Stamford, followed by a reception. For more information on either of these events, call Michelle O'Mara: 203.416.1502.)

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## Vocation

## God surprised Sr. Doris Marie

WADING RIVER, NY—"I have come to know all things are possible with God and that

God has many surprises," says Sr. Doris Marie Deane, CSFN, who celebrated her 25th anniversary

with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth this year. Her path to this jubilee ceremony

was one of surprises. Her 25th wedding anniversary was already past history when her husband of 28 years died. Her search for spiritual support during this difficult time led her to join the Secular Franciscans. She had been a long-time volunteer at Pope John Paul Center for

She went on to serve for five years on the ministerial staff at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, while serving part time as the novice director for the province. (The CSFNs' five U.S. provinces merged in 2007.)

Eventually, Sr. Doris Marie moved to Wading River, NY, for

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SR. DORIS MARIE CELEBRATED her 25th jubilee with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth this year. "God has many surprises," she says, looking back at the path that led to this day.

Health Care in Danbury and her devotion was well known by the staff, including Sr. Frances Smalkowski, CSFN, director of pastoral care.

Over a number of years, Doris had come to realize that

belonging to the Secular Franciscans had only been the beginning of her spiritual journey. One night she prayed to God "invite me into a religious community."

A few days later, Sr. Frances was on the phone, inviting her to dinner at the Motherhouse in Monroe. "There," Sr. Doris Marie recalls, "the road was clear! My future was walking with Jesus."

She attended the Institute for Religious Formation at St. Louis University from 1996-97 and then served as the director for novices at the former Immaculate Heart of Mary Province in Monroe for a year.

her ministry. She served as the director of patient care at Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center in West Islip, NY, and currently is a chaplain at Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Sayville.

"A few days later, Sr. Frances was on the phone, inviting her to dinner at the Motherhouse in Monroe. "There," Sr. Doris Marie recalls, "the road was clear!

My future was walking with Jesus."

Reflecting on her 25 years of religious life, Sr. Doris Marie notes, "Most satisfying is the fact that God has kept me close, along with the support and love of my sisters and coworkers and residents. There is nothing more satisfying than the love of God and the world he created. I had longed for more—and God blessed me with more than I can ever say in words!"

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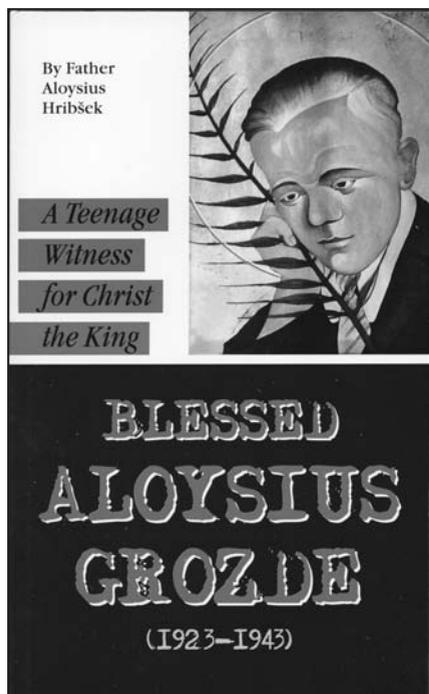
For additional information, visit [sacredhearthamden.org](http://sacredhearthamden.org)

## Review

## A saint for young Christians

By JAVIER SOEGAARD

Fr. Aloysius Hribšek, a retired priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport and a native of Slovenia, offers *Blessed Aloysius Grozde: A Teenage Witness for Christ the King*, a small, engaging biography of his compatriot. He wants the very human story of the young man, referred to throughout the book as Loyze, complete with his love for family, nature, faith, literature—and causing trouble—to inspire faith



in young people growing up in a turbulent environment.

Loyze was born in Gornje Vodale, Slovenia, on May 27, 1923, the illegitimate son of Franc Udov and Marija Grozde. His birth was a source of shame, and his mother had to labor tirelessly to support him. Growing up, Loyze's primary companion was his aunt, Ivanka. Despite Ivanka's love and the lessons in faith and prayer he received from his grandfather, Loyze's earliest days of life were spent feeling unwanted, unloved. He would always be an outcast by his birth.

It was not until he began his schooling that Loyze discovered a world where he was valued and distinguished. In these chapters, Fr. Hribšek succeeds in appealing to a broad group of young people: the intelligent, the heartbroken, and the troublemakers. Loyze, an extremely gifted student, was one of the few country boys enrolled

at the Marianum Institute in Ljubljana. The other students would often pick on him because he was lonely and homesick. In one of the funnier—though definitely not to be encouraged—moments of Loyze's life, he once responded to a bully by displaying his "obvious skill in knife-throwing." Who says saints cannot have tempers!

Thereafter, violence was never Loyze's main outlet for his feelings and frustrations, rather it was his poetry. Throughout the book, Fr. Hribšek does a wonderful job of allowing Loyze's own words to convey how deep this young man's faith and emotions truly were. In some of his most profound verses he says:

*It is so good to be alone,  
Although by all the world  
unknown,  
Although ignored by human  
love,  
I know I'm loved by God  
above.  
Oh sound of silence, such  
sweet tone,  
Reflex of beauty, God's  
alone,  
I sense its echo in my soul,  
Own nothing, yet possess  
it all.*

While the chapters illustrating Loyze's growth as a student, a writer and a leader provide an inspiring story about the human spirit, it is the later chapters, which deal with Loyze's faith and martyrdom, that most engage and move the reader spiritually.

The title of Chapter X reflects Loyze's own personal motto: "The Holy Eucharist—The Sun of My Life." About his devotion to the Holy Mass, a fellow student remarked, "At least during the last two years of his life, I don't recall a single day that he would omit receiving Communion. Attending Mass and receiving Communion were the center of his entire existence."

This would be commendable in any context, but given the violence the growing Communist Partisans inflicted upon practicing Catholics, it was heroic.

Readers who are accustomed to classic Christian martyrdom texts will not find anything remi-

niscant of them in Fr. Hribšek's penultimate chapter. Blessed Loyze is not recorded as reciting any ornate scriptural or liturgical verses to his captors. Rather, he stood silently in "God's Name" as the soldiers publicly "tortured him in a most horrible way." Readers should be warned that Fr. Hribšek does provide the precise, disturbing details of Loyze's martyrdom. However, it is clear that he does not do this for the sake of illustrating juicy details, but rather to give the honest story of a young man who gave his all for Jesus Christ and the Church.

The book is particularly appropriate for young people because it emphasizes how Loyze's most human qualities were, in fact, those which led him most to Christ. He is a great saint for young Christians growing up in turbulent times, and Fr. Hribšek should be thanked for offering this story to the English-speaking world.

(Copies of *Blessed Aloysius Grozde: A Teenage Witness for Christ the King* are available through Holy Cross Parish in Fairfield. Cost: \$14. For more information, call the parish office: 203.372495.)

## Caroline House begins fall semester

BRIDGEPORT—Mothers needing to learn English take time to attend school at Caroline House, which began its new school year on September 10. Located on Bridgeport's East Side, Caroline House is a non-denominational education center run by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, teaching literacy and life skills to economically disadvantaged immigrant women and providing child care and early childhood training to their children. All programs and services are provided free of charge.

Since opening its doors 17 years ago, Caroline House has nurtured and educated hundreds of women and children. The new school year includes more classroom space thanks to the work of Two Brothers Old Restoration on the 480 square foot building addition. "This addition came just in time!" says Sr. Peg Regan, SSND, executive director. "We have a record high of over 100 registrations this year."

Adding to the welcome for returning moms and their children is a beautifully manicured lawn and revamped parking lot compliments of Outdoor Lawn Services.

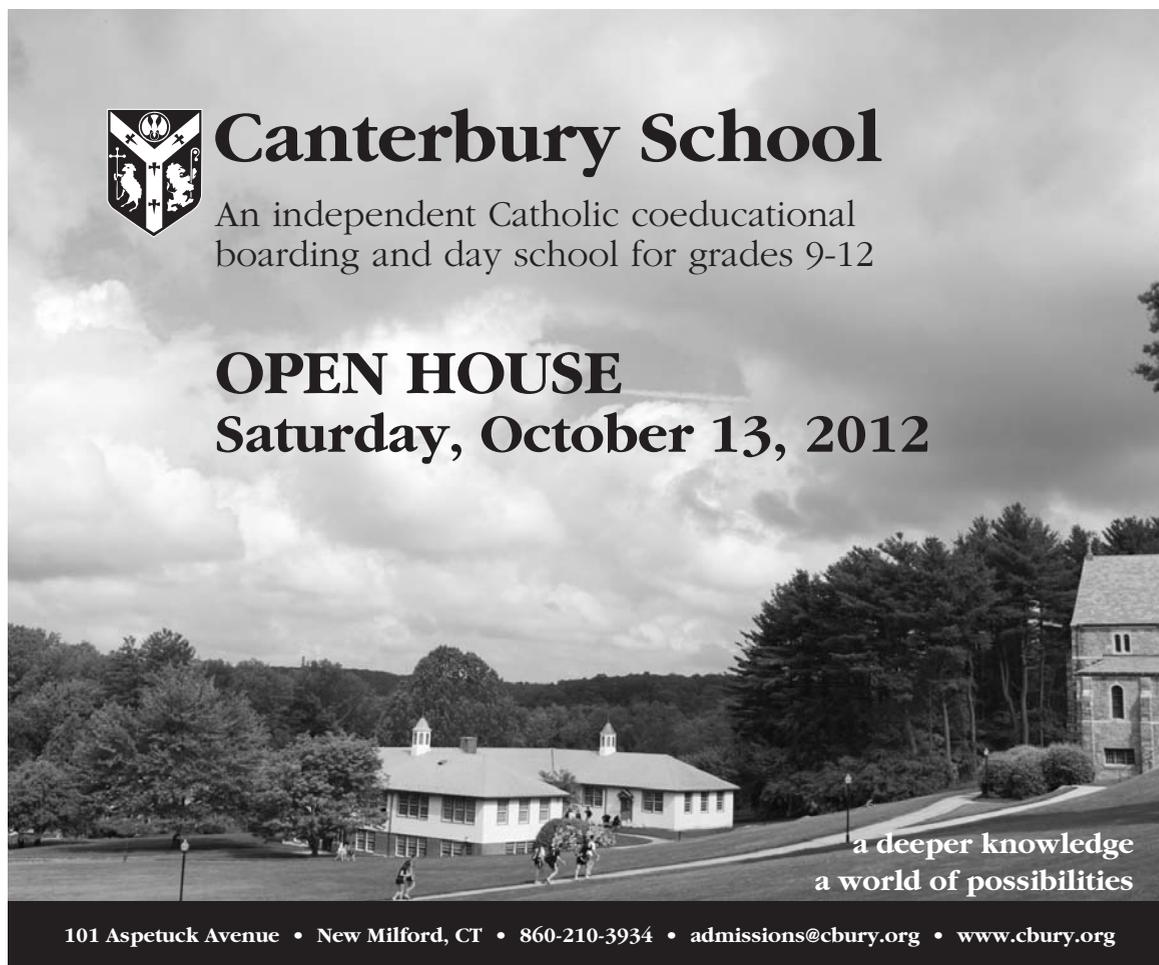
(Caroline House is always in need of volunteers to help teach English and life skills. For more information, contact Sr. Lorraine: 203.334.0640 or visit [www.thecarolinehouse.org](http://www.thecarolinehouse.org).)



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## Sports

## Sacred Heart coach on the mend

By **DON HARRISON**

Paul Gorham, the gruff but likeable man who coaches football at Sacred Heart University, isn't asking for a pity party, but few would fault him if he did.

Gorham's life has been turned topsy-turvy this year. Literally fighting for his survival against idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a disease of the lungs, he underwent a double lung transplant on March 4 in the Cleveland Clinic. After experiencing severe circulatory problems, clinic doctors were forced to amputate both legs

below the knees in May.

For a guy who was an All-Yankee Conference tight end at the University of New Hampshire and who has earned his livelihood coaching the game at Sacred Heart for eight seasons, it was a jarring winter and spring. He has been fitted with prosthetics and uses a walker to navigate his Cheshire home; a physical therapist appears three times a week. And yet the 51-year-old coach is staying involved with the program; he's in touch with associate head coach Mark Nofri on a daily basis.

"I know I've been dealt a bad

hand, but I'm not going to dwell on that," Gorham said in a telephone interview. "Today was a great day. Tomorrow will be a great day..."

The Fairfield County Sports Commission will make Monday, October 15, a special day for the coach. That evening Gorham will be presented the Chelsea Cohen Courage Award at the commission's eighth annual Sports Night dinner at the Hyatt Regency in Old Greenwich.

The award—which recognizes somebody in the sports community who has demonstrated inspirational strength in bat-



FR. JERRY RYLE, director of Sacred Heart University's Campus Ministry, brings SHU football coach Paul Gorham and his family front and center at the "Welcome Home Paul" Mass held August 2 in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Paul and Noreen Gorham are the parents of Matthew, 20, and Emma, 17. (PHOTO COURTESY OF SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY)

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ting life-altering challenges—is sponsored by the Forever Young Foundation, the charitable giving entity of former Greenwich resident and NFL Hall of Famer Steve Young. In Gorham's name, Forever Young and the FCSC will make a \$2,000 donation to the commission's Chelsea Cohen Fitness Academy.

"The award is nice, some sort of acknowledgment," Gorham says. "But I'd certainly not like to be in the situation to receive it."

His spouse, Noreen, who works in the medical field as a nurse manager at Yale-New Haven Hospital, says "it's very ironic" that her husband was treated at the hospital this winter after experiencing breathing problems. It was at Yale that it was determined he would require the double lung transplant.

"He's doing really well. He looks like hell; he's been through a battle and has lost a lot of weight," she says.

Ever the optimist, Gorham has seen a lot of good during his lengthy ordeal, which began with a lung infection just after the Christmas holidays. Some noteworthy examples:

The love and devotion of Noreen and their two children, Matthew, 20, and Emma, 17. Matt is a junior at Brown University and a tight end on the Bruins football team, while Emma is a senior at Cheshire High School and a tri-captain of the girls' basketball team. "I don't

think I would be here without Noreen" Gorham says. "Just having her here to decipher all the stuff early on when I was sick was a blessing."

The kindness of three friends and coaching colleagues at Brown, fellow head coach Phil Estes and assistants Neil McGrath and Mike Kelleher, who transported Gorham home from Cleveland in a rented Lincoln Town Car. "Our golf foursome," he says.

The support and dedication of his long-time assistant and linebackers coach Mark Nofri, who is directing the program in his absence.

The generosity of Lanese Construction, which has made the entrances and master bathroom in the Gorham home handicap-accessible.

Gorham was also gratified by the university's "Welcome Home Paul" Mass and fundraiser in August, which raised \$82,000. Approximately 300 people attended the reception held in the Linda E. McMahon Commons on the Sacred Heart campus; nearly that many gathered for the Mass in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

"It was overwhelming that night," Gorham says. "They were expecting 100 people, and 300 showed up. I'm still receiving cards and e-mails from people; some of them I don't even know."

"It was a real tribute to Paul," Noreen says of the fundraiser. "It's touched his heart." ■

# Youth

## Responsibility of Catholic Citizens in a Free Society

By KATHLEEN K. MORTON

As Catholics in a free society, we are surrounded by challenges like poverty, abortion and violence, which all damage the existence of humans—created in the image and likeness of God—who are often not able to sustain life because of society's distorted view of morality. It is our obligation to assist and support people who suffer these plights. As Catholics we must defend the dignity of human life, promote peace and justice, uphold the family values that are being destroyed.

Being Catholic in a free society is to have the ability to live our faith and defend our religion while having the responsibility to spread the word of God. Our first and foremost responsibility is to Christ. Going to Mass every week, receiving Holy Communion, as well as living the Gospel are all a part of being a genuine Catholic.

We are called to protect the importance of human life by actively opposing abortion, the death penalty and euthanasia. A million babies are lost each year to abortion as the result of unwanted pregnancy and to the destruction of human embryos for the sake of research. It is not enough to protest abortion, but to also provide assistance to women so they are



able to adequately raise the child they have conceived.

As Catholics, we have to oppose euthanasia because it is not our decision, or a doctor's choice, to determine our time to die. Over 20,000 people die each year from euthanasia, and we must oppose all legislation and practice of this travesty in the medical field.

The way that society deals with criminals through capital punishment is also regrettable. The defense of the common good requires that an unjust assailant be rendered unable to cause harm—so an acceptable way to bring justice would be to put a criminal in jail. Killing them and classifying it as capital punishment is simply a way to legalize murder, and does not, in the end, bring justice to anyone. In today's society we must encourage true justice and the sanctity of all human life.

We must concern ourselves with helping the poor by volunteering in shelters, food pantries, and soup kitchens. As Catholics we must recognize those less fortunate and help them overcome poverty. Ensuring access to education, providing opportunities for decent work, and giving adequate assistance to the vulnerable are all admirable ways to promote Catholic teachings. According to Catholic Social Teaching, solidarity is a virtue that binds everyone together so that we may all be one family. This means that we not only celebrate together, but suffer together as well. So, to put an end to that suffering, we must

help the needy in our communities with our time, talents and treasures.

As Catholics in a free society, we are here to provide an example of moral people living Christ-like lives in a society that often rejects God and his teachings. It is our responsibility to help spread the Gospel not only through our words, but our actions as well. By reaching out to the government on social issues, donating time and financial assistance to the Church, and actively living out the Gospel we can meet and even exceed our obligations as Catholics in our modern society.

*(Kathleen Morton, a 2012 Luralton Hall graduate, lives in Monroe where she and her family are members of St. Jude Parish. This essay won the 2012 Knights of Columbus contest: The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen in a Free Society. Milford Mayor Ben Blake was the guest speaker when Kathleen received the award. Kathleen is currently attending St. Joseph University in Philadelphia, PA.)*

## WHATEVER: A 90-Day Devotional for Livin' the True, Noble, and Totally Excellent Life!

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*WHATEVER* is targeted specifically to girls 7-12;

"Our mind is one of the Lord's most awesome gifts," says Zobel Nolan. "*WHATEVER* can help tweens use it to the fullest, so they can enjoy the totally awesome life God intended them to have."

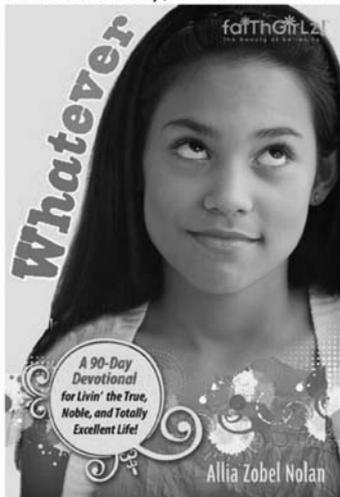
*WHATEVER* offers girls advice on how to stay true to God while dealing with everyday decisions, such as dressing appropriately, avoiding gossip and white lies, curbing sarcasm, choosing friends. The book also encourages girls to rethink the negative aspect of the overused word, "Whatever," and instead, using the lens of Philippians 4:8, to think positively about whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, and whatever is admirable.

"I focused on girls thinking about lovely things instead of gross or stupid things," says Nolan. "In the last chapters I focused on peace, and how if you keep your mind full of the Whatever values, it will lead to a more peaceful life."

Nolan and her husband, Desmond, are members of St. Jerome Parish in Norwalk.

*(Nolan will have two book signings in October. She will be at the Fairfield University Book Store, 1499 Post Rd., Fairfield 203.255.7756, on October 13, from 3-4:30 pm; and at Morningstar Books, 72 Newtown Rd., Danbury 203.791.1515, on October 20 from 10:30 am-3:30 pm, with a reading at 11 am.)*

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

October 7: Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary: *Missa Ave maris stella* (Victoria); *Ave Maria* (Victoria); (with the Student Schola)

Friday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.: Recital by Terrence B. Fay, trombone & tenor - with Alexis Zingale, piano:  
*At the End of the Century*: Music of Puccini, Vaughan Williams, Finzi, Larson, Filas.

October 14: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa D'ung aultre amer* (Josquin)

October 21: Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Au travail suis* (Ockeghem)

October 28: Feast of Christ the King: *Missa O Rex gloriae* (Palestrina)

Thursday, November 1, 5:30 p.m.: All Saints' Day: *Missa Octavi toni* (Lassus); *Christe Redemptor omnium* (Victoria) (with the Student Schola)

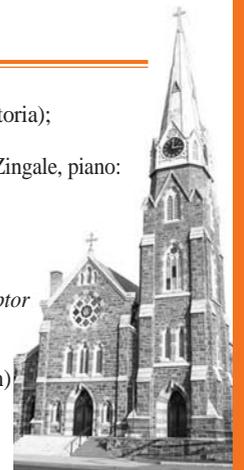
Friday, November 2, 5:30 p.m.: All Souls' Day: *Missa pro defunctis* (Lassus)

November 4: Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Una musque de Buscaya* (Josquin)

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November 11: Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: *Missa Mente tota* (Févin)



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# Obituaries

## Sr. Olimpia, 101

Sr. Olimpia Nowakowska, CSFN, a native of Worcester, MA, died on August 21 at the age of 101 at the Sisters of Nazareth care facility in Monroe.

The oldest of eight children, Helen Nowakowska was born in 1911. After moving to Philadelphia to attend Nazareth Academy, she joined the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN). She taught in Philadelphia and Brooklyn before being sent to Europe, professing her perpetual vows in Rome in 1935 after preparing at the CSFN novitiate in Albano, Italy. She studied at Jagellonian University in Krakow, spending another three years in Europe. Returning to the States in 1938, she resumed her studies, earning a BA in education from Villanova University, Philadelphia. Later she was



awarded her master's in Latin, English and Library Studies, also from Villanova. A language and library scholar, Sr. Olimpia taught and served as principal and local superior in Philadelphia; upstate

New York; Long Island, Brooklyn and Connecticut.

She 'retired' to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Provincialate in Monroe in 1983. She managed the gift shop there until her final retirement at age 91 in 2002.

Her creativity found expression in the gardens at the House of Prayer and at the Monroe gift shop, where her crafts and surprise packages were featured items.

In her later years, confined to her room at the convent in Monroe, Sr. Olimpia had these words on her wall: To love and to be loved is the greatest joy in the world. ■

## Sr. Mary Elizabeth Tobin, RSCJ

Sr. Mary Elizabeth Tobin, international and local leader, educator, and spiritual director, died at Teresian House in Albany, NY, on September 9. An extraordinary model of how to live religious



life, she loved life and was always ready to take on a new challenge.

Maribeth Tobin was born August 1, 1917, in Albany and was an alumna of Kenwood Convent of the Sacred Heart there. She entered the Society of

the Sacred Heart in 1939 and made her final vows on July 30, 1947, at the Society of the Sacred Heart motherhouse in Rome. Sr. Tobin earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Manhattanville College, NY, and a masters in guidance and counseling from Fordham

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



## Sr. Rosemary Delaney, SSND

Sr. Rosemary Delaney, who served as a teacher, principal and administrative assistant in schools in five different East Coast states, died on September 10 at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, of cardiac arrest. She was 83 years old and had been a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 63 years.

Rosemary Delaney was born on February 17, 1929, in New York City to Irish immigrant parents. She entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame, taking the religious name of Sr. Nicholas Mari, and professed her first vows in 1949. She professed her final vows in 1955.

Sr. Rosemary graduated from Nazareth College in Rochester, NY. She earned a master's in education administration from Villanova University.

She taught in New York, Georgia, Maryland, and was an elementary school principal in New Jersey before coming to Connecticut. In 1984, Sr. Rosemary joined the Trumbull-Monroe Catholic School System, serving as a secretary at St. Theresa School in Trumbull for five years. In 1990, she left the school ministry to become an administrative assistant in the finance office of Villa Notre Dame, home to retired SSNDs in Wilton. She remained in service there for 17 years, until retiring to prayer and presence in 2008. ■

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August	Year
29 Rev. Joseph Linck .....	2008
October	Year
14 Msgr. Raymond H. Guidone .....	1965
16 Msgr. John V. Horgan Kung .....	2009
17 Msgr. Benedict Tighe .....	2004
18 Bishop Walter W. Curtis .....	1997
19 Rev. Cornelius J. Looney .....	1974
22 Msgr. David F. Bannon .....	1979
Donald Fonseca, <i>Permanent Deacon</i> .....	1989
27 Rev. Robert C. Franklin .....	1991
28 John Kucera, <i>Permanent Deacon</i> .....	2007
29 Rev. Michael A. D'Elia .....	2000
30 Msgr. Leo M. Finn .....	1960
31 Rev. Francis D. McKenna .....	1989
November	Year
3 Msgr. Joseph A. Heffernan .....	1989
Thomas P. Freibott, <i>Permanent Deacon</i> .....	2002
6 Rev. Bernard Dolan .....	2010
9 Rev. Stephen A. Grinvalsky .....	1972
10 Rev. Gerard C. Mason .....	1993
11 Msgr. Victor J. Torres-Frias .....	1995
13 Msgr. Alphonse J. V. Fiedorczyk .....	1987
15 Rev. M. Steven Barrett, S.S. ....	2000
Rev. John P. Odie .....	1999

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# Nuestra Voz

## Puertorriqueña es presidente del Club Rotario

Por SONIA BURNS

“Dar de si mismo, antes de pensar en si mismo” es el lema internacional del Club Rotario, que nombró presidente el pasado 26 de junio a la Señora Rosa Correa de Bridgeport. La Señora Correa es puertorriqueña y pertenece a la Parroquia Catedral en Bridgeport. Con una ceremonia llena de regocijo como lo merece la Señora Correa, la hora social fue entretenida por el grupo Dúo Herencia, compuesto por niños hispanos. Con sus tradicionales instrumentos puertorriqueños, el cuatro y la guitarra, deleitaron a los presentes con la bella música de Puerto Rico durante la juramentación.

El Padre Gustavo A. Falla, director del ministerio de los católicos que hablan español en la Diócesis de Bridgeport, participó en la emotiva ceremonia y enfatizó el lema del Club durante su oración inicial, notando el compromiso de aportar y recaudar fondos para ayudar a los más necesitados en las comunidades locales e internacionales. “Cuando se habla de liderazgo entre los católicos de habla hispana en la Diócesis de Bridgeport es necesario mencionar el nombre de

Rosa Correa”, dice el Padre Falla. “Rosa, con su dedicación y entrega, ha representado los intereses de la comunidad no sólo en el ámbito público sino también personal”. Según el Padre Falla, una conversación con Rosa Correa acerca de lo que ha sido el peregrinar de los católicos de habla hispana en nuestra diócesis puede equivaler, fácilmente, ¡“a una cátedra universitaria”!

Para ser presidente del Club Rotario es necesario haber sido un líder comunitario, y esos requisitos fueron encontrados en Rosa Correa. A través de los años, Bridgeport ha sido honrado de tener como hija a la Señora Correa. Desde muy temprana edad, después de su llegada de Puerto Rico, Rosa se ha dedicado al servicio de la comunidad y a la defensa de los derechos, a favor del hispano y del más necesitado, ya sea en el campo social como los de la iglesia. Rosa ha pertenecido a un sin número de organizaciones comunitarias y diocesanas cuyos fines han sido reconocidos a nivel local y nacional.

El Club Rotario de Bridgeport fue fundado el 3 de marzo del año 1919, y ha ayudado a muchos programas desde su instalación. Este club abraza los



INTERVIEWED BY BALTIMORE MEDIA, Rosa Correa spoke of Archbishop William E. Lori's achievements in the Diocese of Bridgeport. She and her husband, Eddie, were among the delegation from this diocese invited to Archbishop Lori's installation Mass. This June, she became the first Hispanic to be named president of the Rotary Club in Bridgeport. (PHOTO BY PAT HENNESSY)

grupos étnicos, culturales, sociales y religiosos, y todos se unen para trabajar con el mismo fin para patrocinar proyectos locales y en otras partes del mundo. Como presidente del Club durante el año 2012 al 2013, Rosa dice que “va a extender sus esfuerzos para ayudar a la niñez y jóvenes de la ciudad de Bridgeport,

incluyendo una galería de arte en colaboración con Housatonic Community College para estudiantes de tercer año de escuela”. Con el apoyo de la Fundación Annie E. Casey, durante el año cada niño en el tercer grado recibe un diccionario. Los miembros rotarios participarán en los programas de lectura en la clase,

tutores, mentores, y organizarán recaudación de abrigos y otras necesidades básicas para los niños necesitados en la ciudad.

En Central High School en Bridgeport, el Club Interact de Rotary participa siguiendo el lema del Club, bajo la dirección de su mentor, la Señora Cathy Chimini. La Señora Correa consiente de la importancia del Club Interact, planea establecerlo en los demás colegios de la ciudad. El Club Rotario proporciona becas a los tres colegios secundarios de la Ciudad de Bridgeport y al colegio de Kolbe-Cathedral de la Diócesis de Bridgeport. El Club también reconoce el trabajo de los maestros ejemplares de los dos sistemas educativos.

El Club Rotario de Bridgeport también trabaja con el Festival de Barnum para ayudar a los centros de distribución de comida religiosos y sociales. También los fondos recaudados anualmente ayudan a grupos sin lucro en la comunidad que se esfuerzan para mejorar la calidad de vida de muchas personas que pertenecen a su organización.

Como presidente de tan importante organización, no se le hará difícil a la Señora Correa desempeñar tan merecido cargo en sintonía con sus creencias religiosas, ella provee oportunidades para resaltar los valores culturales que caracterizan a nuestra comunidad. “En realidad somos más parecidos que diferentes, y uniendo nuestros esfuerzos a través del Club Rotario, nos ayuda a cumplir con nuestro deber de servir y hacer vivir las palabras de San Francisco de Asís ‘Es Mejor Dar que Recibir’”, dice la Señora Correa.

El Padre Falla indica que “Rosa nos da un ejemplo que necesitamos seguir, especialmente en este tiempo en el que la preocupación por el bienestar de los demás parece haber pasado a un segundo o tercer plano. Cuando dedicamos nuestro tiempo y talento a la búsqueda del bien común, damos muestra de lo que significa la caridad en acción, la indispensable misericordia de la que habla el Evangelio. Tenemos una deuda de gratitud con Rosa y con su familia, de hecho, con todos los que, desinteresadamente, promueven el bienestar de la comunidad”.

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## Column



## Work is good therapy

CATHOLIC  
BY GRACE

BY DENISE BOSSERT

*Denise Bossert is a nationally syndicated Catholic columnist.*

When my non-sacramental marriage ended, I moved in with my parents. My bedroom was in one corner of the basement family room. I wanted to go to sleep for about a decade and wake up with a different life.

Three days after I descended upon my parents' home, Dad turned to me while eating breakfast, and said, "Get dressed. We're going to Edwardsville."

"Okay. What's in Edwardsville?" I asked.

"I'm taking you to get your substitute teaching license."

"Oh, Dad." The groan came from the depths, from that awful place where the pain had settled, a pain I was sure would never

leave. I did not want to substitute in any classroom. I did not want to teach at all. I wanted to go back to sleep and stay in bed forever. And I didn't want a bed in the corner of their basement. I wanted my own master bedroom and the life I had expected to live.

"Work is good therapy, Denise." That one line would become one of those dad-isms that would stay with me forever.

I dragged myself away from the table, showered and dressed. I spent the last six weeks of that school year substituting in classrooms all over Collinsville, Illinois.

The calls came around five in the morning. The phone hung on the wall above my head. I hated that phone.

I had a notepad by the bed

on which to write the directions when a call came. Through sleepy fog, I would scratch the names of streets, along with a series of rights and lefts. I would hang up the phone, doubtful that I could find the school. Confident I didn't want to find the school. Positive I needed to find the school because I was broke.

My husband and I were separated but not divorced. Having no legal obligation to contribute

to our financial needs, my husband decided that \$40 a month would suffice. And so, I relied on substitute teaching to get us through each month.

I did not want to live like this. I did not want to do anything to support a life I didn't enjoy. I wanted to sleep. And never wake up. I was supposed to be the happy mother of three children, living in suburbia, with a husband.

I was not supposed to be substituting in a kindergarten classroom when my degree was in

secondary English education.

On the way to the school, the tears would come. I couldn't hold them back. Tears and more tears. I arrived at the schools each morning and waited for five minutes to pass so that my face would return to normal after the onslaught of an early morning meltdown.

I would check my face in the mirror. Get rid of the mascara under my eyes. Open the door and step out of the car. And I would head into the school.

It was my daily routine for six weeks.

Work is good therapy. Dad wasn't the only one who knew it was true. The Church knows

it's true. We are all called to hold the unemployed and the underemployed in our hearts as we pray for work security.

There is a dignity in work. It can get us out of ourselves. It restores hope, gets us dreaming again. It makes us sleep better at night. It gives us a reason to get up. It helps us to pay the bills. It

reminds us that we are still alive. It gets us through to another job, a better job. It helps us to pinpoint our strengths.

It can even become a prayer.

I think it is also a kind of ritual. My ritual included submission and tears and agonized laments and acceptance.

And I got stronger.

Miracle of miracles, I found my way back to living. Today, I get up early every morning. I choose to do it—early enough that I can go to daily Mass throughout the summer. And during the school year—early enough that I can drive to a little school out in the middle of rural Missouri and teach.

I love teaching. I love, love, love it.

And I still pray as I drive each morning. There are no tears. But it is still a ritual. And I suppose it is still good therapy, though I don't really need it to be a kind of therapy anymore. Work is restorative. It really is.

Pray that all may have meaningful employment and that the miracle-of-employment will renew the hearts of so many who have forgotten how to embrace a morning sunrise. ■

"There is a dignity in work. It gives us a reason to get up. It reminds us that we are still alive."

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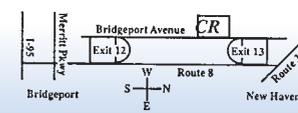
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# Column



## The Friends who got away

### POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

**“W**e are molded and remolded by those who have loved us, and though the love may pass, we are, nevertheless, their work, for good or bad” (Francois Mauriac).

We all have one: a story about a friend who got away. And at the heart of each story is the recognition that we don't forget it—the loss of a friendship.

My life is riddled with holes where friends once were, people who were my *compagnos de voyage*. It seems that friendship is so vulnerable, overcome by space, time, imperfect sympathies.

There was my boyhood buddy, Donald, with whom I

once ran hand in hand kicking up the leathery leaves down Stanhope Street—so many years ago. There were all the small adventures we shared.

That sweet companion of my boyhood moved when we were nine years old. It was a kind of heartbreak. I didn't want him to go. On moving day, Donald and I promised we'd keep in touch. We didn't. Then he ran down the sidewalk, and it was the last time I ever saw him.

When I can't sleep at night, I sometimes think about Donald. I wonder where he is, what he's doing. Did he ever think of me?

I met John at college. The two of us had a chemistry together. There was the delicious feeling

of unity and safety together. We cowrote papers, spent several vacations together. He was a friend with whom I was certain I would grow old. At a relatively young age, John died of colon cancer. This may sound strange, but I think that, though I expected John to die, I did not expect him to stay dead. When he did stay dead, year after year, I was astonished by it. He is still snugly housed in my heart.

There was Barbara, in the bloom of young womanhood, shyly and effortlessly lovely.

She wore no makeup and just a little perfect jewelry. She made little motions which endeared her to me, like her entrancing way of pursing and parting her lips, tucking a stray hair behind her ear while chatting, ending her sentences in a soft modulation upwards.

I could never hear my name in her fresh young trill without a stir of pleasure. And she smiled a rare sunrise smile. I learned from her how sweet a human presence could be. For a time she made me feel so... necessary.

The relationship loosened, somehow unraveled. I think

we recognized we were fundamentally different. We stayed in touch intermittently through occasional phone calls, and then it ended. Now I feel my heart skip a beat when I see a young woman of a certain feminine grace emerge from a Carvel or wait in front of a Starbucks, giving someone she suddenly spots on the street a big smile as Barbara used to greet me. Barbara comes back to me. Where is she now?

Other friendships formed and faded. There are many reasons why friendships fail or end: life changes—a move, a marriage, a baby, someone's career success. Wounded pride plays a part, as do resentments, a sense of betrayal. One or the other makes a misjudgment, and misunderstandings are unresolved; words of apology or explanation unspoken. Something shifts somewhere; things are not as they used to be. Friendships can blow up or fade out. Some friendships probably just run their course, run out of breath.

As I look back on my life, I wish I had handled some things differently, tried to save what was

there between us, not let it flow away so easily. I hear the voice of love lost or not pursued, a valued relationship given up. In our encounters with others we fail and are failed.

In some elemental way lost friends are never relinquished. They are ghosts who will not depart. They remain a presence, a regret, an ache. They cannot be scraped away, they are indelible imprints.

I believe friends are not part of our lives by accident. They are assigned to us by God. Out of the welter of life, a few people are selected for us. I could not imagine what I would have been without them, nor can I imagine it to this day because they are in so many ways a part of me still.

Aristotle said that friends are needed for happiness, they ennoble human life. May God bless and guide all those friends who came in and out of my life.

Perhaps the most astonishing thing is not the friendships we have lost, but those we have kept. To have formed a few very deep and lasting friendships is the blessing of a lifetime. ■

SR. TOBIN  
FROM PAGE 26

University. She later received a certificate in spirituality from the Jesuit School of Theology at Loyola University, Chicago, IL.

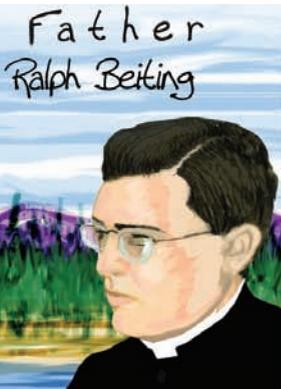
From 1942 until 1961, Sr. Tobin served as teacher and principal in Sacred Heart schools in Washington, DC; Connecticut; Maryland; and Pennsylvania.

From 1961-64, she was local superior for the Society of the Sacred Heart in Philadelphia. In 1964 she was called to serve as assistant general of the international Society of the Sacred Heart in Rome. She was responsible for dialogue and communication with all English-speaking RSCJ throughout the world during the post-Vatican II years of change.

From 1975-89, she worked as spiritual director and counselor in retreat centers in Boston and Washington, DC. She was remembered at a Mass of Christian Burial on September 14 at Teresian House in Albany. Burial followed in the Kenwood cemetery in Albany. ■

# SAINTLY LIVES

BY ED WALDRON



**Father Ralph Beiting**  
b. 1924 ~ d. 2012

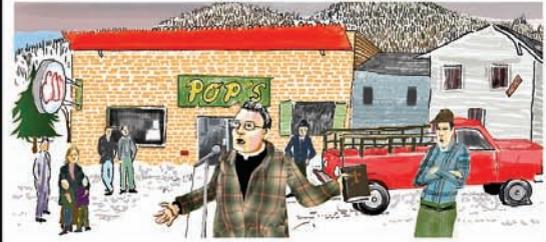
FATHER BEITING DIED AT THE AGE OF 88 ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 9, 2012, IN ASHLAND, KENTUCKY. OVER 65 YEARS EARLIER, IN 1946, HE FELL IN LOVE WITH APPALACHIA WHILE SPENDING A SUMMER MISSION WITH A TEAM OF OTHER SEMINARIANS IN EASTERN KENTUCKY. THE SEMINARIANS HAD SPENT THE SUMMER PREACHING ON ROADSIDES, IN FRONT OF COURTHOUSES AND PARKING LOTS. RALPH WAS AFFECTED DEEPLY BY WHAT HE SAW AND EXPERIENCED. HE YEARNED TO HELP THE APPALCHIAN PEOPLE GET BACK ON THEIR FEET AND DRAW THEM CLOSER TO GOD.



A YEAR AFTER ORDINATION, FR. BEITING WAS ASSIGNED TO MINISTER TO THREE AND A HALF COUNTIES IN THE MOUNTAINS OF EASTERN KENTUCKY. IT WAS AN OVERWHELMING TASK TO CONTEMPLATE AND HE WAS FILLED WITH ANXIETY. THE LEVEL OF POVERTY THAT HE ENCOUNTERED, INCLUDING EXPOSURE AND STARVATION, WAS SHOCKING. HE LATER PRAYED AND WAS INFUSED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS WAS, INDEED, GOD'S WILL. HE SET ASIDE HIS WORRIES AND PLACED HIS TRUST IN THE LORD.



EARLY ON, HE SET UP A SUMMER CAMP FOR YOUTH, HE LATER DEVELOPED A CHARITY ORGANIZATION CALLED THE CHRISTIAN APPALACHIAN PROJECT. THE CATHOLIC POPULATION IN THE AREA AT THE TIME WAS LESS THAN 2 PERCENT, SO, WITH THE BISHOP'S APPROVAL AND SUPPORT, C.A.P. WAS SET UP INDEPENDENT OF THE CHURCH TO PREVENT PREJUDICES FROM INTERFERING WITH PARTICIPATION.



IN ADDITION TO OFFERING MASS AND PROVIDING THE SACRAMENTS TO THE FAITHFUL, IN THE SPIRIT OF A TRUE MISSIONARY, FR. BEITING NEVER CEASED "PREACHING ON THE STREETS" OR MEETING FOR PRAYER AT HOMES.



FR. BEITING SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE CHRISTIAN APPALACHIAN PROJECT UNTIL 1986 AND SERVED AS A BOARD MEMBER UNTIL 1999. IT IS NOW THE LARGEST NON-PROFIT CHARITY EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI. YEARS EARLIER, FR. BEITING RESPONDED TO GOD'S CALL BY SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS AND LIVING IN CONTINUED SERVITUDE TO SOME OF THE MOST MARGINALIZED AMERICANS BY MEETING THEIR FINANCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS. ALL GLORY TO GOD.



# Bits & Pieces

**MARIAN LADIES GROUP** at St. George Parish, Bridgeport, meets two Wed. a month (**Oct. 10 & 24**). Mass in the chapel at 8 am; social and Rosary follow. For more information, call 203.261.8020.

**LOOK GOOD FEEL BETTER** program to help female cancer patients will be held at St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport, on Thurs., **Oct. 11**, from 1-3 pm. Lunch is provided. Reservations required. For more information and for reservations, call 203.576.6158.

**FLANAGAN'S WAKE:** an off-Broadway production, will be shown at St. Ann Parish, Bridgeport, on Fri., **Oct. 12**, at 7 pm. Tickets: \$60/person includes the show, a beer or wine, and a corned beef sandwich. For more

information or for tickets, contact 203.368.1607 or visit [www.stanblackrock.com](http://www.stanblackrock.com).

**GOSPEL OF LIFE SOCIETY** meets the second Sat. of the month (**Oct. 13**) at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, at 10 am after the 9 am Pro-Life Mass. For more information, contact Eileen Bianchini: 203.847.5727 or [stmarygols@aol.com](mailto:stmarygols@aol.com).

**MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE** sponsored by the Charismatic Renewal Office will be offered Mon., **Oct. 15**, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Fr. Larry Carew. For more information, call 203.268.8253.

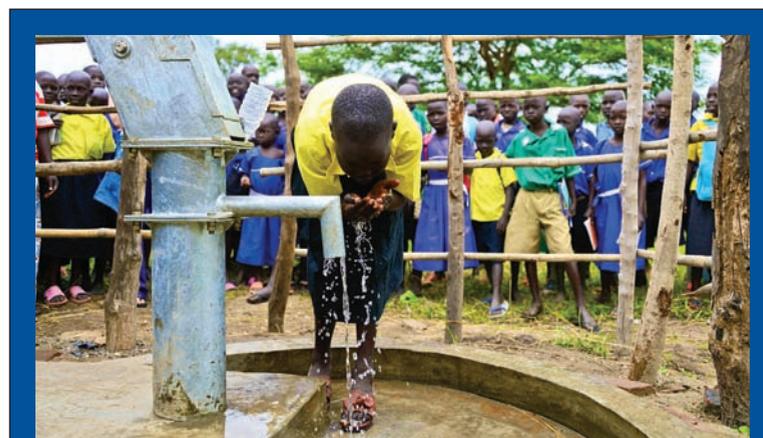
**MAGNIFICAT** ministry to Catholic Women will host a prayer breakfast on Sat., **Oct. 20**, from 9:30 am-12:30 pm at

the Amber Room Colonnade, Danbury. Katherine Valentine will be the guest speaker. Cost: \$25. No tickets at the door, register by Sat., **Oct. 13**. For more information, contact Fran Hood: 203.744.1856 or email [s.m.hood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.m.hood@sbcglobal.net).

**CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP OF CT** invites Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s, single or married, to a 5 pm Mass followed by a beer & pizza social at Assumption Parish, Westport on Sat., **Oct. 13**. Meet new faces and connect with like-minded Catholic professionals. No charge. For more info, go to [catholicfellowship@gmail.com](mailto:catholicfellowship@gmail.com).

**SECULAR FRANCISCAN Holy Spirit Fraternity** invites everyone to Day of Reflection and spiritual renewal with Fran Karpiej, OFS, of Sharing Christ Ministry at St. Emery Parish, Fairfield, on Sat., **Oct. 13**, from 9:30 am-3 pm. Bring a bag lunch; drinks provided. For more information, call 203.255.8801.

**INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** will be held at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, on Sat., **Oct. 13**. Enjoy food from over 20 countries; live entertainment. Servings at 5:15 & 8:15 pm. Cost: Adults, \$15; children 5-12, \$5; age 4 and under, free. For more information call the parish: 203.866.5546.



**WALK 4 WATER**, an educational experience, will be held Sat., **Oct. 20**, on the grounds of Fairfield Hills in Newtown. "Water is a fundamental right," says David Plaue, a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown. "Access to clean water is essential to basic human dignity." Participants will work the first mile and a half empty-handed, and carry two, two-liter bottles for the next mile and a half. For more information, contact Plaue: 203.744.9173 or [david@digdeepwater.org](mailto:david@digdeepwater.org).

**PASTA DINNER** will be offered at Holy Cross Parish, Fairfield, on Sat., **Oct. 13**, at 6 pm. Cost: \$10 adults, \$5 children 5-15; children under 5, free. For reservations or more information, call 203.372.4595.

**TAG SALE** sponsored by the Confraternity of the Rosary at St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, will be held Sat., **Oct. 13**, from 9:30 am-3 pm. For more information, call 203.261.3676.

**WINE AND FOOD TASTING FESTIVAL** will take

place at St. Gregory the Great Parish, Danbury, on Sun., **Oct. 14**, from 6-8 pm. Sample wines and offerings from 20 restaurants. Cost: \$20 prepaid; \$25 at the door. For more information or for tickets call Diana: 203.792.6750.

**YEAR OF FATIH: "Catholic Laity: Called and Gifted"** is the theme of a presentation by Dr. Joan Kelly for Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, Women's Club on Mon., **Oct. 15**, at 10:30 am. All are invited; suggested dona-

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### Fall 2012 SHARE for the Diocese of Bridgeport courses

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- Instructor: Fr. Peter Lynch
- \$210

**Interfaith Dialogue:** An examination of Church documents and pertinent theological insights on relations with other Christian faiths as well as with non-Christian religions.

- 4-week course: Tuesdays, October 16, 23, 30, November 6
- Instructor: Professor Michael Canaris
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**Catholic Social Teaching:** A study of Catholic Social Teaching grounded in Scripture, the social encyclicals, beginning with Rerum Novarum and Gaudium et Spes. Special emphasis should be given to the pastoral letters and other authoritative statements by the U.S. bishops on the economy, war and peace, capital punishment, immigration, and poverty.

- 6-week course: Tuesdays, November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 11, 18
- Instructor: Dr. June-Ann Greeley
- \$210

\* Religious sisters in the diocese please email [SHARE@diobpt.org](mailto:SHARE@diobpt.org) directly to register for courses, or call 203-416-1446.

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# Bits & Pieces

tion: \$5. For more information, call Pat: 203.261.8020.

**AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES** "Catholic Identity: Renewing Our Appreciation," with Dr. Joan Kelly, will be held eight Tues. evenings at St. Pius X Parish, Fairfield, from 7:30-8:30 pm beginning Tues., **Oct. 16**. Course is complimentary. For more information, call 203.255.6134, ext. 10.

**CURSILLO ULTREYAS** are held at locations around the diocese: Thurs., **Oct. 18**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel; at 7:30 pm; Wed., **Oct. 24**, at St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield, at 7:30 pm; Tues., **Nov. 6**, TBD, Bridgeport, at 7 pm; and Thurs., **Nov. 15**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, at 7:30 pm. For more information, contact Jeanette: jkovacs@snet.net.

**"HOW CAN THE DREAM SURVIVE?"** a talk by Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be presented at St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, on Thurs., **Oct. 18**, at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 6:30. No charge; free-will offering. For more information, call 203.261.3145.

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**, St. Mary School, Bethel, 5k, 10k, Kids' FunRun races will be held at the Bethel Municipal Center on Thurs., **Oct. 20**, starting at 8:30 am. Stick around after the races for live music, refreshments, and a fitness & lifestyle vendor expo. For more information, call the school, 203.744.2922 or register at [www.stmarysraces.com](http://www.stmarysraces.com).

**HARVEST/HOLIDAY FAIR**

will be held at St. Mary Parish, Stamford, on Sat., **Oct. 20**, from 10 am-5 pm. Gifts and crafts, bake sale, raffle, beverages and lunch items. Vendors welcome. For more information, call Sharon MacKnight: 203.327.1806 or email [smacknight@optonline.net](mailto:smacknight@optonline.net).

**YEAR OF FAITH** presentation: "Your Faith has Saved You," by Fr. Peter Cameron O.P., editor-in-chief of *Magnificat*, will be held Mon., **Oct. 22**, at 7:30 pm at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown. For more information, call the parish: 203.426.1014.

**RAISING A SECURE CHILD:** a series of talks on the importance of a child's early years by Donna Taylor, a specialist in early childhood education, will be held Tues. mornings at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton: **Oct. 23**, and **Nov. 6 & Nov. 20**, from 10 am-12 noon. For more information, call 203.926.1226.

**INTERNATIONAL CONCERT PIANIST** Vanessa Perez will perform at St. Luke Parish, Westport, on Fri., **Oct. 26**, at 7:30 pm. The concert will benefit Caroline House in Bridgeport. Tickets: \$65 includes concert and dessert reception. For more information and for tickets, call Caroline House: 203.334.0640 or [www.thecarolinehouse.org](http://www.thecarolinehouse.org).

**GALA FUNDRAISER** to benefit St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, will be held at Vazzano's Four Seasons, Stratford, on Sat., **Oct. 27**. The Gala will honor former pastor Msgr. Louis deProfio and

parishioner Tony Salce. For information, call Terrance Walsh: 203.258.9115 or email [2012fundraiser@sttheresatrumbull.org](mailto:2012fundraiser@sttheresatrumbull.org).

**HOLIDAY FAIR** will be held at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Stratford, on Sat., **Nov. 3**, from 9 am-3 pm. Craft tables, bake sale, auction, prizes. Lunch available. For more information, call 203.610.3480.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR** will be held at our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, Bridgeport, on Sat., **Nov. 17**, from 11 am-6 pm. Lots of food from hamburgers to stuffed cabbage, bake sale, crafts, white elephant corner. Vendor tables available for \$25. To reserve a table, call Migdalia: 203.372.4854.

**LOOKING FOR VENDORS/CRAFTERS** for the St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, Holiday Boutique to be held Sat., **Dec. 1**. Cost: \$60/table. For more information, contact the parish office: [BridgetCT@aol.com](mailto:BridgetCT@aol.com) or

203.324.2910.

**JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME** a 15-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Cairo and Rome will be hosted by St. Mary and St. Benedict-Our Lady of Montserrat parishes in Stamford with Fr. Rolando Torres starting Sat., **Feb. 11, 2013**. Cost: \$4,023. For more information, contact Fr.

Torres: 203.324.7321 or [rolando-malak@gmail.com](mailto:rolando-malak@gmail.com).

**SPRING VACATION CRUISE** to benefit the Playground Improvement Fund at St. Lawrence School, Shelton, will take place on **Apr. 13-20**, on the RCCL Oasis of the Seas. For more information, call 203.402.0632. ■

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