



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 2015 | VOLUME 32, NUMBER 9 | RESPECT LIFE ISSUE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



7 Catholic view of Immigration discussed at Red Mass



15-22 Synod Celebration Mass recap

Please visit us on:



at www.facebook.com/bridgeportdiocese

at www.twitter.com/dobevents_dobyouth



Latest news: bridgeportdiocese.com



RENEWED IN FAITH AND MISSION

Frank E. Metrusky, CFP®
President and Financial Advisor
945 Beaver Dam Road
Stratford, CT 06614
203.386.8977

CATHOLICWAY INVESTMENTS, LLC

Actively Connecting Faith and Finance



Securities and Advisory Services offered through National Planning Corporation (NPC), Member FINRA/SIPC, and a Registered Investment Advisor. Catholic Way investments and NPC are separate and unrelated companies.

GRADUATE OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31



Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

Offering advanced programs of study in:

- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Nursing
- Healthcare Informatics
- MBA
- Media Literacy
- Initial Teacher Certification and Tuition-Paid Teaching Internships
- Master of Arts in Teaching
- Special Education, K-12 (165) Cross-Endorsement
- Intermediate Administrator Certification (092)
- CT Literacy Specialist Program (102 & 097 Certification)

Click here to register:

sacredheart.edu/gradopenhouse

Bishop's Reflection

Encountering the Lord requires openness

By **BISHOP FRANK J. CAGGIANO**

Now that the Holy Father has concluded his pilgrimage to the United States with an emotional and uplifting celebration of Mass in Philadelphia, we are left to reflect upon his message and



strive to live what he taught us. It is a message that cannot be fully appreciated apart from prayer and a deep and honest examination of our own personal lives of faith.

While the Holy Father addressed a number of different topics in his various homilies and talks, it seems to me that there are three words that underlie much of what he taught us. Those words are encounter, dialogue and prayer, but let us reflect for now on the meaning of "encounter."

When you or I hear the word "encounter," what do you think? It is an interesting word because it is not easy to define. For to "meet" someone is easy to understand since it involves bringing two people together either in conversation, or working side by side on a task or simple sharing presence together, such as many people did when they waited on line to enter any venue to see the Pope. Meeting someone can be

a superficial event, insofar as the person we meet does not elicit in us a deep, personal response. The truth is that most of our ordinary interactions with people are such "meetings."

In contrast, when we say that we "encounter" another person, we are speaking about an experience that is the farthest thing from being superficial. "Encounter" means to receive and share the presence of another person in a deep, personal and even intimate level. It is not just ordinary conversation but a meeting of two hearts. It happens when a person offers us a door into his or her life, mind, heart and spirit. In response, a true encounter demands the same of the person receiving the invitation. A superficial response is neither adequate or appropriate. An invitation to share the deepest part of one's life asks for an equal invitation to receive the same from the other person. When there is such a personal exchange, "encounter" happens.

In each of our families and among our true friends, encounter is the glue that holds those relationships together. Without such encounter, families fall apart and friendships die.

The Pope is challenging us to examine our personal lives and ask whether we have such an encounter with the person of Jesus the Lord. For the Lord offers us His Life, Spirit, power and even His Sacred Body and Blood and wishes to encounter us deeply and personally. He stands ready at every moment of our lives to encounter us and invites us to reciprocate and open our hearts, minds and souls to Him in encounter.

What does such an encounter

with the Lord look like? You need to look no further than the experience of these last five days and the presence of the Holy Father in our midst. If you looked into the Pope's face, we

can see what a person who has encountered the Lord looks like and what he can do.

And if you asking yourself: I want to have such an encounter with Christ but I do not know

how to do it. Have no fear. The path to encounter is possible for you and me. Soon we will reflect together on some of the ways that you and I can walk the path of encounter with Christ. ■

Bishop's 'State of Diocese' address set for October 29

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will deliver a major "State of the Diocese" address on Thursday, October 29, at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of All Saints School in Norwalk.

The talk is meant to give a summary of the state of the diocese administratively, pastorally and financially. The bishop will discuss all of the major initiatives that have come out of the recently completed synod, and also the programs put in place to address ongoing pastoral and financial challenges.

More than 500 lay leaders, priests and religious attended the inaugural event last year when the bishop laid out plans to reorganize the Catholic Center, launch the first General Session of Synod 2014, address financial challenges, relocate St. John Fisher Seminary from Stamford to Trumbull, and take other measures to renew the diocese.

The bishop is expected to discuss many of the achievements of the past year including the response to the recent Synod Closing Mass Celebration that drew 8,000 people to Webster Bank

Arena, the launch of the Bishop's Scholarship fund to support Catholic education for all families, the creation of a Diocesan Youth Choir, the delegation of 300 that will attend World Youth Day and the production of a balanced budget for the diocese.

The bishop will also outline plans for the new initiatives proposed by the synod including a Diocesan Youth Services Corps, Leadership Institute, Liturgical Commission, outreach to families and divorced Catholics and long-term pastoral and strategic plans to move the diocese forward.

In his talk last year, the bishop said that while the synod's purpose was to address long-term pastoral challenges, work has also been underway to address those administrative, financial and pastoral challenges that are more immediate in nature in order to create a support structure and needed financial resources to implement synod initiatives and directives.

The Diocese of Bridgeport includes more than 460,000 registered Catholics in Fairfield County, representing 45 percent of the total population. Geographically, it encompasses all of Fairfield County and includes

82 parishes, the St. John Fisher Seminary, the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy residence for retired priests.

The diocese sponsors 25 elementary schools, 5 diocesan high schools and one school for special education, educating more than 9,000 young people.

It is also a leading sponsor of senior housing (Bishop Curtis Homes); mental health, nutrition and charitable service (Catholic Charities); and youth services (Cardinal Shehan Center).

Bishop Caggiano was installed as Fifth Bishop of Bridgeport on September 19, 2013 at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull and began almost immediately to take steps to reorganize the diocese. On February 22, 2014, he formally convoked the Fourth Synod of the Diocese of Bridgeport, the first in 32 years, as an opportunity for renewal and pastoral planning for the future of the local Church.

To attend the State of the Diocese address, people are encouraged to visit www.bridgeportdiocese.com/state to obtain a paper or electronic ticket on or before October 27, 2015. ■

ON THE COVER

HISTORIC DAY—Bridgeport Bishop Frank J. Caggiano is greeted with applause and excitement as he processes into Webster Bank Arena for the Synod Celebration Mass on September 19. An estimated 8,000 people turned out for the Mass, which celebrated the achievement of the synod and moved the diocese forward in its plans for renewal.

(PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BABYAK AND AMY MORTENSEN)

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------|--|
| 5 | BLUE MASS AT ST. MATTHEW
<i>First responders put their lives on the line</i> | 27 | BUILDING A HABITAT HOME
<i>In honor of Pope Francis</i> |
| 9 | NEW COVENANT CENTER
<i>Grand opening in Stamford</i> | 29 | REMEMBERING LOU SACCONI
<i>Coach and Notre Dame legend</i> |
| 12 | CHILDREN AND THE ROSARY
<i>At St. Marguerite Parish</i> | 30 | KOLBE STUDENT NICHOLAS ARROYO
<i>My Baptism experience</i> |
| 25 | POPE FRANCIS AT THE GARDEN
<i>Encounter Christ in the city</i> | 34-35 | BITS AND PIECES
<i>Latest events and happenings</i> |



Local News

Deacon Cassaneto named director of deacons

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Deacon Anthony P. Cassaneto, Ph.D., has been named Director of the Diaconate for the Diocese of Bridgeport, effective October 1. The appointment was made by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

Deacon Cassaneto's appointment follows the deliberations of a search committee that the bishop convened to interview applicants following the retirement of Deacon Tony Detje of Brookfield after 29 years of service as director of the program.

"I believe that Deacon Cassaneto has the gifts, talents, and energy to lead a comprehensive program of formation that includes the human, theological, spiritual and pastoral dimensions. He and his team will accomplish this from the moment he begins his new assignment, which will serve men who feel called by

the Lord to ordination day and beyond. Please keep Deacon Cassaneto in your prayers as he begins this important work," Bishop Caggiano said.

The bishop said that Deacon Cassaneto is already working with members of the diaconal council to organize various committees and ensure the thoughtful and thorough implementation of a new program of diaconal formation.

According to Deacon John DiTaranto, special assistant to the bishop, who has been serving as temporary director of deacons, there are 100 ordained deacons in the diocese, 71 of whom are active and 29 who have recently retired. There are currently six men who are Candidates in the Diaconate Formation Program and there are ten men who are Aspirants in the formation program, which will undergo changes under the direction of Deacon



DEACON ANTHONY CASSANETO

Cassaneto.

The deacon's role in liturgical ceremonies includes administering Baptism, witnessing and blessing marriages, officiating at wakes, funerals and burial services, administering sacramentals and presiding at prayer services. Deacons also distribute

Holy Communion, proclaim the Gospel, preach the homily and assist at Mass. They also share in the pastoral duties of the parish, and help in the work of sanctifying the people, as well as other more practical ministries, such as tending to the poor and teaching the faith.

A native of Bronx, New York, Deacon Cassaneto and his wife, Gabriela, are residents of Beacon Falls, where they assist with the care of Gabriela's mother.

Deacon Cassaneto was ordained on May 24, 1986, and was assigned to St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus Parish in the Bronx, where he served until 2015. From 1993 to 2012 he was director of formation and director of ministry and life for the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of New York.

Deacon Cassaneto received his bachelor's degree from Hunter College of the City of New York, a master's degree from Manhattan College, a Ph.D. degree in education from Nova Southeastern University in Florida, and a second doctorate in religion and religious education from Fordham University.

While working for many years

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Patrick Turner named director of planning

BRIDGEPORT—Patrick Turner has been named the new director of strategic and pasto-

Dogali, the episcopal vicar for strategic planning, Turner will engage with priests, deacons,

members, and trustees, and how these entities are developed to provide assistance to the pastor and parish staff," Father Dogali said.

Turner came to the diocese after serving as vicariate representative for the Diocese of Brooklyn for eight years. In that capacity he served as a bridge between the diocesan curial offices and the more than 90 parishes in Brooklyn and Queens.

"He brought great organizational and strategic planning skills to his new role in Bridgeport and in the synod and will help us to move forward in the planning process," said the bishop.

Father Dogali, who was appointed vicar for strategic and pastoral planning in November 2014 as part of the diocesan reorganization, said that in the coming months each parish will ultimately be asked to create a Pastoral Planning Council to assist the pastor in overseeing the planning process.

"Lay leaders and priests across the diocese have been invited to training sessions this fall to learn more about the roles of parish council members, finance council

members, and trustees, and how these entities are developed to provide assistance to the pastor and parish staff," Father Dogali said.

One of the initiatives approved by the synod delegates last May called for the creation of a comprehensive pastoral planning process to engage each parish in ongoing, systematic and comprehensive planning to create a roadmap to ensure long-term viability and pastoral vitality.

"The long-term goal for pastoral planning is to develop a mechanism by which all aspects of parish life are intentional, mission-driven, and open to periodic evaluation and improvement," said Father Dogali.

In addition, the Office of Strategic and Pastoral Planning will be responsible for working with the Diocesan Strategic Planning Commission and overseeing the post-synod implementation process, and will maintain relations with the synod delegates over the next two years as they continue to serve as an advisory body to Bishop Caggiano.

Turner said he was excited to have the opportunity to continue

his work with the Diocese of Bridgeport and that he looked forward to working with pastors and parish representatives throughout the process.

"In the 16-plus months that I have been here, I have met many wonderful individuals who are excited about the synod journey and the future of the Church in Fairfield County. Working with our synod delegates has been a truly joyous experience, and I look forward to more deeply engaging the priests and lay leaders in the diocese to respond to the synod challenges. I also truly appreciate the confidence that Bishop Caggiano has shown by appointing me to this position."

Prior to beginning his work for the Diocese of Brooklyn, Turner spent nearly 21 years in Washington, D.C., working in the public policy/government relations arena. An undergraduate of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, he completed graduate level coursework at Loyola College in Baltimore in pastoral and spiritual care. Turner was born in Texas and grew up near Seattle.



PATRICK TURNER THANKING delegates and faithful after the recent Synod Celebration Mass at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport

ral planning by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, effective October 1.

Turner, who was named deputy synod director in June 2014, has quickly become a familiar face around the diocese as a result of his leadership at the Synod General Sessions and other synod events over the past year.

Working with Father Michael

religious, professional staff and lay leaders in the parishes to create a process that will ultimately develop pastoral plans to address a parish's individual needs and respond to the challenges identified by the synod.

"With the completion of the Synod Mass, attention now turns to implementing the recommen-

Respect Life

Post-abortion symposium, 'A Time of Divine Mercy'

"The most important effort in post-abortion healing is to allay people's fears," says Maureen Ciardiello. "God is loving and merciful. He's ready to forgive you and welcome you, even before you can forgive yourself."

Ciardiello, the director of the diocesan Respect Life Ministry, has organized a post-abortion symposium, "A Time of Divine Mercy," to assist therapists, youth ministers, clergy, young adults and others interested in understanding the impact of abortion. The symposium will be held at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield on Saturday, November 14, from 8 am-4 pm.

"The impact of abortion falls not just on the moms," Ciardiello explains. "It can be siblings who have always felt an empty space in

their family, and recently found out why. Or boyfriends, or a husband—giving not necessarily an ultimatum, but a subtle coercion. How can we bring healing to them?"

"It comes down to being merciful and compassionate," says Father Sean Kulacz, parochial vicar at the Cathedral Parish, who is the spiritual director for the Respect Life Ministry. "Most times the women—and men, too—are scared, ashamed, and have all kinds of emotions flying through them. Abortion is the only escape they can think of."

Although he will not be speaking at the symposium, Father Sean has seen the heartbreak abortion can cause. "For the mother, her child has been ripped out of her. She's scarred. Only God can heal that. Healing ministry takes time and patience and love from us."

The symposium will hear from two keynote speakers. Father Dermot Roache, SMA, will speak in the morning on the role of Divine Mercy in healing families. The afternoon speaker, Dr. Dave Reardon, is widely recognized as

one of the leading experts on the after effects of abortion.

Workshops will include training for clergy, post-abortion retreats, the impact on siblings, and reaching out to men.

Men and abortion will be the focus of an afternoon presentation by Dr. Greg Bottaro, a clinical psychologist and director of the CatholicPsych Institute in Greenwich. "Women

"With every single baby there's somehow a man involved. They don't live in a society where their feelings are acknowledged.."

don't get the kind of sympathy they deserve," he says. "Unfortunately, men get even less. With every single baby



CT4 WOMEN OFFERS a full range of assistance for women with unexpected pregnancies.

there's somehow a man involved. They don't live in a society where their feelings are acknowledged."

As a result, post-abortion counseling has to take an extra step with a man. "They may have been scared, too, and just stepped back and accepted the lie that this is the women's choice—her responsibility. After a time they realize that this was their baby, too. The guilt stays, with all the negative effects of buried feelings."

Dr. Bottaro notes that social services neglect both women and men struggling with the consequences of an abortion. "As a first principle, let's recognize that a human child has been killed. That opens the doors to understanding, so we can deal with the effects of that. We need to recognize the psychological and spiritual consequences for the sake of freedom and peace."

"Abortion can cause such a wound that you can't get over the

pain and loss all so quickly," adds Ciardiello. "We want to bring healing. We have an Entering Canaan day of prayer and healing on November 21. It's a gentle retreat for women, with an ongoing monthly support group for those women who need more time for their journey."

(The A Time of Divine Mercy post-abortion symposium will be held Saturday, November 14, from 8 am-4 pm. Cost:45; students: \$20. Clergy free. Lunch included. For more info, email respectlife@diobpt.org or call Maureen Ciardiello: 203.416.1445. To register online, go to www.bridgeportdiocese.org/faith-formation/respect-life-registration.)

Entering Canaan day of prayer and healing for women suffering from a past abortion will be held on Saturday, November 21, at a confidential location. For more information, contact Maureen at Project Rachael: 203.416.1619 or projectrachael@diobpt.org.)

CASSANETO FROM PAGE 3



EDUCATING THE MIND, BODY & SPIRIT OF EVERY STUDENT

Open House - October 15th, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

Entrance Exam - October 31st & November 14th - 8:00 a.m.

Call our Admissions Office
for more information



Trinity Catholic High School
926 Newfield Avenue
Stamford CT 06905
203.322.3401
www.trinitycatholic.org

in Catholic elementary and secondary education, Deacon Cassaneto also served in a number of capacities in the Archdiocese of New York including parochial advocate for the Marriage Tribunal, memberships on the Diaconate Evaluation Team, Admissions Board, Synod Committee, Deacon Advisory Board, the Board of Trustees of St. Joseph's Seminary, and the Board of Directors for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He has held leadership positions with the National Association of Diaconate Directors serving as president-elect (2001), president (2002), and past-president (2003).

Since his arrival in the Diocese of Bridgeport earlier this year, Deacon Cassaneto has been assigned to St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton, where he will remain active in ministry. "I've been very blessed in my appointment at St. Lawrence," he said. "I was appointed here on May 24, on the 29th anniversary of my ordination date. I took that as a 'sign' from the Lord, and I'm enjoying it very much here."

Members of the search committee describe him as a listener, a collaborator, possessing wisdom and clear vision.

"I've found that if people learn that you're there for them, that you're ready to serve them—they respond," he said. "We're all people of faith, invited to service. We'll go on from there."

The first deacon class was ordained by Bishop Walter W. Curtis, Second Bishop of Bridgeport, on February 25, 1978, who created the program in response to the changes and reforms of Vatican II. Current Church law requires a man to be 35 years of age at the time of his ordination as deacon. Candidates in the diocese must be between the ages of 31 and 60 years of age at the time they enter the program.

(For more info on the Permanent Diaconate Program of the Diocese of Bridgeport, contact Deacon Cassaneto: 203.416.1451 or dncassaneto@diobpt.org.)

Blue Mass for Uniformed Services

Putting their lives on the line every day

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

While the images of police, fire and other rescue workers are seared into American consciousness after 9/11, many Americans are losing the spirit of unity and sacrifice that was very much alive that day, Bishop Frank Caggiano said at the Annual Blue Mass commemorating the terrorist attacks on the U.S.

"As time recedes, many of us have forgotten to do what Jesus asks us to do, but not the police, fire and EMS," the bishop said. "We gather to honor them today because they have never forgotten the meaning of 9/11."

More than 1,000 worshippers walked under the giant American flag suspended from a Norwalk ladder company truck into St. Matthew Church to remember those who lost their lives on 9/11 and honor the police, fire, EMS, and other first responders from communities throughout Fairfield County.

The bishop said the men and women who serve in uniform continue to put their lives on the line everyday "to do what they always do, respond courageously and generously when their fellow Americans are in need or threatened."

Referring to the Epistle reading the bishop said, "James tells us that God is love. To have faith without good works is dead. We cannot love God without loving each other, and on that day, love was made real before the face of evil."

Noting that most Americans remember where they were on September 11, 2001, the bishop said he was serving as pastor of St. Dominick Parish in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn and was in the rectory when the second tower fell.

The bishop told the gathering that he will never forget the silence during the evening after the towers had fallen. He had stepped out onto the sidewalk in front of the rectory to get some fresh air.

"There was a profound quiet over the city because all the buses and trains had been shut down and there was no air traffic. The city had come to a complete hush and the silence masked all that was going on," the bishop said.



REMEMBRANCE AND APPRECIATION drew more than 1,000 worshippers to St. Matthew Church in Norwalk to remember those who lost their lives on 9/11 and to honor police, fire, EMS and other first responders from throughout Fairfield County.

People who had walked for hours from Manhattan were taken in by all those eager to help. "It was a day when strangers became friends and friends became brothers and sisters," he said.

At the end of Mass, the bishop and Msgr. Walter Orłowski, pastor of St. Matthew Parish, presented certificates to this year's honorees, while Father Charles Allen, special assistant to the president of Fairfield University and Blue Mass coordinator, read the citations from area police, fire and emergency chiefs who nominated the following for recognition: John Long of Bridgeport, a Fire Department dispatcher and Special Olympics volunteer; Newtown Police Canine Officer Felicia Figol, who started the Police Explorer Program; Greenwich police officers James Smith and Sergeant John Slusarz, for saving the life of a sanitation worker trapped in a trash compactor; Bridgeport Police Sergeant Gabe Meszaros for his leadership of the Police Explorer's Club and his work with disadvantaged youth; Norwalk Police Officer Hector Delgado for performing several community-oriented projects during the year; Police Officer Joseph Steyer for organizing and administering multiple "Gun Buy Back Days" throughout the Stamford community; and Ridgefield Fire Captain Richard Lawlor for his leadership in delivering the highest level of emergency response in Fairfield County.

The bishop also called forward

The bishop surprised him by presenting his badge as police and fire chaplain in Greenwich.

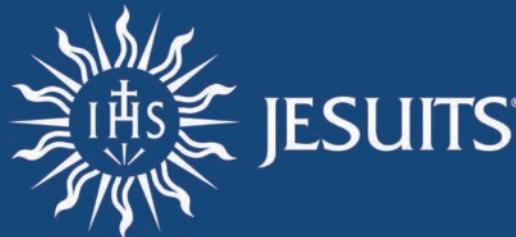
Other priest chaplains throughout the diocese include Father Charles Allen, Fairfield EMS; Father Michael Boccaccio, Norwalk PD; Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz, Ridgefield, PD; Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, Stamford, PD; Father Bruce Roby, Stratford FD; Father Joseph Malloy, Bridgeport FD; Father Thomas Thorne, Westport Fire and Police; Father Francis Hoffmann, Noroton FD; Father Christopher Perrella, Noroton Heights FD; Deacon John Moranski, Bridgeport PD; Deacon William Murphy, Germantown FD; Father Raymond Petrucci, Danbury PD; Father Robert Post, Stamford Fire Rescue; Msgr. William Scheyd, New Canaan Emergency

and Norwalk FD; Msgr. Richard Shea, Trumbull PD; Father Terrence Walsh, Stamford, PD; Father Frank Winn, Glenville, FD; Father Michael Dunn, Westport PD, FD; and Father Joseph Cervero, Redding PD.

After the awards were presented, a Norwalk policewoman sang an inspired and beautiful version of "God Bless America," while the congregation joined in. It was followed by "taps" and "America the Beautiful" as the recessional hymn.

The final procession began with the flags of police, fire and emergencies companies throughout Fairfield County and an honor guard provided by the Knights of Columbus.

The annual Blue Mass is sponsored by the Fairfield County Knights of Columbus and Assemblies of the Knights of Columbus.



FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Vocation Open House

Saturday, November 7

The day begins at 10 a.m.

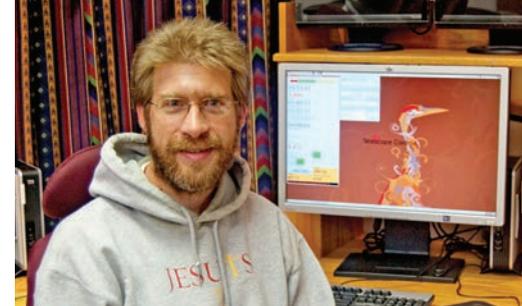
Jesuit Community Center on the campus of Fairfield University

A day of prayer, discernment, and coming to know the Jesuits and their ministries in Fairfield and throughout the world.

RSVP: pholland@fairfield.edu

ENCUENTRO VOCACIONAL

Conoce a los Jesuitas y sus apostolados en el Condado de Fairfield
7 de noviembre a las 10:00 en la comunidad Jesuita
Jesuit Community Center, Fairfield University



Safe Environments

Updates and recertification

By PAT HENNESSY

Advances in technology and stronger communication with parents were among the issues emphasized in the new *Safe Environment Handbook 2015*. More than 20,000 copies of the handbook have been printed and widely distributed to Catholic Center and school employees, parish staff, priests and religious and volunteers throughout the diocese.

"Our first handbook was published in 2003," explained Erin Neil, director of Safe Environments for the Diocese of Bridgeport. "The new handbook became effective November 30, 2014. A lot of issues with technology had come up over that time span."

The policies and procedures in the handbook take as their foundation the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, (USCCB)

Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. "Building on our successful policies and continuously updating them is consistent with the USCCB Charter. More than that, it's the right thing to do," said Bishop Caggiano when the new handbook was promulgated for use.

The handbook is a reference guide for parishes, religious education directors and teachers, youth ministers, teachers, parish volunteers and parents. "Not all sections apply to all ministries," Neil pointed out. "Our intention was to see that all of the Safe Environment Policies were placed in one handbook, accessible by everyone. We hope the renewal of our Safe Environment programs will bring further healing and ensure that all incidents involving suspected abuse of a minor are reported to civil

authorities in full accordance with the law."

She said that the new handbook answers many questions that are frequently asked by people across the diocese when they are planning activities involving children, whether at a parish retreat or a school trip.

"Our goal is to reinforce the Diocese of Bridgeport's efforts to ensure the safest possible environment for children and young people, so that both adults and minors have important information on how to identify warning signs of abuse and how to properly report suspected abuse to the diocese and to civil authorities," Neil said.

Because of the dramatic changes in electronic communication, any one-on-one direct communication between youth ministers, religious education teachers

or parish ministers and any young person requires written permission from parents, who are able to monitor any of these contacts.

"Partnership with our parents is key," said Neil.

"There are both opportunities and challenges in the current use of videos, Facebook, Twitter and cellphones. Predators are always out there, trying to reach children through these

sources. Our job is to be smarter than they are."

All children enrolled in Catholic Schools, grades K-8, receive annual Safe Environment training through the age-appropriate Child Lures Prevention, Think First and Stay Safe.

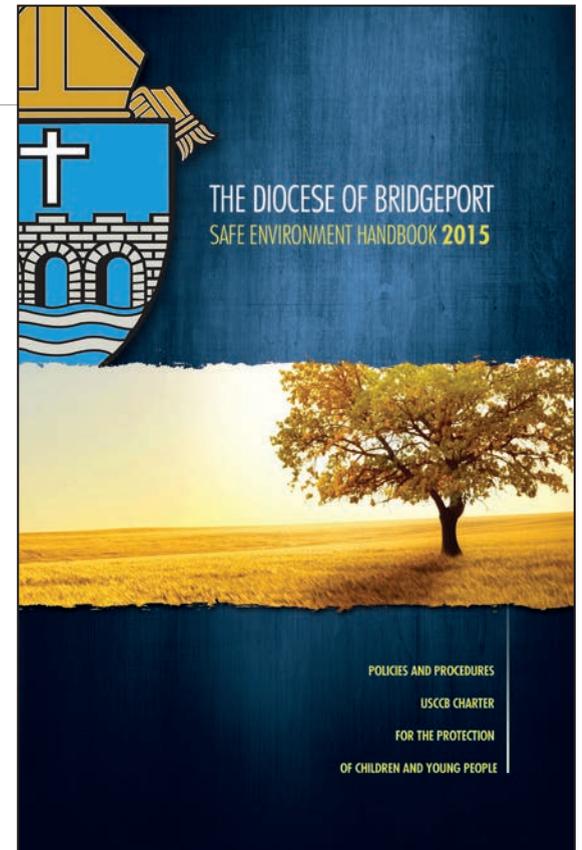
High School students attend annual Personal Safety training, which incorporates important information from VIRTUS, the Think First Stay Safe Program and the Netsmartz.org workshop on technology safety. The high school technology safety curriculum is available at www.netsmartz.org, and all parents who have a child enrolled in Catholic Schools receive a parent guide.

"The training sessions are facilitated by a licensed clinical social worker and overseen by the Office of Safe Environments," said Neil. "Parents have a chance to meet the trainer during parent preview sessions, which occur two or three times a year."

Public schools throughout Fairfield County have similar safety programs in place.

"Should a parent wish to supplement the training that takes place in public school or increase their own awareness of safety standards and appropriate boundaries, we offer them an opportunity to attend VIRTUS training and the Think First and Stay Safe class for parents, which may help them feel more comfortable

THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT
SAFE ENVIRONMENT HANDBOOK 2015



SAFE ENVIRONMENT HANDBOOK—More than 20,000 of the revised *Safe Environment Handbook 2015* were printed and widely distributed throughout the diocese this year. They help to create the safest environment possible for children.

GREENWICH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Open House

PreK - 8

Tuesday, Oct. 20th

9am



RSVP to
info@gcsct.org
203.869.4000, ext. 100

For more information,
visit us online at:
www.gcsct.org

471 North Street • Greenwich, CT

talking to their child about personal safety in an age appropriate and non-threatening manner," she added.

The handbook, parent preview sessions, and Think First and Stay Safe classes are all intended to give parents, as the foremost protectors of their children, the tools they need both to understand the latest developments in technology and to know how to discuss them in a family setting.

In addition, during this past year the Office of Safe Environments has provided for VIRTUS re-certification online and mandated that background checks be renewed every five or ten years, based on a person's level of scheduled contact with children. Updates of VIRTUS DVDs are now also available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Polish, and Portuguese.

The diocese provided over \$94,000 in assistance to schools and parishes over the past year for the cost of background check renewals. "It's incredible how much work the parishes have done to insure that no one comes into their programs who has not had a background check," Neil said. "The Catholic Church is truly one of the safest places for our children."

(For more info about these programs, contact Director of Safe Environments Erin Neil: 203.416.1406 or eneil@diobpt.org.)

Local News

Catholics wrestle with immigration issues

FAIRFIELD—The world is facing its worse refugee crisis since the end of World War II, Father Rick Ryscavage, SJ, said at the Annual Red Mass and Breakfast held at Fairfield University.

Father Ryscavage, a nationally known expert on immigration and refugee policy and director of the Center for Faith and Public Life at Fairfield University, began his talk by noting that the immigration debate in the U.S. is “highly emotional, even explosive as we move into the presidential election.”

He then went on to upend many popular misconceptions held by people on both sides of the issue.

Speaking to a gathering of over 150 attorneys, judges and legal professionals in the Oak



HONOREES—After Mass, Bishop Caggiano and Anne McCrory, chief legal officer, presented pins to members of the St. Thomas More Society of Fairfield County for their long-time charitable service. Msgr. James Cuneo was presented a special award for his service as spiritual moderator of the Bridgeport chapter.

Room of Fairfield University, Father Ryscavage said most recent immigration is the result

of “failed states, corruption, the drug trade and internal violence.” He then quickly pointed out

that immigration is also one of the unintended results of the success of “global market capitalism in lifting people out of extreme poverty.”

“There has been a 50 percent drop off in extreme poverty in the world in the past 25 years—the biggest in history,” he said, adding that the rising standard of living and availability of money has fueled immigration for people who seek to leave a country for economic reasons.

He said that while most people think that “immigrants are from poor countries,” it’s not always the case.

“It takes money to immigrate. The poorest countries don’t have the biggest migration—people don’t move about much,” he said.

Father Ryscavage told the gathering that it costs between

\$5000 and \$8000 to flee Central America, with most of the money going to human smugglers who guarantee three attempts at escape. The Syrian refugees now pouring into Europe need at least \$2000 to make the short trip.

Much of the money it takes to move around the globe is found in the estimated \$426 billion “in remittances” of immigrants working in another country “and sending the money back home to the developing world.”

Taking a longer view of the crisis, Father Ryscavage said that a country like the U.S. that has good track record of integrating immigrants will actually fare better as birth rates plunge across the world and more people are needed to do the work in aging societies.

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Consecrated Life: Lovers of the Holy Cross

Meet the ministry team from St. Joseph’s Manor in Trumbull: Sisters An Hoai Nhu Nguyen, Theresa Phuong Nguyen and Elizabeth Linh Thi Thuy Nguyen. (Nguyen is a common name in Vietnam. They are not related.)

Hometown: All three sisters come from the same parish in Vietnam’s Vung Tau Province and entered the same convent.

Order/Institute/ Congregation: All three Sisters belong to the Lovers of the Holy Cross. The first religious congregation of Vietnamese women, it was founded in 1670.

Years in Vowed Profession: Sister Theresa made her final vows in 2007; Sisters An and Elizabeth in 2013.

Ministry, now or formerly: Sister Theresa was stationed first in the State of Washington, working in parish ministry. “I was the interpreter for an American priest. There are a large number of Vietnamese on the American West Coast.”

Sisters An and Elizabeth came to the Diocese of Bridgeport to work at St. Joseph’s Manor after taking their vows. “They’re happy that we wear the habit,” says Sister An. “Even non-Catholics will share spiritual things with us because of the habit.”

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

Sister An: “The image of Jesus washing his disciples’ feet.”

Sister Theresa: “The child Jesus with his blessed mother smiling down on him. I was born in May, the month of our mother Mary.”

Sister Elizabeth: “A cross without Jesus. I want to be a second Jesus, on the cross in his place.”

Person who influenced my faith life: For Sisters An and Theresa, their mother was the most important person in their life. “She is a living image for me to follow,” says Sister Theresa. For Sister Elizabeth, it was her godmother. “She’s a Catholic Sister, too. She grew my faith by constant contact through her letters to me.”

A Connecticut place I especially like:

Sister Elizabeth: “I like the parties at the bishop’s house!”

Sister An: “St. Augustine Parish, both the church and the people. Sometimes I go to the Spanish Mass and help hand out prayer books to the people.”

Sister Theresa: “The Cathedral. The angels are happy on the top, and Jesus is triumphant over all.”

If I could have lunch with a saint it would be:

Sister Theresa: “Our Lady of

Carmen. I would just share my life with her. She’s always there with me.”

Sister An: “The Virgin Mary. When I meet her, I want to hear about what Jesus did and what he said as a little boy.”

Sister Elizabeth: “St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She was married when she was 14 to King Louis and loved him deeply. After he died, she took all her money to build a hospital and to buy bread for the poor. I would like to hang out with her and go with her to share food with the poor.”

Something I most appreciate about community life:

Sister An: I love the times when we are gathered together, at Mass or at a picnic—wherever we are.

Sister Theresa: Sharing—sharing prayers, sharing meals.

Sister Elizabeth: I want to enjoy my youth with the youth of our parish, teaching them to dance, teaching them the prayers and to celebrate the feast days.

Slogan I would give my life:

Sister Elizabeth: “My life will be light with my love.”

What I would say to someone considering choosing Consecrated Life:

Sister Theresa: “It’s a calling from God, not from you. Just follow your calling and see where it leads.”



ORIGINALLY FROM VIETNAM, (l-r) Sisters Theresa, An and Elizabeth now serve the elderly at St. Joseph’s Manor in Trumbull.

ProximoTravel

Your Catholic Tour Company

Prices starting at \$2,699 ~ with Airfare Included in this price
Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE w/Airfare from anywhere in the continental USA

Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Camino de Santiago; Viking Cruises; Budapest, Prague; etc...

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

Call us 24/7 814-479-4165
www.proximotravel.com 855-842-8001
anthony@proximotravel.com
carmela@proximotravel.com Carmela Manago
Executive Director

New Principals' Reflections

Educators blend faith and vision

BRIDGEPORT—New principals and administrators of diocesan schools met with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, PhD, superintendent of schools, before assuming their duties for the upcoming school year. Each had their own individual thoughts on their new appointments in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Dr. Joseph Gerics, Trinity Catholic, Stamford

"I'm honored to have been chosen to lead Trinity Catholic High School," says Principal Gerics. "Our school is known throughout

the region for spiritual formation, moral education, academic excellence and a winning athletic tradition. And with two new developments—21st century teaching and learning with our new iPad initiative, and the installation of a new turf athletic field—our students will be even better prepared for success in college and in life. It's an exciting time to be at Trinity Catholic High School."

Dr. James Keane, St. Joseph, Trumbull

"I am an academic theologian with over twenty-five years of school experience, and I enjoy

straddling those two worlds," says Dr. Keane. "My first priorities will be to reinforce and enhance the Catholic college preparatory mission of St. Joe's. St. Joe's is not 'a good school getting better;' it is a great school striving to be ever greater. I am thrilled to be part of it."

Andrew Malionek, St. Augustine Academy, Bridgeport

"I am excited to be a part of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport community" Principal Malionek says. "I am a product of Catholic education and



BISHOP CAGGIANO AND SISTER MARY GRACE WALSH recently welcomed the new diocesan school administrators for the new school year. Pictured with Bishop Caggiano, (l-r) front: Sister Christine Hoffner, ASCJ; Wendy Vaca; Suzanne Curra; Andrew Malionek; and Sister Mary Grace Walsh. Back row: Steve Santoli; Jack Lynch; Dr. Joseph Gerics; Dr. James Keane; and Gregory Viceroy.



Father Jonathan Morris

DANBURY CELEBRITY BREAKFAST

You've seen him on Fox News and EWTN and heard him on The Catholic Channel on Sirius XM. Now he's coming to Danbury. **Father Jonathan Morris** is one of the country's leading commentators on religious and ethical issues and the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Way of Serenity: Finding Peace and Happiness in The Serenity Prayer*. He will speak at the Celebrity Breakfast about "Serenity in Tough Times."

Father Jonathan is also a priest of the Archdiocese of New York where he serves as Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in the South Bronx. Ordained in 2002, his foray into mass media began as a theological advisor for the epic religious film *The Passion of the Christ*. Most recently he served as a consultant for the NBC hit series *A.D.: The Bible Continues*.

Father Jonathan's other books include:

- *The Promise: God's Purpose and Plan for When Life Hurts* (2009)
- *God Wants You Happy: From Self-Help to God's Help* (2012)
- *Light in the Darkness: The Teachings of Father James Keller and the Christophers* (2015)



DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015

TIME: 7:30 A.M.

**LOCATION: AMBER ROOM COLONNADE
1 STACEY ROAD
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT**



**FOR RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
WWW.2015CELEBRITYBREAKFAST.EVENTBRITE.COM**

RESERVATIONS: \$65 per person; \$600 for a table of 10
Autographed books available online and at the event.

All proceeds benefit the programs of Catholic Charities of Northern Fairfield County. Serving people of all faiths since 1939.

have worked in Boston Catholic Schools for the past seventeen years. To lead this school community is an honor and I will diligently work to nurture the spiritual, academic, and emotional success of our student body."

Steve Santoli, Assumption, Fairfield

"My calling to serve in the Catholic school came after seeing the empowering impact of faith based education on my own children. As students in a diocesan elementary school, my children excel academically and spiritually," he says. "I am eternally grateful for the chance to provide that growth opportunity to the students of Assumption Catholic School. As a school principal, I strive to create an environment in my school that encourages all students to realize their full potential as Catholic citizens of the world."

Suzanne Curra, St. Gregory the Great, Danbury

"I am honored and privileged to be the principal of St. Gregory the Great School," she says. "I first witnessed the strong Catholic values present in the school and parish community as a St. Greg's parent. Now, as the new principal, I look forward to working to uphold and strengthen those values while carrying out our mission of faith formation and academic excellence."

Jack Lynch, St. James, Stratford

"I am the product of 16 years

of Catholic education and the positive impact that has on my life is remarkable," says Lynch. "I am proud to have served as an altar boy from fourth through twelfth grade at St. Charles Parish in Bridgeport. I am honored to be the new principal at Saint James School and look forward to serving our Lord and the wonderful children of the St. James community. It is my heartfelt desire to be an excellent role model for the entire St. James community. As I move forward in my role as principal, academics and faith will go hand-in-hand."

Gregory Viceroy, St. Mary, Bethel

"As a proud product of Catholic education at St. Barnabas School in the Bronx, I am honored to have been chosen to lead St. Mary School," he says. "I am impressed how strong our Catholic values and sense of Catholic identity are here! I look forward to continuing the legacy of this great school and advancing the mission of Catholic education in Bethel and the surrounding community."

Wendy Vaca, Catholic Academy, Bridgeport

"I am very excited to take this leadership role in instruction for the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport team," she says. "This is a great school, and I look forward to collaborating with everyone in the community here to further the academic success of our students."

Catholic Charities Nutrition

Grand opening of New Covenant Center

STAMFORD—More than 150 invited guests turned out for the grand opening of the new location of New Covenant Center last week.

Founded to serve the hungry

and homeless and sponsored by Catholic Charities, New Covenant Center is one of the largest soup kitchens and food pantries in the state.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was

on hand for the blessing, dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony and praised NCC board, staff and donors for their concern for the poor and the good works they put in practice every day to serve the hungry and homeless of the greater Stamford area.

The program included testimonials from volunteers and recipients of services. Stamford's Mayor David Marin, Catholic Charities CEO Al Barber and other community leaders attended the dedication, which also marked the official name change from New Covenant House to New Covenant Center to reflect the comprehensive services offered at the new site.

John Gutman is New Covenant Center executive director, while Paul Harinstein serves as New Covenant Center Board chair. Hundreds of interfaith volunteers work throughout the year to feed the poor and hungry and create support for the center.

The center opened in 1978 as a store-front soup kitchen. It has now reopened as a state-of-the-art facility to serve thousands of needy and working poor from the Stamford metropolitan area.

The New Covenant Center offers:

- 8,000-square-foot facility
- Food Market, open several



days a week

- State-of-the-art kitchen
- Dining room with seating for 72
- Computer and job training center
- Dedicated case worker and medical room
- Counseling center
- Laundry, shower, barber center
- 250 guests receive breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- Open 365 days a year
- 250 families shop monthly in the market
- 30 children receive snack at the partnered women's shelter
- 700,000 meals served annually

BACKGROUND: New Covenant Center is an inter-faith project of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County (CCFC), the largest private social service provider in Fairfield County. Since

1916, CCFC has served people through programs for the elderly, disabled, working poor and children.

Connecticut has one of the biggest disparities between rich and poor. This center gives people a chance to gain security and move forward.

The NCC's capital campaign raised nearly \$1.4 million to create the new facility on Richmond Avenue. An additional \$300,000 is needed to support the new initiatives. Guests can eat at the soup kitchen with no questions asked. To shop (for free) at the pantry, guests must complete an application and provide proof of income and residency. Families visit the food pantry once a month and receive enough food for 10 to 12 days.

(For more info on New Covenant Center, go to www.newcovenantcenter.org or call 203.964.8228.)

RED MASS FROM PAGE 7

He said Japan and China will be seriously challenged because they have no one to replace the current workforce. Likewise, he predicted that Mexican immigration will dwindle because the birth rate in Mexico has plummeted and more young Mexicans will be needed at home in the coming decades.

Addressing the spiritual response to immigration, Father Ryscavage said the Church is often mistakenly seen as another "pro-immigration lobby," when its concerns for immigrants comes from another perspective born out of its identity as "pilgrim Church."

He said that treatment of immigrants is one issue that both conservative and liberal bishops agree on with very little difference of opinion.

Noting that in the Church's earliest years, Christians were often referred to as people of "the road or the way," Father Ryscavage said Catholics believe that earth is not their permanent home and that all life is a pilgrimage toward God.

"We are a mirror image of immigrants in that we see the journey and a pilgrimage. It is a perspective we share—we're all on the move."

In a question and answer session that followed, Father Ryscavage said parishes and dioceses have a lot more work to do to understand and respond to immigration.

He was recently commissioned by the Diocese of Rockville Center to study attitude on immigration on the part of Long Island parishioners, and the study found a "shocking resistance normal Catholics have to helping immigrants and to discussing the issue in Church."

True to form in this complicated issue, Father Ryscavage said the study found that reluctance to talk about the issue was also expressed by the recent immigrants in the parishes, who did not want it addressed from the altar.

Adding that most recent immigrants are Catholics and that they are accepted in their parishes despite political differences, Father Ryscavage ended by saying the Church must develop new models of education and dialogue to bring people together on the issue.

The morning began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, Fairfield University President Father Jeffrey P. von Arx and other Fairfield Jesuits around the altar of Egan Chapel. Anne McCrory, Chief Legal and Real Estate Officer of the Diocese of Bridgeport, coordinated the event and served as host.



FATHER RYSCAVAGE, SJ

NEW ENGLAND'S LARGEST RELIGIOUS SUPPLY & GIFT CENTER

**PATRICK
BAKER
& SONS**
INC.

1650 West Street
P.O. Box 1028
Southington, CT
800-243-6385
Mon.-Fri.: 9:30-5:30
Sat.: 10:00-3:00
CLOSED SUNDAY

Free Gift Wrap

www.churchgoods.com



GREAT NEW SELECTION

- Advent Wreaths and Candles • Bibles • Crosses
- Jewelry • Nativity Sets • Rosaries • Statues
- Memorial Gifts • and so much more.

A Family Business That Cares

EDITORIAL

Afterglow of Papal Visit

What a remarkable couple of weeks!

Here in the Diocese of Bridgeport we went from a joyous Synod Closing Mass Celebration drawing 8,000 people to Webster Bank Arena to a similar service with 24,000 welcomed the Pope to Madison Square Garden—both Masses celebrating our faith and the renewal of the Church!

Hundreds from the diocese traveled to New York, Washington D.C. and Philadelphia and joined the hundreds of thousands of others who came out to greet the Pope, along with the millions more who watched in awe and fascination as the Holy Father made his way through the Northeast.

In many ways it became a festival of joy seen in the openness and excitement on people's faces, the admiring cries of "Viva Papa" as the Holy Father passed by in his Fiat, and the respect and admiration that even seemed to transfer to news reporters and anchors who covered the stories.

Dubbed the "Francis Effect," it may take Church and secular historians years to sort it out, while it also proves to be a historic moment for American Catholics. Maybe it's as simple as the Pope's message: take care of those who are suffering, wounded and marginalized. Safeguard the earth and protect life at all stages. And perhaps most importantly, share the joy of the Gospel with others.

In a few short days the Pope seemed to be everywhere, taking in the American spirit from many vantage points: a fly-over of the Statue of Liberty, a swing through Central Park, Mass for 850,000 in Philadelphia, and in between, visits to soup kitchens, schools, and prisons, where he often searched out the young and afflicted—bringing us to tears with his compassion.

By some accounts the Pope was stunned by his greeting in the U.S.: the outpouring of love and affection people showed, the eagerness to hear what he had to say. At a time when many are convinced that the U.S. is a secular society indifferent to faith, the reception to the Pope demonstrated that people have a hunger for something more—and found it in Francis's humble and joyous persona and his preaching of the Gospel.

Bringing the message of encounter and dialogue to a deeply divided country at every setting, His Holiness reminded us that Christianity is challenged by ideology (including acts of violence done in the name of faith), a lack of concern for others' suffering, and the hardness of our own hearts. He urged us to trust in God's mercy and get a move on proclaiming that to the world.

Celebrating Renewal

Perhaps one of the most remarkable things about the Synod Celebration Mass was the way it began: hundreds of young people joined Bishop Caggiano in procession through the streets of downtown Bridgeport from St. Augustine Cathedral to the doors of Webster Bank Arena.

In addition to memorable images of the prayerful gathering moving through this old industrial city finally taking on a new shape, the procession represented a renewal of spirit in the diocese, a demonstration of faith of the millennial generation, and an affirmation of Church in Fairfield County.

Seminarians guided the statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary along the route, while members of the Neocatechumenal Way community played music and sang, and a few bystanders even broke into dance. And that was just the beginning of the celebration. When the procession turned into Webster Bank Arena, thousands eagerly greeted the bishop, beginning a Festival of Faith in prayer and music before Mass.

"What a great blessing to be united as one great diocesan family of faith," the bishop said from the altar to the thousands assembled. And much of the day felt like a family reunion; people seemed delighted to see one another and to share their faith in a public way. Throughout the day, the themes of synod were on display—the diocese coming together in its diversity and celebration of cultures within the context of faith and love for the Church.

At the end of Mass, the bishop signed decrees to formally set synod initiatives in motion, marking the beginning of the implementation process. A full list of synod initiatives can be found on pages 20-21 of this issue. From the Youth Service Corps to the establishment of a Leadership Institute, the new program that will roll out in the coming months were approved by synod delegates.

"Renew your hearts with joy, open your doors in welcome and celebrate the faith," the bishop said in his synod homily—setting the tone and the task ahead.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

St. Augustine Medal of Service

BRIDGEPORT—The St. Augustine Medal of Service prayer service and awards ceremony will be held at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, October 17, beginning at 1:30 pm. A reception will follow at Kolbe-Cathedral High School on the grounds of the Cathedral campus.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will lead the prayer service and present medals to more than 130 recipients from parishes and ministries across the diocese.

"True generosity comes from those who are grateful for their

lives and who faithfully use the gifts God has given them," said Bishop Caggiano. "We will celebrate the St. Augustine medalists as mentors, guides and prophets in their love and service. I look forward to meeting them and their families and recognizing their great commitment to others through the Church."

Last year, more than 700 friends and family of the recipients turned out for the Medal of Service ceremony.

Pastors, priests and deacons throughout the diocese accom-

pany the recipients as they come forward to be presented with the medal by Bishop Caggiano.

The St. Augustine Medal of Service was instituted 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 St. Augustine of Hippo, patron saint of the diocese. The reverse features the coat of arms of the diocese.

(For more info, contact Kimberly McKeown: 203.416.1641 or kmckeown@diobpt.org.)



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

PASTOR

REVEREND NORMAN J. GUILBERT, Parochial Vicar, Holy Family Parish, Fairfield, to Pastor, Holy Family Parish, Fairfield. Effective date was September 25.

REVEREND MILAN DIMIC, Parochial Vicar, Notre Dame Parish, Easton, to Pastor, Saint Emery Parish, Fairfield. Effective date was October 1.

REVEREND LESZEK SZYMASZEK, Parochial Vicar, Saint Leo Parish, Stamford, to Pastor, Saint Paul Parish, Greenwich. Effective date is October 31.

CHAPLAIN

REVEREND JEFFREY COUTURE, Episcopal Chaplain, Immaculate High School, Danbury, to full time Chaplain to the Newman Center of Western Connecticut State University. Effective date was October 1.

DEACON JEFFREY FONT, to Episcopal Deacon Chaplain, Immaculate High School, Danbury. Effective date was October 1.

RETIREMENT

REVEREND JOHN PAUL LONG, Saint Emery Parish, Fairfield, to retirement. Father Long will reside at Catherine Dennis Keefe—Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford. Effective date was September 30.

RESIDENCE

REVEREND MONSIGNOR PETER DORA, Retired, Saint Clement Parish, Stamford, to Catherine Dennis Keefe—Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford. Effective date was April 30.

REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOSEPH J. KOHUT, Retired, Catherine Dennis Keefe—Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford, to

Notre Dame Convalescent Home Inc., Norwalk. Effective date was June 16.

REVEREND JOHN PUNNAKUNNEL, Retired, Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, to Our Lady of Peace Parish, Stratford. Effective date was September 1.

THE FOLLOWING MEN

HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY:

REVEREND MONSIGNOR KEVIN T. ROYAL,

REVEREND KRZYSZTOF KUCZYNSKI,

DEACON GERALD M. LAMBERT,

REVEREND JOSEPH MARCELLO, *Committee Chair*

Reverend Ian Jeremiah, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy October, 2015

FAIRFIELD COUNTY
CATHOLICOffice
of Communications
Diocese of Bridgeport

238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892
telephone | 203.416.1461
fax | 203.374.2044
email | fcc@diobpt.org

web | www.bridgeportdiocese.com
www.facebook.com/BridgeportDiocese
www.twitter.com/@DOBEvents

USPS no.: 12-117. Periodical postage paid at Bridgeport, CT 06601, and additional mailing offices.

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Publisher

Brian D. Wallace
Executive Editor bdwallace@diobpt.org

Pat Hennessy
Managing Editor phennessy@diobpt.org

Renée Stamatis
Art Director rstamatis@diobpt.org

Ralph Lazzaro
Advertising Manager rlazzaro@diobpt.org

Brian A. Wallace
Graphic Designer bwallace@diobpt.org

John Grosso
Social Media Leader jgrosso@diobpt.org

Madeline Ghilardi
Copy Editor (Consultant)

Circulation

Every registered Catholic household in Fairfield County is entitled to a subscription.

To cancel, change or add an address, please email: fcc@diobpt.org

Annual Subscription Price

\$20 (within diocese)
\$50 (outside diocese)

Postmaster

send address changes to:
Fairfield County Catholic
238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892

© Copyright 2015, Diocese of Bridgeport

Editorial



'A new Catholic's glimpse of Pope Francis'

GUEST COLUMNIST

BY CARLENE JOAN DEMIANY

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

“How far are we from the cookie shop?” I ask my friend as my two thumbs find the pounding pressure points in my lower back. The crowd is so dense that I can barely bend my elbows to hit the points.

“Not far,” my friend replies. Her torso bends just enough so that she can stretch it without hitting the person directly in front of her.

“Those cookies were so good,” I mumble. I can taste the warm double chocolate chip cookie washed down with a cold carton of milk. I can smell the chocolate

baking in the shop.

“Do you want to stay in this line?” my friend asks as she stands on her tiptoes. She searches for the end of the line but sees no horizon in this endless sea of people.

I pause and stand on my own tiptoes. My calves cry. I no longer smell cookies but sunscreen mixed with sweat. We are entering our third hour of standing in line to enter Central Park. I weigh the thought of seeing the Holy Father against the taste of my favorite cookie. I take a step forward—the first in five minutes—and close my eyes.

“Let’s give it another half

hour and see if we make it to the park.” I open my eyes, and my shaky hands find my purse. I search for my one water bottle. Paramedics have already removed some light-headed pilgrims. I take a sip of the now lukewarm water and feel the press of a person falling onto my back.

“Sorry,” she mutters before I can even turn around.

“I can see the check points for the park!” someone screams.

Bomb-sniffing dogs greet us like unwanted houseguests as we clear security. The spacious park is welcoming, and we cherish walking at our own pace. But the crowds have already congealed around the road where Pope Francis will ride his motorcade. Twenty rows of the faithful circle tightly like a boa constrictor around both sides of the narrow road.

Knowing we cannot immediately endure that crowd, my friend and I sit down against the trunk of a tree. Its bark brings relief to back muscles knotted like fishing line. I snooze until a text

message wakes me up.

“He has left Harlem,” the message from my mom reads. She has been reporting to me the Pope’s every move. All of those seated in the park pop up like gophers. I am not the only one receiving updates.

My friend and I run with the others to take our place amongst the crowd. I push against the person in front of me and someone bumps me from behind. No one complains. All attempts at saying sorry are now silenced by screams of “Viva il Papa.” Flags from around the world wave like short kites in the wind. Beads of sweat fall from individuals wearing traditional dress.

“He’s rolling,” says a message from my mom.

“He’s coming,” people yell right as I read my text. Screams erupt as children sitting on shoulders and elderly leaning on canes bear the same giddy grins. Rosaries swing wildly and an impromptu recitation of the Lord’s Prayer begins. I hear it in three languages. The euphoric crowd presses in as 80,000 wait

for a glimpse of the Holy Father.

And then he comes—a humble man dressed in white. He stands in an elevated car and waves. His presence radiates a peace and joy that permeates throughout the thickness of stacked bodies. He turns, and I glimpse his face. It is the face of Christ.

For a moment, my crowd becomes the one gathered on the first Palm Sunday. We all want only a glimpse of the one who rides and graciously refuses the gift of power so generously given by the adoring crowd. But my crowd displays their affection by waving camera phones instead of palm fronds. My crowd sees a man riding in a motorcade instead of on a donkey. But in my mind, the face of the one in the middle of it all is the same.

The procession ends, and the crowds disperse. I walk from the moment grateful that I fought the urge to leave the line and get a cookie. My fingers again find the pressure points in my back. I smile. I would stand in line for hours again just to get a glimpse of that face. ■



Everyone needs a friend like Joe Boots

A DAD’S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

I know a guy. I can’t tell you his real name. Let’s call him Joe Boots. He’s a great fellow. One of the best.

Joe Boots works hard. He’s up early every day. Sometimes he’s at his desk by sunrise. He gets the job done—and done right—with a smile on his face.

That’s not me. I take the late train. I like a cup of coffee in the break room before things get going. I’m known to be a scowler. I’m quite fond of lunch.

Joe Boots comes home every night to his beautiful family. He never stays late to have a beer

with the guys. Go ahead: Invite me out for a beer. If I turn you down, ask me again. I may have misheard you.

When Joe Boots does go out, it’s to volunteer at his parish. Maybe it’s the first Monday of the month and the Knights of Columbus are meeting. When the boys need someone to do a thankless job, Joe Boots always raises his hand.

Me? I’m the kind of guy who slinks down a little lower in his chair when the call for volunteers goes out. Invisible is my middle name. Too Busy to Help is on

my business card.

Joe Boots is not a complainer. When he has a bad back, you have to pry the information out of him. When I have a bad back, you will hear about it. Everyone will hear about it. I will not leave you alone about it.

Joe Boots knows stuff that a man should know: when to change your tires; how to grill ribs; whether Matt Harvey will be a difference-maker in the playoffs for the Mets.

I aspire to this level of masculine competency. Most of what I know I’ve learned from Wikipedia. That includes the name of *campylobacter jejuni*, the most common cause of bacterial food borne illness in the United States and what you will probably get if you eat meat from my grill.

Joe Boots goes regularly to Confession, though I don’t know why. I’ve never heard him take the Lord’s name in vain. I’ve never heard him curse. In fact, I’ve never heard him utter a cross word toward anyone. He is mod-

esty incarnate.

If anyone belongs in the confessional, it’s me. I make snap judgments about strangers. I break commandments like CNN breaks news. I’ve got a bigger mouth than the Mississippi. Modesty will never be my strong suit.

Joe Boots is not on social media. You can follow me on Twitter @mat-hennessey.

Maybe you think I’m exaggerating? Maybe you think I owe a debt to Joe Boots and our agreement is that I will pay it off by making him out to be a saint in this column? Maybe you think that making Joe Boots look good requires making myself out to be a bum?

Dead wrong. Joe Boots wants none of this. He needs these words of praise like he needs poi-

son ivy on the back of his knees. He’ll ask why I felt the need to do it.

The answer is: Because I should be more like Joe Boots. I should go to Confession more often. I should be happy with

“I’m the kind of guy who slinks down a little lower in his chair when the call for volunteers goes out. Invisible is my middle name. Too Busy to Help is on my business card.”

what I’ve got. I should stop complaining so much.

Luckily, Joe Boots is a friend of mine. I can always take inspiration from his good example. Look around—there’s probably a Joe Boots in your life too.

Now, buy me a beer and I’ll tell you about my bad back. ■

Local News

Children's Rosary at St. Marguerite, Brookfield

By JOSEPH PRONECHEN

Since the prayer movement called the Children's Rosary began in 2012, it has spread to dozens of parishes in 23 states nationwide and eight foreign countries. In the Diocese of Bridgeport, a Children's Rosary group was launched in 2014 at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield.

"The Children's Rosary is a blessing for a lot of people. It's very beautiful," said parishioner Samantha Booth, the founder and coordinator for the Children's Rosary at St. Marguerite's.

Meeting on the third Friday of every month, the children pray the Rosary before the statue of our Blessed Mother. After the Rosary, the children present roses to Mary.

The group can range up to 23 on any given month, with ages from six to 17 years old.

One unique aspect is that the children lead the Rosary. "In the beginning they were all very shy," Booth said. "But as they got more comfortable and cohesive, we had no problems who would lead." The children pipe right up saying,



CHILDREN LEAD THE ROSARY at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield. With ages from six to 17 years old, the group may see up to two dozen children on any given month. Shy and uncertain in the beginning, now the children pipe right up saying, "I'll do it this time."

"I'll do it this time."

Those children who come not knowing how to pray the Rosary have no problem. They catch on quickly with their mothers or grandmothers teaching them there, or with a little help from the other children. Booth's 14-year-old daughter Elizabeth loves to help out with the Rosary.

Even the very young progress quickly. "They love to be in the Rosary and don't know it very

well, at first but they get it done," Booth said. "They have a look of accomplishment when they are finished."

Blythe Kaufman has found that children as young as five and six are able to lead a decade by themselves. She founded the original Children's Rosary at her parish in West Hartford in 2012. From there, it spread dramatically.

Children at St. Marguerite's pray for whatever intentions

people write and request. At the monthly Rosary there are usually last-minute intentions, too.

Her daughter Elizabeth was there from the start. Elizabeth said she really likes the fact that they are a united group and receive the blessings in the group when they say the Rosary.

"Praying the Rosary is awesome," Elizabeth said. "It connects us with Our Lady on a spiritual level."

Booth pointed out that for their very first meeting, Father Shawn Cutler, who recently became the parish's new pastor, joined the group. "It was so nice to start it having a priest there involved in the Children's Rosary."

Father Cutler explained, "The Children's Rosary group certainly makes the children aware of the importance of the Blessed Mother on her feast days in the life of the Church, the months of October and May being dedicated to her, and Mary's role in their lives personally."

The Rosary group is important because it teaches them how to pray. "As Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II stated, the Rosary is our meditation on the life of Christ through the eyes of Mary, our Mother," Father Cutler noted. "Together with the Holy Mass, there is no better way to Jesus than by going to his mother who waits for us to come to her as that gentle guide along our path in life."

He added, "The Rosary is both 'the weapon,' as St. Padre Pio was fond of saying, against temptation and the devil, and also a labor of love as we truly hold the ladder to heaven in our hands while praying the decades."

Growing in their prayer life, the children see the essential connection between their Catholic faith and their everyday life. They learn the particular virtues attached to each mystery, such as humility.

"The Rosary helps children and adults counteract today's narcissistic culture that foolishly says that we should look out for ourselves first," Father Cutler said. "The Rosary is the school that teaches us how to be disciples of Christ formed in the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of God and our mother!"

"The Children's Rosary group," he emphasized, "is a wonderful avenue of grace not only to the children themselves, but also to the parish as a whole!"

Elizabeth highly recommends parishes starting a Children's Rosary. "It brings together the young with something that's really important. It introduces the young children to Our Lady and her Rosary."

(To start a Children's Rosary in your parish or school, see www.childrensrosary.blogspot.com.)

Sisters' sweet dream helps food pantry

WOODBIDGE—For the Miner sisters of Woodbridge, dreaming about ways they can help others goes back as far as those days when they left a tooth under their pillows for the tooth fairy hoping to collect a small reward. But these young ladies, Jessica, 13, and Isabella, 10, have turned the whole tooth fairy and pillow concept on its ear through their idea of designing, sewing and selling custom pillowcases themselves and donating the proceeds to those less fortunate in the community.

Recently, the girls and their mother, Nancy Miner, an APRN in behavioral health who works at Life Bridge human services agency in Bridgeport, visited St. Vincent's Mission & Ethics Vice President Bill Hoey to present him with \$300 for St. Vincent's Family Health Center's food pantry.



(l-r) ST. VINCENT'S VICE PRESIDENT and Chief Mission Officer Bill Hoey accepts a donation for the hospital's Family Health Center from the Miner sisters, Isabella, 10, and Jessica, 13, who created and sold custom made pillowcases to raise the money. Their mother, Nancy, is at right.

"St. Vincent's is grateful for this contribution from Jessica and Isabella because it will help feed so many people, and because it represents ingenuity and a lot of hard work on their part," said Hoey. "What a wonderful example they are setting for young

people today."

In the past the girls have also contributed \$250 to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission through their pillowcase sales and lemonade stands and cookie sales. It all started years ago when Jessica was with her family

in New York and saw many homeless people on the sidewalk and realized how much she possessed by comparison. "I believe we are put on earth for a reason and this is something we can do to give back."

Credit also goes to their mother Nancy, who formerly served at Catholic Charities and who sought to instill in her daughters a concern for the needy from an early age.

The bright and eye-catching pillowcases, which are sure to bring sweet dreams to any purchaser and make great gifts, come in many designs including beach and sports themes, birds, polar bears, jungle animals, umbrellas and sports cars. The Miners will also customize to fit the hobbies and preferences of the purchaser. All the money goes to charity.

(For more info, contact Bill Hoey: 203.576.5450 or bill.hoey@stvincent's.org)

Respect Life

Immaculate Mission trip

DANBURY—In August, Immaculate High School students along with their school chaplain, Father Jeff Couture, President Mary Maloney, seminarian Steve Ambrogio and volunteer parents Kathleen Whitmore and Don Kallberg participated in a mission trip to Camden, New Jersey, to assist with repairing and preparing facilities at the Hope Community Charter School.

Founder of the school and former Diocese of Bridgeport teacher Robin Ruiz started her journey when she relocated to New Jersey. She recognized that her talents were needed to assist Camden community families with educating children in literacy. Ruiz completed the necessary requirements for administrative certification and began her quest to open a charter school in Camden. Ruiz worked with the Diocese of Camden to use a vacant parish campus for the school.

Hope Community Charter School's mission is to provide a safe, caring, literacy-rich learning environment that guides and inspires students in building a solid academic foundation. Ruiz believes that each child should have the opportunity for a high quality education in a safe place, and that a zip code should not dictate the quality of a child's education.

The Immaculate High School students assisted with preparation of school offices and instructional



BOTTOM ROW (l-r): Robin Ruiz (President of Hope Community), Kathy Whitmore, Julia Iannucci, Jillian Fredette, Nicolette Stocks, Joanna Vodola, Faith Whitmore, Mary Catherine Kallberg, Amber Schaffer, Rebecca Wild. **Middle row (l-r):** Lauren Garvey, Bobby Rickard, Stephanie Pellegrino, Eric Shields, Taylor Guth, J.P. Baughman, Jonathan Schickler, Isabelle Camillo, David Mercier, Sarah Carey, Kevin McCoy, Father Jeff, Don Kallberg. **Top row (l-r):** Anthony Camillo, Myckland Cothias, Seminarian Steve Ambrogio.

resource rooms. They contributed their time and labor, assembling and moving furniture, painting, cleaning and doing yard work in very challenging working conditions. Students were also able to attend daily Mass celebrated by Father Couture on the campus at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Fatima and participated in Eucharistic Adoration at the end of each workday.

"The students of Immaculate helped us turn the old rectory into a clean, and welcoming environment that will now be used for a student resource room, science classroom, parent technology/resource room and offices," Ruiz says. "The students filled the school with joy and their commitment to the project warmed our hearts. Hope is a small school with

limited resources, and their help allowed us to complete projects we would not have had the manpower or resources to complete."

(To see the smiling faces of Hope's students and to learn more about the school, visit www.facebook.com/HopeCommunityCharter.)

Bishop hosts Malta picnic



TRUMBULL—In what is becoming an annual tradition, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano hosted a picnic at his residence for current and former Malta House residents and their young children at the end of August. At this year's event, the bishop and his guests enjoyed a casual lunch and watched with delight as the children played.

"The bishop is so generous with his time. We feel blessed that he took this time out of his busy schedule to spend time with our mothers and to celebrate their courage," said Kim Petrone, Malta House board chair.

"I'm most grateful for the pastoral care mothers and children receive at Malta House," Bishop Caggiano said in return.

(For more info on Malta House, go to www.maltahouse.org or call 203.857.0088.)



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 18, 2015 from 1 -3 p.m.

ADMISSIONS TESTS

Class of 2020

Saturday, October 24 or November 7, 2015 from 8 to 11 a.m.

Create an Online Admissions Account www.notredamehs.com/admissions

Train/shuttle and bus service available



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

WEST HAVEN

IN THE HOLY CROSS TRADITION

TRADITION • INNOVATION • TRANSFORMATION

www.notredamehs.com • 203.933.1673 x501

Follow us on @notredamewh FrieND us on Follow us on @notredamewh



25 SURROUNDING TOWNS

Choose St Joe's

For more information or to set up a private tour please call the Admissions Office at 203-378-9378

Fall Open House: Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015, 1pm - 4pm
Winter Open House: Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015, 7pm - 8:30pm
Entrance Exam: Saturdays, Oct. 31 & Nov. 14, 8am - 11:30am
Exam Prep Course: Friday, Oct. 23, 6pm - 9pm & Saturday Oct. 24, 9am - 1pm

ST JOSEPH
HIGH SCHOOL

2320 Huntington Turnpike
Trumbull, CT 06611
203-378-9378 (ext. 455)
admissions@sjcadets.org
www.sjcadets.org
www.bridgeportdiocese.com

Bus routes are available in neighboring towns!
Please visit our website for transportation information.

St. Philip, Norwalk

Be the Eucharist for others

By PAT HENNESSY

After completing a 15-month preparation period, nine members of St. Philip Parish in Norwalk and their pastor, Father Michael Boccaccio, made their public promises to become associates of Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament on September 27. Father Anthony Schueller, the SSS Provincial for the United States, was the main celebrant at the noon Mass.

"I had been approached by some parishioners who wanted to deepen their spiritual life, and were considering becoming members of a Third Order, like the Benedictines or Franciscans," recalls Father Boccaccio.

He had become familiar with the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in New York City. "I was impressed with their spirituality, hospitality and

social outreach. They see their ministry as being a reflection of the Eucharist—they want to be the Eucharist to the people they serve. I thought this was so important that I wanted to be part of it, too."

Founded by St. Peter Julian Eymard in France, members of the order—including associates—center their lives on the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. They commit themselves to be disciples of the Eucharist, participating fully in the Mass, making time for personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and engaging in a variety of outreach ministries.

"If I can get to Mass early, I'll go kneel before the Blessed Sacrament," says Paul Sullivan, one of the new associates. "I never did that before. Things took on a different life for me once my eyes were opened to the Eucharist."

Sullivan was already a choir member and cantor at St. Philip, and active in the men's ministry. He's also coached local sports teams and is involved in one-on-one mentoring. "This has helped energize everything good that I do. St. Peter Julian talked about taking the Eucharist out into the streets. That's exactly what Pope Francis and Bishop Caggiano are encouraging. They are part of that same culture, of rolling up your sleeves and going out there with the heart of a servant."

Felice Werwin, another new associate, was drawn to the order by the devotion shown by Kathy Krenicki, who died in 2013 after a three-year battle with cancer, and her husband Dan.

"Kathy was an inspiration to me," says Werwin, who had long considered joining a religious order as an associate. "I had always held back. How can



COMMITMENT TO BRING the Eucharistic love of Christ into the world, nine parishioners at St. Philip Parish, plus their pastor, became associates of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament on September 27.

you add one more thing when you're a mom, when you work, when you're already active in the parish?"

Originally inspired by the example of her friends, Werwin found more than she expected. "It's an invitation to holiness, an invitation to transformation through the Eucharist." Already a Eucharistic minister at St. Philip, she found that her sacramental devotion was a deepening of that ministry. "It helped me realize what a wonderful treasure the Eucharist is," she says. "There's nothing like looking into the eyes

of another person and holding the Eucharist out to them."

In whatever activities they participate, from coaching a sports team to a food pantry volunteer, the associates bring an added level of sacramentality to their activity. "I see my outreach as being a reflection of the sacrament," says Father Boccaccio. "It is no longer just social justice. This is a Jesus moment."

(A new period of formation and discernment has begun. For more info, call Father Boccaccio: 2003.847.4549 or mabstphilipnorwalk.org.)

SOMETHING

BETTER

THIS FALL



Part-Time Undergraduate Studies

Register Now
Classes Start October 27th



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

FOR INFORMATION CALL 203-371-7830 OR VISIT SACREDHEART.EDU/UCADMISSIONS

THANK YOU

to all our **Synod Delegates**,
Study Committee Members and **Observers** for making the Synod
such an incredible moment in our diocesan history.
May the Synod bear much fruit !



Bishop's Office

Gina Barber
Donna Bria
Nancy Cannon
Charles Chiusano
Jamie Dance
Linda DeMarkey
Alexander DiGuido
Cece Donoghue
Mary Donovan
Kathleen Featherston
Mary Beth Fessler
William Fessler
Lance Fredricks
Joseph Gerics
Paul Jennings
Mary Jennings
Adrienne Keogler
Albert Keogler
John Marshall Lee
Barbara Logsdail
Leonard Logsdail
Colin Lomnitzer
Robert Mantilia
Terry O'Connor
Anne Pollack
Barbara Ripp
Julie Taylor
Spencer Tripp
Richard West

Priests and Deacons

Rev. Msgr. Matthew Bernelli
Rev. David Blanchfield
Dn. Timothy Bolton
Rev. Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz
Rev. Joseph Cervero
Rev. Gerard-Frantz Desruisseaux
Rev. Msgr. Jerald Doyle
Rev. Gilbert D'Souza
Rev. Gustavo Falla
Rev. Brian Gannon
Dn. Santos Garcia
Rev. Frank Gomez
Rev. Nicholas Grieco
Rev. James Grosso
Dn. Vincent Heidenreich
Dn. Louis Howe
Rev. Pawel Hrebenko
Dn. Daniel Ianniello
Rev. Sam Kachuba
Dn. William Koniers
Rev. Sean Kulacz
Rev. Peter Lynch
Dn. John Mahon
Rev. Victor Martin
Rev. Leonel Medeiros
Dn. William Murphy
Rev. Reginald Norman
Rev. Nicholas Pavia
Rev. Damian Pielesz
Rev. William Quinlan
Rev. Christopher Samele
Rev. Fred Saviano
Rev. Samuel Scott
Rev. Eugene Szantyr
Rev. Luke Suarez

Rev. Thomas Thorne
Rev. Msgr. Andrew Varga

Directors of Religious Education (DRE's)

Pamela Arsenault
Susan Baldwin
Jaimee Keogler
Marie Pascale
Patricia Postiglione
Andrea Woronick

Ecclesial Communities

Jean Benitez
Ralph Burke
Kristin Chmiel
Maureen Ciardiello
Maureen Considine
Patrick Gorman
Jennifer Gros
Matthew Klein
Sabrina Klein
Michael McLachlan
Thomas Pankosky
Julie Ricciardi
Susan Stone
Dn. Gauthier Vincent

Observers

Dr. Christopher (Colt) Anderson
Rev. Dr. Edward Duffy
Dr. June-Ann Greeley
Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe
Martin Johnson
Dr. Joan Kelly
Thomas Marino
Claudia Roux
Rev. Rick Ryscavage, S.J.
Rev. Cass Shaw

Parishes

Elizabeth Amaral
Thomas Angelo
James Arconti
Laurie Ardizzone
Christine Ayoub
Mark Azzara
Marcus Baker
Patricia Barrientos
Rosanne Begel
Margaret Beutler
Ray Boa
Alda Braccia
Samuel Braunstein
Valerie Byrnes
John Cadavid
Katherine Calcutt
Winifred Callanan
Frank Caveney
Keith Cavoto
John Cleri
Angelo Cocco
Michael Cooney
Judy Ann Coppola
Lynn Coppola
Jean Correa
Jamir Costa
Charles Costello

Leonela Cruz-Ahuatl
Carol Curesky
Joseph Curesky
Michele Curman
Boga Davidson
Carmen Davila
Kathleen Dechant
Joseph DeMarkey
Greg Dembowski
Maryanne Didelot
Michael DiToro
Martha Dombroski
Deanne Donia
Guy Dormevil
Regina Dowling
Beth Duff
Barbara Duffin
Frank Duffin
Irene Duffy
Kevin Duffy
Christine Duggan
Peter Eder
Christian Eidt
Juanita Evans
Sarah Fernandez
Christine Ferrara
John Fitzpatrick
Stephen Gagliardo
Madelyn Ghilardi
Anthony Giobbi
Eleanor Gonzalez
Christine Green
Olive Greene
Timothy Grier
Nancy Grimm
Leon Grimm
Stephan Grozinger
Janice Gunnip
Anne Haas
William Harris
Stephen Haywood
Kay Hedrick
Jaqueline Herbert
Eunice ("Judy") Higgins
Christine Hussey
Audrey Iscaro
Kathleen Janssen
Mike Kachuba
John Karolus
Carol Kascak
Toby Kawulicz
Jean Kechejian
Kathleen Kelly
Lesley Kostyszyn
John Krubski
Richard La Velle
Jane LaCorte
Lawrence Leyden
James Linden
Anna Liscianra
Jay Lyons
Lawrence Mabes, Jr.
Armand Majewski
Donna Mann
Barbara Mariconda
Beth Ann Mazzotta
Marian McCarthy

Charles Miller
Michael Molgano
Marilyn Moran
Catherine Mulvehill
Gustavo Murta
Jacqueline (Jackie) Musante
Kristin Nauheimer
Dan Negrea
Carol Onorato
Lenore Opalak
Cecilia Orihuela
Janette Ortiz
Ana Osorio
Jura Owczarzak
Susan Padua
Frank Phillips
Susan Phillips
Mary (Gate) Pond
Susan Pritting
Anne Quinn-Dineen
Virginia Rabacs
Helen (Jackie) Reck
Elizabeth Ricci
Sonia Rodriguez
Janet Roemer
Catherine Romano
Kathleen Rooney
Robert Rooney
William Rooney
Marzena Rosa
Donna Rosequist
Peter Roux
Mary Ellen Sanford
Mary Lou Scebelz
Thomas Schmalz
Jamie Shannon
James Shea
Michael Shea
Theresa Sissick
Svetlana Sjoblom
Janice Stauffer
Nicole Tobin
Karla Torres
Judith Torska
Alvaro Tovar
Joseph Tranfo
Sandra Tripodi
Nicholas Troilo
Lissette Valle
Luz Velez
Howard Wardlow
John Wilcox
Emily Wilson
Paula Wojna
Steven Wortman
Debra Wortman
Vivian Wruck

Religious

Sister Maryann Calabrese, CND
Sister Jude Carroll, CSFN
Sister MaryEllen Genova, CSFN
Sister Melanie Hannigan, O.P.
Sister Ann Moles, SSND
Sister Mary Julianna Poole, SSND
Sister Nancy Strillacci, ASCJ
Sister Bernadette Therese Swan, SV

Sister Mary Karen Toomy, SV
Sister John Vianny Zullo, SSND

Schools

Patricia Bell
Maureen Anderson
Kathy Backus
Joann Borchetta
Ralph Brancadoro
Patricia Brennan
Paul Brunner
Daniel Buckley
Patricia Buckley
Kathleen Casey
Karen Cornell
Ann Marie Donnelly
Lisa Duddie
Linda Dunn
William Fitzgerald
Deanna George
Sr. Angela Gertsema, ASCJ
Bardhyl Gjoka
Jackie Greenfield
Sister Joanne Grejdu, OSF
Marguerite Hajjar
Jessica Harris
Colleen Hartigan-Piatak
Gene Holmes
Laura Hurley
Karen Johnson
Jennifer Kasinkas
Patrice Kopas
Lisa Lanni
Patricia Lawler
Sr. Deborah Lopez, ASCJ
Elizabeth Manno
Kathleen McGannon
John Melnikov
Mary Merly
Dina Monti
Maria O'Neill
Leslie Orendorf
Anna O'Rourke
Maureen Philbin
Paula Phillips
Joshua St. Onge
Marianne Starrett
Elizabeth Sullivan
Shaina Tanguay-Colucci
Joy Tricarico
Martin Tristine
Laura Wrinn
Suzanna Zello

Seminarians

Christopher Ford
David Roman

Senior Catholic Center Staff

Albert Barber
Dn. Anthony Detje
John Grosso
Mike Hanlon
Pat Hennessy
Rev. Ian Jeremiah
Rev. Robert Kinnally
Anne McCrory

William McLean
Rev. Msgr. William Scheyd
Louise Stewart
Michael Tintrup
Rev. Peter Towsley
Brian D. Wallace
Sr. Mary Grace Walsh

Study Committee Members

Rodd Blessey
Kevin Bohli
Patricia Brady
Fr. Joseph Gill
Jonathan Lewis
David Mancusi
Angela Mantero
Curtis Martin
Dn. William Miranda
Erin Neil
Daniela Neuenschwander
Fr. Michael Novajosky
Fr. George O'Neill
Dn. Jo Ann Paradise
Marie Pelletier
Kathy Renzulli
Stefano Santilli
Dn. Brad Smythe
Mary Taylor
Dn. Patrick Toole
Priscilla Toumey
Jon Vaccarella
Peter Wolfgang

Youth

Christina Bellacicco
Annelise Butler
Hannah Chauvin
Eric Cruz
Michael Falbo
Kelly Finn
Jesus Gandara
Giselle Garcia
Edwin Gonzalez
Brendan Gray
Laura Green
Daniel Guido
Lynnette Hernandez
Peter Iorfino
Danielle Koterbay
Brenner LeCompte
Michael Lenard
Kelsey Llewellyn
Tyler Lomnitzer
Cira Mancuso
McKenna Mase
Ryan McMullin
Emma Moody
Taylor Rose Morosky
Julie Rodgers
Jonathan Roman
Owen Ruggiero
Damian Ryzdewsk
Sara Tiani
Jillian Tiberio
Grace Wagner
Caitlin Wardlow
Zachary Zuccala

Thank you to the hundreds of dedicated and faithful volunteers who helped make the Synod Mass such a success!

- Synod Mass Coordinators from our Parishes, Schools, and Ecclesial Communities
- September 19 Volunteers at the Arena
- Webster Bank Arena staff
- The Office of Radio and TV of the Archdiocese of Hartford
- Fairfield University's Media Center
- Bridgeport Police Department
- Musicians and Members of the Diocesan Adult Choir, Choir for Youth (C4Y), and Choirs from parishes across the Diocese
- Parish Youth Ministers and Youth Group members for building the "I am the Vine, you are the Branches" Lighthouse
- The Liturgical Planning Team for the Synod Mass
- Synod Mass Committee Members

May the spirit of the Synod Mass continue to empower us in the months and years ahead!

Synod Commission

Dn. John DiTaranto; Martha Missimer; Damien O'Connor; Msgr. Walter Orłowski; Sr. Rita Petrarca; Carol Pinard; John Rodriguez; Janet Davis, Administrative Assistant; Patrick Turner, Synod Deputy Director; Msgr. Dariusz Zielonka, Synod Director



Synod Celebration Mass

Celebration sparks renewal

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—The Catholic Church affirmed its presence in Fairfield County in a resounding way on September 19, when 8,000 Catholics gathered at Webster Bank Arena for the Synod Celebration Mass.

“The best years of the Catholic Church in Fairfield County are not behind us, they are ahead of us,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. “We come here in hope to bring love and renewal to the Church.”

The changes signed into decrees by Bishop Caggiano at the end of the Mass will transform the life of the local church at every level, from the way it teaches the faith to the young to the quality of its liturgy and music, the future of Catholic schools, the vitality of its parish-

es, and continuing education for its priests.

With a 300-member adult-choir and the music of many ethnic choirs throughout the diocese, the morning took on a festive and joyous note as people clapped their hands, sang along and applauded enthusiastically.

At times, the morning also felt like a large family gathering because so many of those in attendance knew one another from parish and diocesan events.

It was a day when the full diversity of the diocese was on display in the many choirs that sang throughout the Mass including Vietnamese, Spanish, Haitian, Brazilian, and Gospel.

Marie Yves Bathelmy read the First Reading in Creole, and Heloisa Medeiros read the Second Reading in Portuguese.

The Mass was the largest gath-



ering of Catholics in the diocese in decades as people came together to celebrate the work of the synod and its pan for the future



A FULL HOUSE—Eight thousand people throughout the diocese turned out for the Synod Mass Celebration, a day filled with joy, praise and excitement. The morning began when Bishop Caggiano and 700 young people processed from St. Augustine Cathedral through the streets of downtown Bridgeport to Webster Bank Arena for the Mass. (PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

of the diocese.

The day began when 700 young people joined Bishop Caggiano in a procession from the door

of St. Augustine Cathedral to Webster Bank Arena.

Members of the Neocatechumenate community of the diocese played music, sang and danced in the joyous procession to the arena, while seminarians from the diocese guided a statue of the Blessed Virgin through the streets.

More than 400 priests, deacons and religious in the diocese were also in attendance.

The bishop received warm applause when he entered the arena, and that appreciation grew into a prolonged standing ovation at the end of Mass.

The synod celebration coincided with the second anniversary of his installation as Fifth Bishop of Bridgeport last September 19, at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull.

“What a great blessing to be united as one great diocesan family of faith,” the bishop said as he greeted guests from the altar at

the beginning of his homily.

This bishop said all journeys begin by taking the first step, and he asked all those in attendance to walk along with him as he seeks to renew the Church in the diocese.

“Each day we walk by faith, not solely by sight,” the bishop said, acknowledging the spiritual hunger that brought so many people to the arena on a beautiful Saturday morning.

“When we leave here today, we take the next step into renewal of our Church. We are not here to end anything, but to begin the next chapter in the life of the diocese,” he said.

In his remarks, the bishop acknowledged that the synod grew out of the many challenges facing the Church, including the fact that many Catholic feel disaffected and no longer worship in parishes, because “at times, what they seek they cannot find.”

The bishop said the diocese and its institutions have more work to do to become more welcoming, to evangelize, to serve

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



Girls @ Sacred Heart GREENWICH

are accomplished.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

Upper School Open House:
Wednesday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m.

K-12 Open House:
Saturday, November 7 at 9:00 a.m.

Convent of the Sacred Heart
1177 King Street, Greenwich, CT
203-532-3534
www.cshgreenwich.org



Class of 2015 College Matriculation

Boston College (6)	New York University
Boston University (2)	University of Notre Dame (4)
Brown University (2)	Pennsylvania State University
University of California, Los Angeles	University of Pennsylvania (2)
Colby College	Princeton University
University of Colorado at Boulder	Providence College (2)
University of Connecticut	Rhode Island School of Design
Cornell University	University of Richmond (2)
Elon University (3)	University of San Diego
Fordham University (3)	University of Virginia (2)
Georgetown University (4)	Skidmore College
Hamilton College	University of Southern California (2)
Hampshire College	Southern Methodist University (5)
Haverford College	Stanford University (2)
Indiana University at Bloomington	Syracuse University
Johns Hopkins University (2)	Tufts University
Lafayette College	Union College (2)
Loyola University Maryland	University of Vermont (3)
Miami University	Villanova University (3)
University of Michigan (4)	University of Virginia (2)
Mount Holyoke College	Wellesley College
University of New Hampshire	Williams College (2)
	University of Wisconsin, Madison

Thank you, Bishop Caggiano, for initiating our “journey of a thousand miles” of faith with such dedication, love and joy. We look forward to participating in the fruits of the Synod of 2014 through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with the framework established by our hard-working Synod delegates.

We also join with the entire diocese with joyfilled appreciation for the visit of our Holy Father, Pope Francis to the United States. His grace filled presence will most certainly be transformative.

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish
Fr. Peter A. Cipriani, Pastor



Synod Choirs

Lift their voices in praise

FESTIVAL OF WORSHIP—Synod Mass Music Director Thomas Marino of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan led the 300 member Adult Choir. The Mass and prayer service featured Spanish, Haitian, Brazilian and Gospel choirs, along with the Sacred Heart University choir and the premier of the new Diocesan Youth Choir.



Entrance Exams

Saturday, October 17, 8:30 a.m.
Saturday, November 14, 8:30 a.m.

Fairfield Prep

A Jesuit, Catholic School of Excellence

1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield, CT 06824
203.254.4210 • admissions@fairfieldprep.org



APPLY ONLINE! www.fairfieldprep.org > Admissions > Create_Account

Sacred Heart Academy

STRONG VALUES . STRONG ACADEMICS . STRONG LEADERSHIP



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 18, from 1 to 3 p.m.

ENTRANCE EXAM

Saturday, November 7, from 8 a.m. to Noon



Impelled by Christ's Love

Founded in 1946, Sacred Heart Academy is an independent, Catholic preparatory day school for qualified young women in grades nine through twelve.

265 Benham Street, Hamden CT | 203.288.2309 | sacredhearthamden.org

Synod Celebration Mass

Diocese Renewed in Faith and Mission



"This bishop cares about the youth being part of the Church, having a place, having a voice, knowing that they are being loved." *Convent of the Sacred Heart: Lori Wilson, head of campus ministry*



"This is a celebration of a lot of hope and change in the diocese, and of the bishop's vision for us. He's incredible!" *Sarah and Matt Fair, Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton*



"It's meant to bring us all together for the renewal of the Church. It was time for a tune-up!" *Paul and Pat Orsino, St. Mary, Bethel*



"I'm here to celebrate my community at St. Matthew, and because we have to know what is going on in our Church." *Marie Russeau, St. Matthew, Norwalk*



"It's about renewing our faith—together as one Church." *Marie Nicholas, St. Joseph, Norwalk*



"Our religion teacher, Mrs. Cornell, was a delegate to the synod. Today we can be part of it, too!" *Lauren Miranda and Morgan Felletter, seventh graders at Greenwich Catholic School*



"The synod is important for us to take stock in our Catholic faith. This is a day of renewal." *Michael McDonagh, Knights of Columbus, St. Aloysius, New Canaan*



"At all the Masses, every day, we said a prayer for the success of the synod. Now we're here to be a part of it." *Marie Smith and Eileen Ferris, St. Rose of Lima, Newtown*



"It's the culmination of what Bishop Caggiano has done with the synod. I'm impressed with how thorough and comprehensive it has been—and will be in guiding Catholics in the diocese." *Laura McCormick, St. Mary, Greenwich*



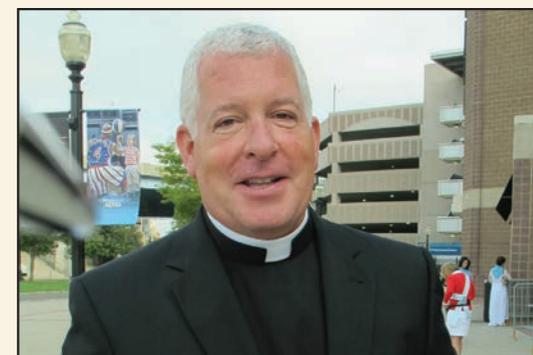
"I came to give thanks for my family and my friends, and to be an active part of our community and the Church." *Carlos Flores, Jr., Greenwich Catholic eighth grader*



"It's a phenomenal gathering of Catholics in our diocese. I hope it unites us and, with our bishop, we have the strength to go on from here." *Dave Janny, St. Theresa, Trumbull*



"This is the end of our synod and I want to be here to represent our parish. We're a family at St. Matthew." *Dell Boccadoro, St. Matthew, Norwalk*



"Today is the transition, or the segue, between what the synod proposed and what we hope to accomplish." *Father Michael Jones, pastor of St. Lawrence, Shelton*



AT WEBSTER BANK ARENA—People arrived by buses, cars and on foot for the Synod Celebration Mass and quickly filled the Webster Bank Arena with prayer, song and praise. It was one of the largest gatherings of the faithful in diocesan history. (Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan was greeted by a crowd of 7,000 people at the old Bridgeport train station at 3:14 p.m. on November 30, 1953, the day he arrived to begin his new assignment as first bishop of the newly created Diocese of Bridgeport. Thousands more had also greeted him at stops from Stamford to Bridgeport.) Photo by John Grosso



"The year long synod was a success, and the bishop has done a great job of organizing the parishes and getting the youth more involved. We're here to celebrate that." *Mary and Eileen McMullen, St. Cecilia, Stamford*



"This year there was a lot of listening, and the whole process was an opportunity to see how the Spirit works within the Church and brings everyone to the same place—looking to engage youth, to create a more welcoming Church, and to use our voices for social issues in a way that raises questions but not anger." *Joshua St. Onge, Stratford, Notre Dame High School, Fairfield*



"This is a wonderful event, especially the way it brings together different parishes and different cultures. The music is amazing, and there are so many different choirs that I didn't know we even had." *Nick Cecere, St. Theresa, Trumbull*



"The music today is beautiful, and the Bible says that when you sing you praise God twice, once through the Scriptures and again because he hears you in heaven." *Julio Ortiz, St. Patrick, Bridgeport*



"We are members of the Vietnamese choir, so I know how much work everyone put into the beautiful music today." *Nhat Tran, Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport*



"This is a special event because we want to be united in a real community for Jesus. By supporting our Church, we make it stronger, and my hope is that Catholics who have gone away will come back." *Vilma L. Hernandez (with son Leandro) Incarnation, NYC*



"I'm hoping we will stand with each other and learn to respect one another, and we will be more united within the diocese. This is a nice event for young people, too. It's very family-oriented." *Lourdes Ortiz, St. Mary, Bridgeport*



"I am not Catholic but I believe the Pope's visit will bring hope to a lot of people. He shows he is humble by the way he lives, giving up his seat on the bus, washing the feet of the prisoners. He wants to show equality." *Kenny Nguyen, Milford*

Synod 2014 Initiatives

Approved Initiatives and Proposals

At the Synod Celebration Mass on September 19, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano formally signed documents calling into existence the initiatives, which were approved at the final General Session of the Synod by General Delegates on May 30, 2015.

As a result, five permanent organizations and the initiatives listed below were authorized by his decree:

1. The Catholic Service Corps of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The purpose of

Catholic Service Corps is to engage youth, young adults and, indeed, all the People of God in the Diocese of Bridgeport in carrying out the mission of the Church and the love of God in tangible ways of service to the poor and disadvantaged in Fairfield County and beyond. It will come to existence on October 1, 2015.

2. The Diocesan Leadership Institute of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The purpose of the Diocesan Leadership Institute is to provide ongoing, systematic formation and support to the clergy, religious and lay leaders in order to assist them in their various pastoral works. Moreover, the Leadership Institute will provide opportunity for theological, spiritual education and formation to every adult who wishes to deepen his or her Catholic faith and their personal relationship



BISHOP SIGNS SYNOD DECREES—At the end of the Synod Celebration Mass Bishop Caggiano formally signed Synod Decrees formally calling five new programs, unanimously approved by synod delegates, into existence in the diocese. He also approved thirteen additional initiatives reflecting the renewal of the diocese. The new programs and initiatives will be implemented over the coming months. (PHOTO BY MICHELLE BABYAK)

with the Lord. It will come to existence on November 1, 2015.

3. The Diocesan Council of Religious. The purpose of the Diocesan Council of Religious is to invite delegates chosen from

among religious present in the Diocese of Bridgeport to bring their concerns and viewpoints in service of the larger Church. The council is also to advise the bishop about matters pertaining to

religious communities within the diocese. The Diocesan Council of Religious will come to existence on December 1, 2015.

4. The Diocesan Pastoral Council. The Diocesan Pastoral



ARISE AND SHINE *Christmas Concert for Youth*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015 | 7:30PM

NORWALK CONCERT HALL | 125 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CT

FEATURING THE NEW DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR

.....
COME CELEBRATE THE SOUND AND SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS WITH BISHOP FRANK CAGGIANO AND OUR NEW DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR "C4Y", LET YOUR HEART BE FILLED WITH THE ANGELIC VOICES OF OUR YOUNG ADULTS FROM ACROSS FAIRFIELD COUNTY.
.....

FOR TICKETS GO TO: C4YCHRISTMASCONCERT.EVENTBRITE.COM

SEAT PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PREMIUM - \$100

PREFERRED - \$75

GENERAL - \$50

ADA WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE - \$75 & \$50

PROCEEDS FROM THE CONCERT FOR YOUTH WILL BENEFIT THE BISHOP'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND, VARIOUS YOUTH SERVICES AND MINISTRIES THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE C4Y CHOIR AND CONCERT GO TO:
WWW.BRIDGEPORTDIOCESE.ORG/C4YSINGS/HOME/



Synod 2014 Initiatives

Council (canons 511 and 512) consists of members of the Christian faithful in full communion with the Catholic Church: clerics, religious, consecrated men and women, and especially laity. They are to investigate, consider and propose practical conclusions about those things which pertain to pastoral works of the diocese (Christus Dominus 27). The Diocesan Pastoral Council will come to existence on December 1, 2015.

5. The Diocesan Liturgical Commission. The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will oversee implementation of diocesan norms for liturgical worship; help revitalize music ministry; help to include youth and young adults in liturgical life of the Church; and support parishes in their welcoming and hospitality ministries. The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will come to existence on this day, that is, September 19, 2015.

These above five permanent organizations will be accompanied by additional approved initiatives and proposals that will facilitate change in respective areas of interest. These new orga-

nizations and processes will, in a practical way, enable response to the major concerns and desires expressed by the delegates during the synod. The following is the list of these additional initiatives:

6. The Diocesan Strategic Planning Commission. The competency of the commission will include: the ongoing reform of the diocesan curia, and overseeing the pastoral planning process. It will come to existence in October 2015.

7. A Comprehensive Pastoral Planning Process (November 2015) to engage every parish to create a roadmap for its future. Pastoral planning will provide the priests, deacons, religious, professional staff and lay leaders of each parish the opportunity to engage in ongoing, systematic and comprehensive planning towards the establishment of each parish's plan for long term viability and pastoral vitality. The spirit that should animate all such planning is one of servant leadership. The long-term goal for pastoral planning is to create a mechanism by which every aspect of parish life is intentional, missionary

driven, and open to periodic evaluation and improvement.

8. A Presbyteral Assembly to take place on February 25, 2016. The preparation process for the assembly will begin in September 2015. The goal of it is to draft concrete measures to realize the call of the synod for priests to live "holy and healthy living." The assembly will facilitate the clergy's discussion on topics of living arrangements, ongoing formation, opportunities for spiritual growth, retirement age, mentoring program for newly-ordained and newly-incardinated priests, establishment of support groups for the priests, and others.

9. A Task Force for revision of the Diocesan Sacramental Guidelines and the Diocesan Pastoral Book. These revised documents shall be presented to the bishop for his approval by June 1, 2016.

10. A Diocesan Pastoral Initiative to support and strengthen couples in their mar-

riage, as well as to reach out to divorced and separated Catholics within the diocese.

11. Family Life Centers (both virtual and physical). These shall be called to existence in collaboration with Catholic Charities, parishes and other entities. The goal is to provide resources and support to families to help strengthen the bonds of unity among its members, and also to support families that are confronting particular stressors.

12. A Strategic Plan for priestly vocations to be established by February 25, 2016. In addition, concrete measures shall be enacted towards the fostering of vocations to the diaconate and religious life.

13. A Diocesan Catechetical Task Force, to be established by October 1, 2015, whose competency will be to identify concrete ways to reform our catechetical methods and programs. The task force will report back to the diocesan bishop in eight months and would concen-

trate on: possible expansion of the catechetical formation to begin at Baptism, models of youth ministry, high school catechetical formation and education, models of faith formation in the parishes, restructuring the Office of Faith Formation, and others.

The practical initiatives mentioned above, by all means, are not an exhaustive list of the changes and reforms to be implemented after the synod. Rather, they should be seen as the opening of the doors and charting the path to more suitable response of our diocese, parishes, school and institutions to the needs of the Catholics. All of these initiatives reflect deep concern for evangelization of our county, inviting young people of the Church to take ownership and active roles in her life, promoting justice and peace in the diocese and beyond, promoting stewardship and care for the Church, and much more. These initiatives are only a beginning and an invitation. ■

KOLBE CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Education that engages,
empowers and transforms!



OPEN HOUSE
October 22 – 6:30pm
ENTRANCE EXAM
October 31 – 8:00am

Call to register: 203-335-2554
www.kolbecaths.org
33 Calhoun Place • Bridgeport, CT

Building Character, Faith and Intellect

Open House

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 2:30 PM.
Please pre-register at notredame.org

Attend our Fall Open House and see how we provide students with the academic foundation, confidence, and discipline needed to excel, both in college and in life.

To learn more about our exciting tuition discount partnership with Sacred Heart University, visit notredame.org/shu.



220 Jefferson Street
Fairfield, CT 06825
Admissions Office 203.372.6521
notredame.org



NOTRE DAME
High School
— Fairfield —

Building Character, Faith and Intellect

The Synod comes to Bridgeport!

A day of prayer and joy

A REMARKABLE DAY— Beginning with the bishop's procession through the streets of downtown Bridgeport, the arrival of faithful pilgrims on buses from parishes, and the towering "lighthouse" of food made by youth as a social service project, the synod moved from a praise and worship ceremony to the historic Synod Celebration Mass. The bishop concluded the service by kneeling in silent prayer before thousands and dedicating the diocese to our Blessed Mother. The new statue will be enshrined at St. Augustine Cathedral.

(PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN AND MICHELLE BABYAK)



Lauralton Hall

Empowering Women for Life

ENTRANCE EXAM

OCTOBER 17 OR 24 8:00AM

Transfer Students Welcome | Scholarships and Financial Aid Available



FRESHMAN PHYSICS

WOMEN'S STUDIES

GLOBAL VISION

Lauralton Hall

Connecticut's First Catholic College-Prep School for Girls

FOUNDED BY THE SISTERS OF MERCY

Milford, Connecticut
203.877.2786
LauraltonHall.org



PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL

a coeducational Catholic boarding & day school for students in grades 9-12, located near Newport, Rhode Island



You are invited to visit one of our Open Houses: Saturday, October 17th, and Saturday, December 12th.

Please call in advance to register: 401.643.1248

www.portsmouthabbey.org

Pope Francis

Rallying for the Pope!

PHILADELPHIA, PA—It was a long day for people from the Diocese of Bridgeport who took Rally Bus to Philadelphia, but a memorable one that left them inspired and faith-filled.

More than 500 from the diocese boarded Rally Buses early in the morning on Sunday September 27 for the Papal Mass at the close of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

The buses left from Immaculate High School in Danbury, St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull, Fairfield Prep, St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, and Trinity Catholic in Stamford.

While Rally Bus provided the transportation, diocesan social media leader John Grosso helped to promote the day and bring it together.

At the Mass, Pope Francis cel-

ebated the gift of family life and urged the 850,000 in attendance to be open to “miracles of love.”

While the crowds were huge, not everyone got into the security area to see the Pope because of the logistics of scanning and other measures, said Grosso, who left from St. Theresa Parish.

“It was an awesome day and the people were great. Even though they had to wait, they were polite and joyful,” Grosso said.

Throughout the day, Grosso and others used Twitter and Facebook to share pictures and describe their experience under the hashtag #bptinphilly.

On the way in to the “City of Brotherly Love,” the passengers prayed the Rosary and sang hymns on the buses, sampled homemade ethnic specialties, and shared their excitement about

the opportunity to see the Pope.

Words like “awesome, amazing, once in a lifetime and joyous” were traded in the comments and underneath photos.

The Rally Bus transportation was coordinated by Tyler Lomnitzer of Trumbull, a member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish.

“Anyone who wants to bring into this world a family which teaches children to be excited by every gesture aimed at overcoming evil—a family which shows that the Spirit is alive and at work—will encounter our gratitude and our appreciation. Whatever the family, people, region, or religion to which they belong!” the Pope said, urging parents to trust in the Holy Spirit and to treasure the small daily gestures that are expressions of love within a family. ■



PHOTOS BY JOHN GROSSO

TRUMBULL PRINTING

EXCLUSIVE PRINTERS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS

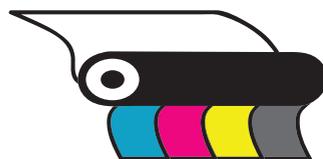
IS PROUD TO SAY

Thank You

POPE FRANCIS FOR YOUR BLESSINGS

AND

BISHOP FRANK FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP



Trumbull
PRINTING

205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull CT • www.TrumbullPrinting.com • 203.261.2548



Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

TRANSFORMATIONAL
LEADERS ARE
JESUIT EDUCATED.



#JesuitEducated

fairfield.edu/leaders

Pope Francis

'Encounter Christ' in the faces of the city

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

NEW YORK—An incredible mildness overtook the city, perhaps because Pope Francis—"Papa Francesco" as many called out to him joyfully as he passed—appeared to be everywhere.

Doors and windows to cafes and shops were thrown open with people dining on the sidewalks and walking at a more leisurely pace than usual in the cool breeze on a Friday in Manhattan.

The Pope's day started out at the Vatican Observer's residence on 5th and 72nd Street before he traveled to the United Nations on the East River, then moved downtown to lead an interfaith service at the 9/11 Memorial at Ground Zero, followed by a tour through Central Park and finished up in the heart of the city for Mass at Madison Square Garden.

On this special day, it seemed for a moment, as if the whole world were Catholic; subways, trains and sidewalks were filled with seminarians in cassocks, priests in collars and nuns in habits. Members of the laity clutched rosary beads while others carried bags full of Papal memorabilia including t-shirts and Mass programs.

Twenty thousand people, including 100 men and women from the Diocese of Bridgeport, waited for hours to go through security checks and enter the city's historic sports arena. Yet



POPE WOWS THE GARDEN—Pope Francis received a prolonged standing ovation after the Mass celebrated for 24,000 people at Madison Square Garden. Almost 100 people from the diocese were fortunate to secure tickets to the event. Among those who were thrilled to be there were (l-r) John Grosso, Debbie Charles and her son Connor, and Deacon John DiTaranto.

temperatures never flared as the serpentine lines, which looped into Chelsea for more than 20 city blocks, inched forward.

Many of the Bridgeport diocesan delegation were thrilled to see Bishop Frank J. Caggiano among the bishops and cardinals on the main altar for the celebration of the Eucharist with the Pope who has inspired millions in his humility and concern for the poor.

Vendors sold papal flags and water bottles and NYPD came by with megaphones to reassure those on line that everyone with a ticket would get in.

Somehow it all came together as planned with the Pope arriving

at MSG at 6 pm for a quick victory lap of the arena on an electric cart before vesting for Mass, which began shortly after. By that time, the security logjam had cleared, the lines evaporated, and the arena was full.

In his homily that began with a reference to Madison Square Garden and the many great sports and entertainment events it has hosted in its history, the Pope went on to deliver a poetic homily that celebrated the life of the city and charged it with spiritual greatness. The Pope said that those who are faithful to God, "can see, discern and contemplate his living presence" in the midst of the city. "The people who walk, breathe and live in the midst of smog, have seen a great light, have experienced a breath of fresh air," he said, urging those present to see the face of Christ in all those they pass including the homeless, marginalized and elderly.

"In big cities, beneath the roar of traffic, beneath the rapid pace of change, so many faces pass by unnoticed because they have no 'right' to be there, no right to be part of the city. They are the foreigners, the children who go without schooling, those deprived of medical insurance, the homeless, the forgotten elderly," said the Pope.

"These people stand at the edges of our great avenues, in our streets, in deafening anonymity. They become part of an urban landscape which is more and more taken for granted, in

our eyes, and especially in our hearts." "Go out and meet others where they really are, not where we think they should be," Pope Francis said. "Christ frees us from anonymity, from a life of emptiness and selfishness" and moves people to encounter and to peace instead of competition.

In brief remarks after Mass, New York Timothy Cardinal Dolan brought the house down when he noted that during every Mass across the country, Catholics pray for Pope Francis, "and now we have him here with us."

A prolonged standing ovation followed that rocked Madison Square Garden and left a shy and beaming smile on the face of the Pontiff, which could be clearly seen on the giant jumbotron screen.

Before his final blessing and ending his historic public day in New York City, the Pope said in a quiet voice to all assembled, "Please pray for me," which triggered another ovation—his message of peace, tolerance, care for the poor and vulnerable, and respect for all life leaving a lasting glow in the city. ■

RENEWAL FROM PAGE 16

all people regardless of their faith, and to empower "the young Church in our midst."

While the synod discerned serious challenges over the past year and a half, the bishop said that the Synod Mass was more than anything a time of joy and celebration of "the great enduring gift of hope that brings us together."

At one point in his homily, the Bishop directly addressed many of the different groups who had assembled. To priests and religious he said, "It has been given to us to lead this great Church into renewal, to walk in personal holiness, and to always serve, not to be served."

He challenged families throughout Fairfield County to "become the domestic Church."

He asked the young people to "take the next step and be courageous disciples of Christ because the rest of the Church will help you achieve greatness."

He asked the various faith communities and spiritual movements in the diocese to "renew your hearts with joy, open your doors in welcome and celebrate the faith."

Finally, he urged those in attendance to tell the disaffected, suffering and neglected that "we welcome them, we love them and will serve them every step of the way."

The Mass represented the closing celebration of the 18-month synod process in which Bishop Frank Caggiano and 360 delegates created a plan for the future of the Diocese of Bridgeport. ■

Pilgrimage stops in diocese

BRIDGEPORT—Leading a pilgrimage from Colorado to the Papal Mass in Philadelphia, Father Joseph Toledo took three buses of pilgrims on a detour to see his home parish. Father Toledo, now pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Collins, Co., grew up in St. Raphael Parish (now part of St. Margaret's Shrine) in Bridgeport. After graduating from Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport, he entered Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Denver and was ordained in the Archdiocese of Denver in 2009.

The stop in Bridgeport was part of a weeklong pilgrimage for over 150 people. Standing in the church of his youth, Father Toledo explained the history of the parish and tied it to his own life experience. "Our histories, where God takes us, how he brings us



BRIDGEPORT NATIVE Father Joseph Toledo, now a priest for the Archdiocese of Denver, introduces pilgrims from Colorado to his home church of St. Raphael in Bridgeport. Father Toledo took 150 pilgrims to the Mass with Pope Francis in Philadelphia.

there—wherever we go, God gives us the strength to announce the Good News."

He added a personal note to the many young people in the group. "When the parish was remodeled in 1995, this 13-year-old," he pointed to himself with a big grin, "sanded and stained the pews you're sitting on. When we remodel our church, guess who's

going to sand the pews!"

Along with the pilgrims, friends and parishioners joined in the Mass Father Toledo celebrated at St. Raphael's. Among them, he introduced head usher, Pat d'Ambrosio, who had been young Joe Toledo's Scout Master. His mother, Barbara, joined them for the pilgrimage. ■

Pope Francis

The Lord's Francis

By **DEACON PAUL KURMAY**

I bet most of you have been following the Pope as he travels up and down the East Coast of America. I think it fair to say that we have all been mesmerized by him, simply overwhelmed by his gentleness, his humility, his simplicity and his love, which pours out of him and touches every single person he meets. It is no wonder, then, that Americans of every stripe—Catholics and non-Catholics, Christians and non-Christians, even atheists and agnostics have fallen in love with this living icon of Christ.

And you know what? What has primarily appealed to us is not so much his words, even the most beautiful and compelling, as his internal warmth, his holy and innocent persona, his engaging smile and his loving nature. Who he is inside is what most appeals to us. And what and who we see in him is none other than Jesus himself. I can tell you this with absolute honesty: in my lifetime, in my view, he is the most Christ-like person I have ever encountered.

When he first arrived on our shores, the very first thing he told the bishops was to “engage fearlessly in authentic dialogue, free from harsh and divisive language.” He said, “harsh and divisive language does not befit the tongue of a pastor; it has no place in his heart.”

How I pray they all took that to heart! And me, too! One

Catholic commentator noted, “there’s no alternative to dialogue. The alternative is to circle the wagons and wait for the end



DEACON PAUL KURMAY

of the world!” Hasn’t the Church been circling the wagons for a long time now, and where has it gotten her? Only alienation and separation and anger.

Francis is not just going to the corners of the world, but to the sharp corners of every culture, every religion, every nation, every ethnic group, inviting them all to share in the wonder and the joy of God’s Kingdom.

The Pope has spoken about many issues to the United States Congress, to the citizens of the United States and to the representatives of the entire world at the United Nations. He has called for the protection of life at every stage of development and for the elimination of the death penalty. He has highlighted and elevated

the sanctity and centrality of the family. He has spoken so eloquently about the plight of the poor and the need to become one with them. Listen to these stirring words:

“If politics must truly be at the service of the human person, it follows that it cannot be a slave to the economy and finance.” For the poor, he demanded the immediate access to adequate food, water and housing, referring to the three L’s of “lodging, labor and land.” He challenged the Congress and the United States to break out of its cycle of paralysis and to use its power to “heal the open wounds of a planet torn by hatred, greed, poverty and pollution.”

Reflecting the values of his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis spoke passionately about the plight of the environment. He addressed the full Assembly of the United Nations, warning that “a selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity has allowed the powerful to ravage the earth and to exclude the weakest and most disadvantaged.”

Francis invoked the memory of one of our national heroes: Martin Luther King, Jr., who revealed his recurring dream—of seeing black children and white children playing together, of seeing Catholics and Protestants, Jews and gentiles sitting at the same table. Francis shares that dream and he described the hope that it brings him—“a hope which



“WHAT HAS PRIMARILY APPEALED to us is not so much his words, even the most beautiful and compelling, as his internal warmth, his holy and innocent persona, his engaging smile and his loving nature.”

liberates us from the forces of pushing us to isolation and lack of concern for the lives of others, for the life of our city; a hope which frees us from empty connections, from abstract analyses or sensationalistic routines; a hope which is unafraid of involvement, which acts as a leaven wherever we happen to live and work; a hope which makes us see, even in the midst of smog, the presence of God as he continues to walk the streets of our city.”

When you draw your last breath on this earth and find yourself standing all alone in front of our Lord and Savior who will judge you, who would you have stand next to you, at your side? Your favorite politician or world leader, or Pope Francis? You choose.

(Deacon Paul Kurmay serves at St. Mark Parish in Stratford. This column was taken from his recent homily during the Pope’s visit to the U.S.)

El Papa Francisco es de Argentina

This image by Colleen Blackman, a fifth grader at St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury, includes biographical information on Pope Francis written in Spanish. The project, created by Spanish teacher Señora Margarita Mosquera, was done with all the classes from K-8 with different levels of difficulty as part of their Spanish curriculum.

Coloring was the last stage of the project, after students had age-appropriate lessons on current events, learned about the Pope’s visit to the U.S. and something about his background, including his origin (Buenos Aires, Argentina); the languages he speaks (Spanish, Italian, English, French and German); his love for the children, the poor, and the family; his enjoyment of tango and soccer; his favorite Italian food since his parents were Italian (macaroni and cheese was included by the youngest kids); and, most importantly, his advocacy for peace.

Middle school students in grades 6-8 based their writing on the biography published on the American Catholic Church website; their project was more challenging.



SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

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

Pastor: Rev. Richard G. Cipolla

Deacon Stephan A. Genovese

In Residence: Rev. Paul N. Check, ext. 109; Courage Office: 203.803.1564

MASSES:

Daily Masses:

Monday-Friday 8:00 am, 12:10 pm;
Wednesday 6:00 pm Extraordinary Form;
Saturday 9:00 am Extraordinary Form

Saturday Anticipatory Mass:

4:00 pm, 7:00 pm (Spanish)

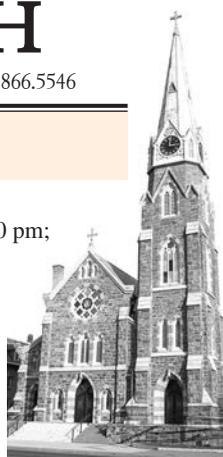
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am **Latin High Mass**,
11:30 am English High Mass,
1:15 pm (Spanish)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Monday-Friday: 11:30 am-12:00 pm;
Wednesday: 5:30-5:50 pm;
Saturday: 3:00-4:30 pm

ADORATION:

Mondays: 8:30 am-7:00 pm;
Fridays: 8:30 am-5:30 pm



SAINT MARY'S BOOKSTORE 203.854.9013

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

HOURS: Saturday 10am-4pm | Sunday 8am-3pm | Monday-Friday 6-7pm

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

Pope Francis

Habitat home built in honor of Pope Francis

By NINA RICCIO

Thanks to an anonymous donation of \$60,000 in honor of Pope Francis, Habitat for Humanity has a new house going up on George St. in Bridgeport, and yet another family will be getting the home of their dreams.

"This donor has given anonymously to several Habitat chapters," said Donna Spigarolo, a member of St. Anthony Parish in Fairfield, longtime Habitat volunteer and coordinator of volunteers for the Pope Francis house. "He noted that he had three basic tenets for supporting this house. The first is to honor Pope Francis for his commitment to social justice. The second is to provide a celebratory opportunity for both Catholic and non-Catholic volunteers to work together toward a common goal. And the third is to

further Habitat's mission of building homes."

The donor, she said, has given to chapters around the country that are active and continue to build. The Bridgeport chapter, formally known as Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County, will complete its 201st house this year.

"This is an exciting and worthwhile endeavor for the diocese to take on and a wonderful way to honor the spirit of our Pope," said Father John Baran, pastor of St. Anthony's, "and I'm proud to say that much of the leadership for this house building project has come from St. Anthony parishioners."

Father Baran said the leaders of the project are committed to raising an additional \$70,000 to finish the house, and that he hopes other parishes throughout the diocese will join in the fund

raising, particularly in light of the recent visit of Pope Francis to the U.S. and his emphasis on reaching out to the poor.

The Pope Francis house will be purchased by Marlon and Magaly Zepeda, who will live there along with their two young children and Magaly's mother, Milagros Ortiz. Magaly (Maggie) suffers from severe asthma, and the new, four-bedroom home will not only offer the family the additional space they need, but will provide the energy efficient environment she needs to help improve her health.

The family had already completed their required volunteer hours and was thrilled to be chosen for the house, especially since it is just down the street from St. Augustine Cathedral, where they are active parishioners.

"We are hoping that people from all over the diocese will be inspired to get involved, either by volunteering or making a donation, or both," said Spigarolo.

Groundbreaking for the house was held last May, with Father Peter Lynch, territorial vicar and pastor of St. Ann Parish, in attendance as a representative of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. A



AN AFFORDABLE HOME will soon become a reality for the Zepeda family. Thanks to an anonymous donor, it is being built by Habitat for Humanity to honor the visit of Pope Francis and his commitment to social justice.

wall-raising ceremony was held in September, timed to coincide with the Pope's visit to the U.S. later in the month.

"Much of the building is done pre-fab in Habitat's workshop on Barnum Avenue in Bridgeport," explained Spigarolo, adding that the outside walls are then assembled on site. "It's pretty exciting; you can see a lot of progress in one day."

The goal, Spigarolo said, is to finish and dedicate the home in December, so that the Zepedas

can celebrate Christmas in their new dwelling. "The bishop has been such a vocal supporter of anything that brings about social justice, and we are hoping that he'll be able to attend the dedication ceremony," Spigarolo said.

(If you are interested in donating time or resources to the Pope Francis house, call HFHCFC: 203.333.2642 or send a check to HFHCFC, 1542 Barnum Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06610. Please note "Pope Francis house" in the memo. For more info, visit the Habitat website: www.habitatfc.org.)

Notre Dame HS assists in Pope Francis House



FAIRFIELD—Notre Dame Catholic High School was selected from among a small group of schools that an anonymous donor requested to participate in the Pope Francis House in Bridgeport. The students were assigned two work days, September 10 and October 27.

When rain, thunder and lightning made it unsafe to work outside, the determined group headed for the Habitat warehouse in Bridgeport. There, under the direction of project manager Jacques Charles, the work group painted exterior siding and prepared it to be moved and put on the house. The group included director of campus ministry Jessica Medoff, alumni chaperone Paul Marzik '10, seniors Ally D'Aurio, Bayley McKeon, Hakim Fleming, Eddie Schwartz and Bill Kelly; and juniors Livia Silva and Olivia Keden.

Register today

SECOND DIOCESAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
"FAITH, LOVE & MERCY"
A DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

8:30AM- 4:00PM (REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 7:45AM)
Hyatt Regency, 1800 East Putnam Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT

Mass with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano

Featured Speakers:
Father Peter Cameron, OP:
"Made for Love, Loved by God"

Sonja Corbitt, Catholic Author & Speaker

Cost is \$55 per person

Mass, adoration, reconciliation. Breakfast and lunch included.



To register and pay online, visit:
www.eventbrite.com/e/diocese-of-bridgeport-catholic-womens-conference-2015-tickets-18766049760

For more information contact
Maureen Ciardello (203-416-1445) or Marcy Haley (203-416-1627)
or email us at: womensconference@diobpt.org.



Sports

Remembering Yogi

By FRANK DeROSA

By the time "Nobody Don't Like Yogi," Ben Gazzara's one-man paean to Yogi Berra reached the New York stage in the Fall of 2003, I had already joined the ranks of the many who agreed with the sentiment in that play's title. But 'twas not always thus.

How could a dyed-in-the-wool Brooklyn Dodger fan, who idolized the Boys of Summer of the late 1940s and well into the '50s, in any way like the squat catcher in New York Yankee pinstripes, he who just about every October (except for the Miracle Year of 1955) wrecked our hopes and dreams for a World Series championship.

Time and again Yogi swung at bad pitches and smacked the baseball into all parts of the outfield or into the seats, assuring that Brooklyn fans would once again

have to wait till next year. How could you like a guy like that?

But as time went on, the more I learned (and mature I got) about Yogi the person, the more I read quotes by people about his likable manner and humble ways, the easier it became to join the legion of Yogi fans from a distance. And then it got personal.

A couple of months before "Nobody Don't Like Yogi" opened at the Off-Broadway Lamb's Theatre, Yogi was one of the sports celebrities who came to The Tablet's annual Bishops' Golf Classic at North Hills Country Club in Manhasset, L.I., brought there by his pal, the former Dodger Joe Pignatano, another extremely likable onetime catcher.

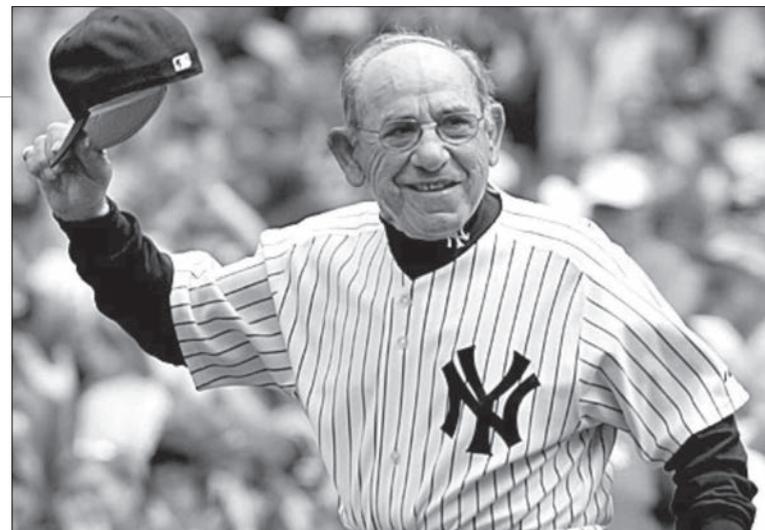
Yogi came from his home in Montclair, N.J., even though a recent health issue would prevent

him from playing golf that day. He had made a commitment and he was going to keep it. He did manage to pick up a putter and poke a ball on the putting green for a few minutes in the morning, but otherwise he sat at a table in the dining room for several hours chatting with whoever pulled up a chair, I among them.

Yogi was indeed likable, humble and easy to speak with. No pretense. He was happy to sign autographs. He bantered easily with Whitey Ford, his longtime friend and teammate, who also sat at the table.

When I had the chance to strike up a conversation with him, I was interested not in the player with Hall of Fame exploits, but in the son of Italian immigrants who settled in The Hill section of St. Louis, where one of his closest boyhood friends was another future major league catcher, Joe Garagiola. He said he and Joe played a lot of soccer, as well as baseball, together on The Hill.

He recalled growing up on The Hill, and he also talked about St. Ambrose Church in his neighborhood. You could see



NOBODY DON'T LIKE YOGI—The recent passing of Yankee great Yogi Berra led many people to share his witticisms and remember a man who was not only a great baseball player, but a war hero, loving family man, and devout Catholic who was a regular at the 5:30 Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Montclair, New Jersey.

the obvious pride he had in his father, Pietro, a stonemason born in northern Italy who settled in St. Louis.

He said the family patriarch used his manual skills to help do the stonework for the building of St. Ambrose Church way back in 1903. In fact, Yogi said with a smile expressing anticipation, he was planning to travel to St. Louis that December for the Mass commemorating the Church's 100th anniversary.

Listening to Yogi, I thought of how Bishop Thomas Daily often told people in Brooklyn and Queens who came from elsewhere, "Don't forget your roots."

Yogi never did.

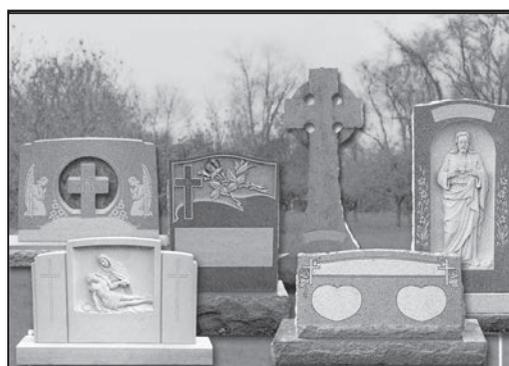
And like Gil Hodges, the beloved Dodger great whom he replaced as Mets manager when Gil died suddenly in 1972, Yogi was faithful to his Mass obligations. He was a regular at the 5:30 Mass in Immaculate Conception Church in Montclair, where his funeral Mass was celebrated this week. Yogi didn't forget his religious roots either.

It's so well-known that Yogi was a family man, lovingly married to his wife, Carmen, for some 60 years. Reflecting the other day on the words of wisdom about family life that Pope Francis shared with the faithful when he was in Philadelphia, who can doubt that the Holy Father, also the son of immigrants (and who also played soccer in his youth), would have liked Yogi.

There's another aspect of Yogi's life that stands out for me. As a 19-year-old Navy enlistee, he took part in the bloody D-Day invasion at Normandy on June 6, 1944. That fact means something to someone who grew up during The War. I have an unending admiration for all those who, like Yogi, experienced that brutal day, many of whom never came home. Yogi was more than a baseball player.

Without being judgmental about any of today's baseball players, I'd recommend that youngsters now learning to love the game would do well to pick as a role model an old-time player named Lawrence Peter "Yogi" Berra. Why? Because "Nobody Don't Like Yogi."

(Frank DeRosa is former editor of *The Tablet*, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Brooklyn. A resident of Wilton, he is a member of Our Lady of Fatima Parish.)



**TO OUR FAMILIES,
Monuments
and Markers
ARE AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE
THROUGH ANY OF OUR
CATHOLIC CEMETERY
OFFICES.**

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
OR VISIT US.**



**WE CAN GIVE YOU A FREE
ESTIMATE ON ADDING AN INSCRIPTION
TO YOUR EXISTING FAMILY MONUMENT.**

Catholic Cemeteries Diocese of Bridgeport
Administrative Office, Catholic Center
238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606

CEMETERY OFFICES

BRIDGEPORT-STRAITFORD

St. Michael Cemetery
2205 Stratford Avenue
Stratford, CT 06615
(203) 378-0404

DANBURY

St. Peter Cemetery
71 Lake Avenue Extension
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 743-9626

DARIEN

St. John Cemetery
25 Camp Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
(203) 322-0455

GREENWICH

St. Mary - Putnam Cemetery
399 North Street
Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 869-4828
(203) 869-7026

NEWTOWN

Resurrection Cemetery
c/o Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1056 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-5574

NORWALK

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

STAMFORD

Queen of Peace Cemetery
c/o St. John Cemetery
25 Camp Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
(203) 322-0455

TRUMBULL

Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1056 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-5574

WESTPORT

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

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT: OCTOBER 11—NOVEMBER 14

OCTOBER

14	Msgr. Raymond H. Guidone	1965
15	Msgr. William Schultz	2013
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
	Deacon Donald Fonseca	1989
27	Rev. Robert C. Franklin	1991
	Msgr. Thomas J. Whalen	2012
28	Deacon John Kucera	2007
29	Rev. Michael A. D'Elia	2000
30	Msgr. Leo M. Finn	1960
31	Rev. Francis D. McKenna	1989

NOVEMBER

3	Msgr. Joseph A. Heffernan	1989
	Deacon Thomas P. Freibott	2002
6	Rev. Bernard Dolan	2010
9	Rev. Stephen A. Grinvalsky	1972
	Deacon Domingo Reverón	2014
10	Rev. Gerard C. Mason	1993
11	Msgr. Victor J. Torres-Frias	1995
13	Msgr. Alphonse J. V. Fiedorczyk	1987

Sports

Lou Saccone: Excelled as athlete, coach and man

By **DON HARRISON**

The late Lou Saccone wore many hats, at least figuratively, during his decades-long career as a multi-sport athlete and coach.

Those of a certain age will recall the boy who was an outstanding all-round athlete at Bridgeport's Central High School

tency and resolve:

- Football: Saccone averaged 17.1 yards per reception across three varsity seasons, leading the team each season.
- Basketball: He was the first Purple Knight player to score more than 1,000 points, finishing with 1,512 for his four-year career (1949-53).

Fame (2008).

When George Bisacca thinks about his longtime friend, who died on September 9 at age 85, he remembers Louis J. Saccone as the loyal, invaluable assistant coach who helped Fairfield University make the quantum leap into the NCAA's Division I level in men's basketball.

"Lou was loyal and a very sound guy. We were close until he died," says Bisacca, a fulltime practicing attorney who somehow made the time to serve the Jesuit school as combination athletic director/basketball coach for a decade (1958-68). "We met as little kids; we used to play at the Middle Street Boys Club together. Our friendship really grew when we coached together. We spent a lot of time together coaching and

scouting.

"Lou was a natural-born philosopher. When we were driving together on a scouting trip, I'd philosophize for 15 minutes.... then he'd sum it up in one line."

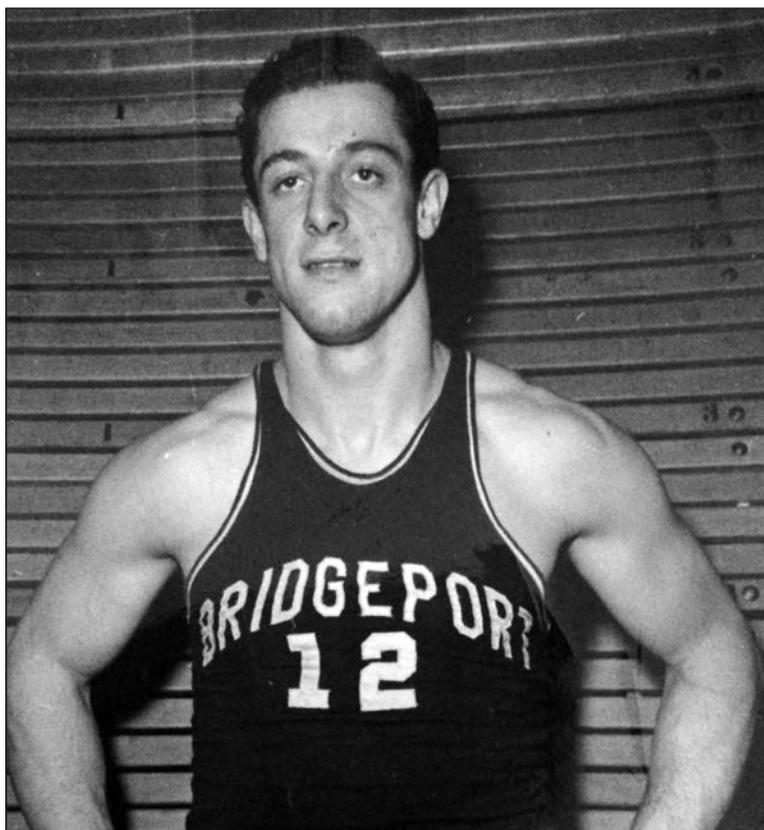
Bisacca, a seemingly ageless 87, was the driving force behind the Stags' triumphant move to Division I. With Saccone by his side, they plucked All-Staters Mike Branch and Jim Brown from Hillhouse High in New Haven, and Pat Burke and Billy Jones from Hartford Public. They landed Charlie Phillips, an All-City player at Brooklyn Prep, and Art Kenney, a 6-8 forward from Power Memorial in New York City—although they were unsuccessful in recruiting Kenney's high school teammate, Lew Alcindor.

How many of these stars were recruited by Saccone? "All of them," Bisacca says.

"The players loved Lou. He knew how to handle them. We had a lot of tough kids, but the kids liked him."

In their four years together in Division I, Bisacca and Saccone never experienced a losing season. The Stags made the jump to D-I with a 14-7 record in 1964-65, reeled off a sublime 19-5 mark the following winter (including noteworthy road victories over Boston College, Duquesne, Xavier and St. Bonaventure) and then went 12-9 and 16-10.

Saccone is survived by Sylvia, his wife of 54 years; five children, nine grandchildren, four siblings, and countless friends and admirers.



in the late 1940s, winning no fewer than 14 varsity letters. The "Iron Horse," he was called. Saccone was selected to the 1947 All-State football team as an end, but many believe he was even more talented on the basketball court.

During the spring, he emulated a renowned collegiate athlete named Jackie Robinson by competing in baseball and track on the same afternoon. He'd actually run the sprints in his baseball uniform and then return to the diamond.

"Kids like me that didn't have much," he once said, "we always had sports."

At the University of Bridgeport, Saccone excelled in no fewer than five sports—football, basketball, track, baseball and golf. Five! To recite all of the impressive numbers he put up on various fields, courts and courses would dull the senses. But here are three that attest to his consistency and resolve:

- Basketball: He averaged 13.0 rebounds per game for his career, still third highest in UB annals.

Others remember the Bridgeport-born and -raised Saccone as a mathematics teacher, football coach and golf coach at Notre Dame High School. He taught math for 35 years at the school. As head football coach, though, he was instrumental in bringing state-wide recognition to the then-new Diocese of Bridgeport high school, directing the 1964 Lancers to a 9-1 record and the Waskowitz Trophy, emblematic of high school football supremacy in the pre-playoff era.

Indeed, Saccone's myriad successes led to his induction into the athletic halls of fame at two institutions, Notre Dame (1985) and UB (1988), the Greater Bridgeport Oldtimers' Athletic Association (1990) and the Fairfield County Sports Hall of

FUNERAL GUIDE

NEIL F. HARDING
Director/Owner

Harding

FUNERAL HOME

203/227-3458
FAX 203/227-1420

210 POST ROAD EAST
WESTPORT, CT 06881

COLLINS
FUNERAL HOME

92 EAST AVENUE • NORWALK
866-0747

WILLIAM A. SKIDD WILLIAM G. LAHEY, JR.
WILLIAM R. KELLEY WILLIAM P. SKIDD
ANDREW D. SKIDD

Family owned for four generations

PRE-NEED FUNERAL PLANNING


FRED D KNAPP
A SON FUNERAL HOME

MATTHEW K. MURPHY,
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

267 GREENWICH AVENUE
GREENWICH, CT 06830
203-869-0315



"Quiet Dignity Without Extravagance"

*Affordable Direct Cremation
Title XIX Welcome*

County Cremation Service

- ✦ Family owned for three generations
- ✦ Handling every detail
- ✦ Call for free informative brochure
- ✦ In home arrangements
- ✦ 203-254-1414 or 800-542-0218
- ✦ Memorial service facility

Obituary

Father Colin McKenna, 51

Within the walls of St. Augustine Cathedral, where Father Colin McKenna had given his "yes" to the call of Christ to the priesthood, the family of faith celebrated a final farewell to God's faithful servant at a Mass of Christian Burial on September 15. Father McKenna, 51, had passed away the previous week.

"Sixteen years ago Father Colin gave his promise to be a priest and started on an unknown journey," said Father Robert Crofut, parochial vicar of St. Pius X Parish in Fairfield. "Seminary prepares us in books but not in the reality of what it means to be a priest. We answer the call, take up our cross and follow Jesus. Colin picked up his cross and followed the Lord, and he tried to lighten the cross of others in his ministry."

Father Crofut, who had

known Father McKenna since he was ordained in 1999, was the homilist at the Vigil Mass at St. Augustine.

Father McKenna grew up in Westport, attending Saugatuck Elementary and Bedford Junior High Schools, and graduated from Fairfield Prep. He majored in English at the University of Vermont, spent his junior year in Ireland at the University College in Cork, and received his master's degree in education from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

Before entering the seminary, Father McKenna taught at Immaculate High School in Danbury. He was also a popular swim coach in New Fairfield and New Canaan.

He entered St. John Fisher Seminary and completed his theological studies at Pope John XXIII National Seminary in

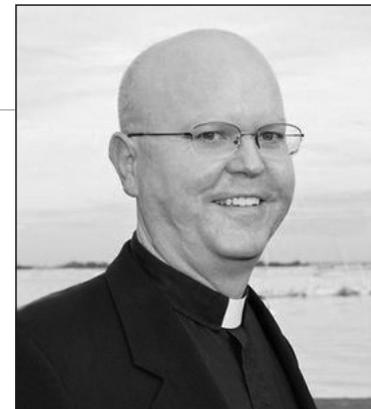
Weston, Mass. He was ordained by Bishop Edward M. Egan on May 29, 1999, at St. Augustine Cathedral.

As a deacon, he served at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Norwalk. His first assignment after ordination was as a parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish, Shelton. Subsequently, he served in the same capacity at St. Roch Parish, Greenwich, and Sacred Heart Parish, Georgetown. He also served as a chaplain at St. Vincent Hospital in Westchester, N.Y., and at area nursing homes while residing at St. Peter Parish, Danbury, and St. Mary Parish, Greenwich.

"Colin was no stranger to

suffering, and he brought a deep compassion to all who came to him, particularly those who were suffering or marginalized," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano during the Mass of Christian Burial.

The bishop recognized Father McKenna as an exceptional teacher, a wonderful writer and an articulate man not afraid to speak his mind. He brought those talents to his most recent assignment on the staff of the Communications Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport, where he contributed numerous articles and posted engaging blog entries about faith and his life as a priest. His ability to relate his thoughts and ideas in writing vividly



FATHER COLIN MCKENNA

reflected his own deep Catholic spirituality, sensitivity and love of nature.

"Say farewell to him, thank God for what he was," concluded Father Crofut. "Rest in peace, my friend, you're home."

Father McKenna is buried in the Priests' Circle of St. Michael Cemetery in Stratford. He is survived in this diocese by his mother, Tona McKenna and his brother, Eugene McKenna. ■



Why purchase memorial property now?

- *Now, because....* you and your loved ones make the decisions, not others.
- *Now, because....* you are under normal emotional circumstances.
- *Now, because....* you can purchase memorial property out of current income.
- *Now, because....* cemeteries are not exempt from escalating costs.
- *Now, because* at a time of need, cemetery property must be paid for in full before it may be used.
- *Now, because....* you will have a full selection to choose from, including community mausoleums, niches and burial plots.
- *Now, because....* purchasing a burial plot in advance offers you the opportunity to pay over one year. We offer two years **interest free**, when you purchase space in our community mausoleum. The above offer is not available for those who purchase at a time of need.
- *Now, because....* the purchase of memorial property is an inevitable task.

You can make the decision now, based on one of the above reasons, or, you can wait until you HAVE to decide. Sometime in the distant future you will be thankful you have taken care of this important matter now. For details call your local cemetery!

Catholic Cemeteries Diocese of Bridgeport
238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606 • (203) 372-4301

CEMETERY OFFICES

BRIDGEPORT-STRAFORD

St. Michael Cemetery
2205 Stratford Avenue
Stratford, CT 06615
(203) 378-0404

DANBURY

St. Peter Cemetery
71 Lake Avenue Extension
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 743-9626

DARIEN

St. John Cemetery
25 Camp Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
(203) 322-0455

GREENWICH

St. Mary - Putnam Cemetery
399 North Street
Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 869-4828
(203) 869-7026

NEWTOWN

Resurrection Cemetery
c/o Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1056 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-5574

NORWALK

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

STAMFORD

Queen of Peace Cemetery
c/o St. John Cemetery
25 Camp Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
(203) 322-0455

TRUMBULL

Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1056 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-5574

WESTPORT

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

My Baptism experience

By NICHOLAS ARROYO

My name is Nicholas Arroyo and I just started my junior year at Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport. Before I entered Kolbe, my life was a mess and I am so grateful for the opportunity not only to go to high school, but also to go to a Catholic school. Since I came to Kolbe, my life has changed 180 degrees.

As I had the chance to learn more about the Catholic faith, I wanted to become a member of the Church. I approached Father Augustine Nguyen, our chaplain, and he helped me to go through the process with the help of Olive Green, director of faith formation for the Cathedral Parish.

After months of preparations, I was ready to be baptized. When Father Augustine asked me if I would like to be baptized during a school Mass, I was nervous. The thought of having all of the students from the school watching me made me edgy. I took some time to think about if I should get baptized during a school Mass, or at a smaller class Mass.

If you knew me, you would assume I would have made the safer, less public choice and get baptized during a class Mass. Then I remembered a word of advice given to me by Father Augustine. He said to me, "If



you chose to enter the Church during a school Mass, you can inspire so many non-Catholics into becoming Catholic."

In other words, he wanted me to be a witness for others in the school to follow. That's when I really became committed to become baptized in front of the whole school during the Feast of the Ascension.

Becoming baptized was one of the most important moments in my life. I will never forget when my head was tilted and the holy water was being poured over my head. That moment I truly felt like God's child. I felt his presence and the outpouring of his love all over me.

Words cannot express how I felt during the whole ceremony. Knowing that God is watching over me and protecting me is more than anything I can ask for.

Especially during the singing of the Litany of Saints in the ceremony, that was a very moving experience for me, knowing that the saints are also praying for me.

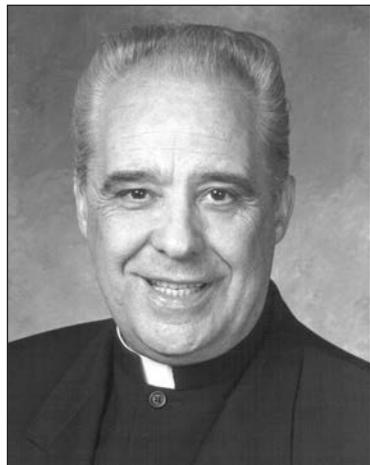
I really encourage my friends to give God a chance, to come to learn more about him and to have the courage to respond with a generous heart to follow and be his disciple. None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for the people who helped me get here. Mrs. Olive for getting me ready and teaching me everything I would need to know to become Catholic; Father Augustine; the faculty and staff at Kolbe Cathedral; my mentors and my godparents. I thank them all for making me the person I am today, following the path to success. ■

Nuestra Voz

San Pedro se despide de Mons. Villamide

El Reverendo Monseñor Aniceto Villamide culminó su misión pastoral como párroco de la Parroquia de San Pedro el 30 de junio, 2015, después de 30 años de servicio en la Diócesis de Bridgeport. El domingo 28 de junio, la parroquia de San Pedro honró a su querido párroco de una forma muy especial. Comenzando a las 7:30 am. Monseñor fue serenado con las mañanitas por un grupo de feligreses. Después, todos lo acompañaron a la iglesia donde se arrodillaron enfrente del Santísimo y rezaron una oración muy especial por su pastor. A las 11:30 am se celebró una Misa solemne en Acción de Gracias por haber tenido a Monseñor Villamide como párroco durante los últimos 30 años. La Misa fue concelebrada por varios sacerdotes y diáconos de nuestra Diócesis y de Washington. La iglesia se llenó de feligreses y amigos; entre ellos algunos que vinieron de Florida, Puerto Rico, Carolina del sur y Nueva York. Durante su homilía, Monseñor dio gracias a esa comunidad de creyentes por haberle permitido caminar con ellos el camino de la fe, y por haber sido un instrumento tan especial en su vida sacerdotal. La Bendición Papal Apostólica fue presentada a Monseñor por sus feligreses, y los niños de la parroquia le dedicaron una canción. Después de la Misa, se llevó a cabo una recepción en el salón parroquial donde Monseñor fue recibido por un grupo de mariachis y cientos de feligreses y amigos que tuvieron la oportunidad de expresarle su amor, apoyo, cariño y agradecimiento. Los feligreses de San Pedro también honraron a su párroco esa noche con una cena y recepción en 'Vazzano's Four Seasons' donde presentaron un programa muy especial con bailes típicos, poemas, canciones, presentaciones y regalos. Fue un día muy emocionante para todos, especialmente para Monseñor Villamide.

Monseñor es un verdadero discípulo y misionero de Cristo. Es un sacerdote escogido por Dios desde toda la eternidad para cumplir la misión de llevar su amor y su perdón a todos los hombres. Un sacerdote santo, un hombre de fe y un hombre de



MONSEÑOR ANICETO VILLAMIDE

Dios. Un sacerdote que ha dado siempre lo mejor de sí. Igual que Pedro fue la roca de los primeros cristianos, Monseñor Villamide ha sido la roca de la Iglesia de San Pedro. Él ha guiado a su pueblo con firmeza, convicción y rectitud. Sobre todo, los ha guiado con fe, amor, compasión, humildad y caridad. Monseñor

es un sacerdote convencido de lo que emprende, lanzándose a caminar sin miedos, y con amor hacia aquellos más necesitados. Él es un pastor que ha guiado su rebaño hacia Jesús. Un sacerdote que siempre ha irradiado amor, ha sembrado la paz, y ha predicado la justicia. Un sacerdote santo que ha arrastrado a su pueblo hacia Dios y lo ha hecho fervoroso. Un hombre de la Palabra de Dios y del misterio de la fe, y un testigo de la misericordia divina.

Sus feligreses no le decimos adiós, sino que le decimos "GRACIAS". Gracias Monseñor, por la alegría de la fe con la que ha contagiado nuestras vidas. Gracias por habernos enseñado a amar a Jesús de un modo más profundo y auténtico. Gracias por todo el bien que ha sembrado durante más de 30 años con nosotros. Queremos que sepa que sus palabras y sus acciones han llevado por el buen camino a muchos. Es mucho lo

que ha hecho por este pueblo, no solamente por nuestra parroquia, sino que también por la comunidad hispana en la Diócesis de Bridgeport. Gracias a Monseñor Villamide conocemos, valoramos, y amamos nuestra fe. Agradecemos y valoramos su trabajo incansable, comprometido con amor al prójimo y con la convicción de la misión de llevar almas al Señor. Usted nos ha impactado e inspirado con su ejemplo de fe, testimonio, fidelidad y dedicación a su sacerdocio; y su entrega, amor, y servicio a la Iglesia. Monseñor siempre nos ha mostrado el amor de Dios, que es un amor incondicional, nos ha enseñado a vivir en comunidad, nos ha hecho conocer y vivir la Palabra de Dios, y nos ha acercado a la Eucaristía.

Lo que ha sembrado ha dado mucho fruto. San Pedro es una comunidad de gran fe gracias al trabajo incansable de nuestro pastor. Tenemos muchas

personas muy bien preparadas con la capacidad de ser buenos líderes en la Iglesia gracias a él y a su liderazgo. San Pedro es quien es hoy gracias a Monseñor Villamide. Sabemos que toda etapa en la vida llega a su final, y este es su momento. Queremos que sepa que vamos a extrañar muchísimo su presencia entre nosotros. La parroquia de San Pedro jamás será la misma. Nos deja con un gran vacío en nuestros corazones. Usted no solamente ha sido nuestro pastor, sino que ha sido nuestro Padre.

Monseñor, todavía tiene mucho que dar a la Iglesia y el Señor tiene planes para usted en España. Le damos gracias de todo corazón por ser quien es; un sacerdote único, un sacerdote santo con un gran corazón. Que Dios lo bendiga y que la Santísima Virgen María lo acompañe en su camino. Lo queremos y lo extrañaremos. Sus feligreses y amigos. ■

Alegría a la fiesta para Mons. Bernelli

"No me estoy retirando, me ordenaron sacerdote por vida, solamente me estoy retirando de ser párroco." Con estas palabras Mons. Matthew Bernelli le contestaba a la gente cuando le preguntaban si era verdad que él se retiraba, y al mismo tiempo dejando saber que no quería nada de fiesta de retiro. Sin embargo, sus feligreses no pudieron aceptar que el dejara de ser párroco sin tener la oportunidad de reconocer los más de 35 años que se ha dedicado a la familia de Santa María y expresar su amor y aprecio por todo lo que ha hecho. Por lo tanto, el 20 de junio se celebró una pequeña fiesta en el salón parroquial.

Feligreses y amigos de lugares tan lejanos como Puerto Rico, Florida y Georgia llegaron a compartir y mostrar su apoyo a su amigo, sacerdote y pastor. Fue un tiempo para recordar y compartir muchos recuerdos de todos los buenos momentos, el trabajo duro, grandes logros y éxitos todos dirigidos por nuestro líder pasto-



A CHANCE TO GREET old friends and share memories was at the heart of Msgr. Matthew Bernelli's retirement party in St. Mary's parish hall in Bridgeport.

ral valiente e incansable.

Uno de los suyos y nuestros mayores logros fue la construcción de nuestra nueva Iglesia, ¡y el pago de la hipoteca! Tomó años de eventos recaudando fondos, tales como, bailes, concursos, rifas, festivales, (a veces con hasta seis en un verano) y participando en varios otros en la comunidad.

Otros recordaron nuestras muchas fiestas y celebraciones, como las procesiones de la calle con los caballos y los hombres vestidos como soldados en el

Viernes Santo (con sol, lluvia o nieve), las muchas celebraciones religiosas culturales durante las misas, lo que garantiza que todos se sientan incluido y reconocido como una verdadera familia de Dios, el día de Acción de Gracias, los desfiles de los diferentes inmigrantes, y lo más querido de Monseñor, Navidad.

Monseñor dirigió personalmente los ensayos del coro con mandolinas y violines! Dirigió el grupo de voluntarios hasta las montañas para obtener el musgo para su portal navideño que

muestra cada año delante del altar. Su colección de figuritas en movimiento es la atracción principal y uno que los feligreses esperan todos los años, a medida que tratan de encontrar la nueva pieza que se ha agregado.

La atención de los detalles del Monseñor es excelente y de primera. Él pone todos sus esfuerzos a todo lo que hace; es realmente un trabajo de amor y se nota. Ninguna tarea es demasiado grande o demasiado pequeña. Él siempre dijo a sus feligreses a recordar que ellos no son la minoría, que son la mayoría, y que puede lograr lo que sus corazones desean. Por sus 35 años de orientación, su fe en nosotros, su amor y dedicación, queremos decir "GRACIAS Monseñor por todo lo que has hecho por la comunidad de Santa María y los unimos con sus propias palabras de su última misa como nuestro pastor, ¡NOSOTROS TAMBIÉN TE AMAMOS!"

(Este artículo fue hecho en colaboración con feligreses María Alicea, Luz Cordero, Janette Ortiz y Sonia Rodríguez.) ■

Column: Joe Pisani



Caring for the elderly, the old-fashioned way

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

On the Feast of the Holy Family, when they read from the Book of Sirach at Mass, I always urge my four daughters to listen carefully—and take notes.

The author, Ben Sira, could have been president of AARP or an activist for elder rights. He was a Jewish sage from Jerusalem whose moral teachings are still timely 2200 years later.

“God sets a father in honor over his children,” he wrote. “Whoever honors his father atones for sins and preserves himself from them. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his

mother.

“My son (or daughter, I would add), take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten.”

That’s a message for all ages, but it is especially relevant in the 21st century, when Alzheimer’s is expected to become a global epidemic.

Care of the elderly will be a monumental concern as the 76 million Baby Boomers enter their senior years. We live in an era of increased longevity when the average life span approaches 80. Most people born today will live 40 years longer than

someone born in 1900. There are almost six million Americans over 85 and society hasn’t begun to address the so-called “Age Wave.”

I thought of Ben Sira’s teachings recently when I attended a presentation about caring for the elderly. One approach that is gaining attention involves ... robots.

A model that sells for \$500 is advertised as the ideal home companion for lonely old people. This family robot, which resembles a small waste paper basket with a large eye like a Cyclops, has the kind of digitized voice you hear in Pixar movies, and it can give consoling good-night messages. The device whirls and twirls, takes pictures and does family chores.

He was so amusing I considered buying him for my wife and dog, so we could play robot games together. My wife loves Scrabble and the dog loves fetch. But the robot doesn’t have arms, so I’m not sure he can throw the tennis ball. Plus, I have a sneaking suspicion the dog would be less tolerant and might try to bite his little robot head.

Another demonstration fea-

tured a doctor “avatar” on a computer monitor that was talking to an elderly man about the importance of taking his medication. The fellow had no problem carrying on a conversation with a digitized character that looked like Aunt Bea from the “Andy Griffith Show.”

I can’t imagine what my father would have done if we planted a iPad by his bed and had some cartoon character pop up to nag him about taking his pills. I had to wonder whether this is what Ben Sira had in mind when he said, “Take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives.”

In an era obsessed with artificial intelligence and technological gadgets, we’ll do anything to avoid our true responsibilities as people, who are called to love and care for one another. Despite what the slick marketing and promotional campaigns suggest, robots can’t really love. They don’t feel genuine compassion, and even though they can mimic human behavior, love comes from God, not computer programmers. And love and compassion are what the elderly need most in a society where there’s

widespread lack of respect for human life at its beginning and at its end.

Pope Francis has been particularly vocal in criticizing those who neglect their responsibility to the elderly and who advance euthanasia as a solution for dealing with the infirm and terminal-ly ill.

He said, “The human person is always precious, even if marked by age and sickness. The human person, in fact, in whatever circumstance, is good in and of himself and for others, and is loved by God. For this reason, when life becomes very fragile and the end of earthly existence approaches, we feel the responsibility to assist and accompany the person in the best way.

“The biblical commandment that requires us to honor our parents reminds us of the honor we must show to all elderly people. The Bible reserves a severe warning for those who neglect or mistreat their parents. The same judgment applies today when parents, having become older and less useful, are marginalized to the point of abandonment.”

Ben Sira would surely have agreed. ■

ST MARGARET SHRINE

a diocesan shrine

3rd Annual Roast

Roasting Jerry Ferrante and Nick Mastroianni in the tradition of Dean Martin

Sunday, November 8, 1pm

- \$50 per person
- Dinner, Raffle, Auction
- Oronoque Country Club, Stratford

“great fun for a great cause—our diocesan shrine”
Bishop Caggiano

“a witty and entertaining afternoon”
Deacon Don Foust

2523 Park Ave, Bpt 203-333-9627 SaintMargaretShrine@gmail.com

Masses: Mon–Sat 8:15am, Sat Vigil 4pm, Sunday 8, 9:30 (Italian), 11am

Come for a visit, tour, retreat, or day of prayer.

We are the proud printers of the
Fairfield County Catholic for the past 20 years.

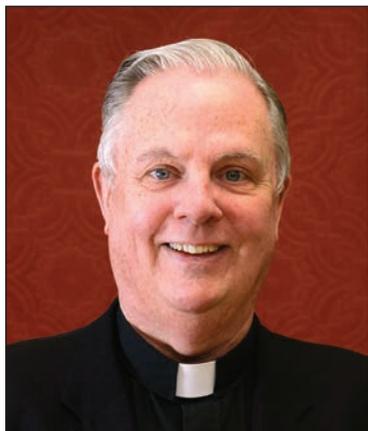


- Newspapers
- Publications
- Shoppers
- Catalogs
- Magazines
- Directories
- Coupon Books
- College Course Catalogs
- Business & Financial Periodicals
- Free Standing Inserts
- Advertising Supplements

205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull CT 06611
203.261.2548
www.trumbullprinting.com

Call us for a free quote

Guest Columnist



'Cry with my people'

GUEST COLUMNIST

BY MSGR. J. PETER CULLEN

Msgr. Cullen is the retired pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Greenwich.

In August, as state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, I attended the Knights convention in Philadelphia. The speakers, the archbishops of Iraq and Syria, made us painfully aware of the violence in their homeland and the danger of Christian presence and the celebration of the Eucharist coming

going to Rome.

Come with me to the lands of our heritage. Chaldean Archbishop of Erbil, Bashar Matti Warda, C.Ss.R., and Greek Melkite Archbishop of Aleppo, Jean-Clément Jeanbart, came to our assembly to give witness to the faith and sacrifice and suffering of Christians in their



CHRISTIANS DISPLACED in the face of religious persecution receive aid through the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund.

to an end in the Middle East.

So come with me to Iraq and Syria. But before we begin that little journey, let me call to your mind the five weeks of Gospels proclaimed during this summer on the Bread of Life and Jesus' words, "whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood," will live forever

The Word of Life and the Eucharist nourish us as often as we want. This Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus began in the Middle East—Jerusalem first, then in Syria and Iraq. This is the land of our Christian heritage. Abraham came from Ur of the Chaldees, that ancient town in Iraq. The story of Jonah and the whale is about God's call to Jonah to preach in Nineveh, near the modern city of Mosul. St. Paul was on his way to Syria when he was thrown down and converted. St. Peter was the first Bishop of Antioch, Syria, before

Archdioceses and the Middle East.

Erbil is north of Bagdad and close to Mosul. Archbishop Warda told us that St. Thomas the Apostle brought the Christian faith to Mosul 2,000 years ago. Christians have called Mosul home for 2,000 years. Today not one Christian is left. Many have had their throats slit, been beheaded or buried alive and thousands have fled. Those who fled have need of food, shelter, and medical care. In Iraq, the Christian population has fallen from 1.5 million to less than 400,000.

Archbishop Jeanbart quoted Pope Francis calling the violence and martyrdom of Christians "genocide." What is their only crime? It is to believe in the One who 2,000 years ago taught us to love our neighbor and who gives us the Bread of Life—his Body

and Blood. In Syria 10 percent of the population was Christian. Violence against Christians has caused a refugee crisis. Recently the *New York Times* ran an article: "Is This the End of Christianity in the Middle East?"

"What is the West waiting for before it intervenes? What are the great nations waiting for before they put a halt to these monstrosities?" asks Archbishop Jeanbart. "Let me cry with my people, violated and murdered. May all who believe in the Good and Merciful God, and with compassion for the innocent, raise their voice with us and call on civilized countries to take action to bring about peace before it is too late and more innocent victims added to this gruesome spectacle."

The archbishops of Erbil and Aleppo are desperate for understanding and help. On the verge of tears, they repeated over and over again that the world remains largely silent. The cries from the Archbishops and the refugees remain largely unheard.

There is muted reaction from the White House. On one occasion when ISIS targeted Egyptian Christians and beheaded a dozen or more of them precisely because they were Christians, the response from our government spokespeople was how sad that those Egyptian "citizens" were killed. Yes, they were citizens, but they were martyred because they were Christians. In the face of the danger that could end Christianity in the Middle East and the destruction of the ancient patrimony of our faith the lack of international response is shocking.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said "the blood of these martyrs cries out to heaven for justice. And the blood of these martyrs cries out to you and me for help." The Knights will redouble their efforts to bring aid to the victims and begin an education campaign to expose these crimes against humanity.

I had a brief opportunity to meet Archbishop Jeanbart of Aleppo at the convention. I took his hand and promised him that I would keep him in my daily prayers. He prayed over me in his language and traced the sign of the cross on my forehead with his thumb. I cannot give a label to my emotion but I know it was

a grace from God. I can almost feel the suffering and desperation of my brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

We believe that in the Eucharist we celebrate each Sunday, we receive the crucified and risen Jesus Christ, drawing us to himself. Let's renew our faith and joyful response to Christ who taught us love of neighbor and gave us the Bread of Life. Let us pray for the grace and strength God gives us to follow him as true disciples. Let us make an effort to learn about the events in the Middle East. Read and study all you can. Be educated, be generous and let the cries of Middle East Christians be heard in your hearts and in your parishes.

(To learn more about the crisis in the Middle East, or to donate to the Knights of Columbus relief efforts, go to www.kofc.org/en/christianRelief or #ChristiansAtRisk.)

Plight of Christians in the Middle East

George Marlin, author of "Christian Persecutions in the Middle East: A 21st Century Tragedy," will speak on Wednesday, October 28, from 7-8:30 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside. For reservations, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/plight-of-Christians-in-the-middle-east-what-we-need-to-know-today-registration-18033610013.

CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

UNITED SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING, INC.

RESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DRAIN CLEANING

MUNICIPAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE • LICENSED & INSURED

377-8704

or 1-800-422-3724

Office: 534 Surf Avenue • Stratford

- CATCH BASIN CLEANING
- HIGH VELOCITY WATER JETTING
- LARGE DIAMETER POWER RODDING

- TV PIPE INSPECTION
- AIR TESTING
- JET RODDING
- VACTOR SERVICE



SINCE 1963



FREE WINTER STORAGE of Boat & Patio Cushions

When we clean & sanitize them

Norwalk (203) 847-8000
Stamford (203) 327-7471
Stratford (203) 375-3737

www.triplesclean.com

Home PC & Mac Help

Magtype Computer Resources
A division of Magtype LLC

Computer Systems, Networks,
E-mail, Internet, Training & Tutoring

MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC DISCOUNT!

203.377.7908 ext: 112

www.magtype.com

Bits & Pieces

DIA DE LA RAZA, a Columbus Day celebration featuring an international festival of foods and cultures, will be held at St. Mary Parish, Bridgeport, on Sun., **Oct. 11**, at 12:30. Food, music and cultural specialties. For more info, call the parish: 203.334.8811.

33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY: A 6-week consecration to Mary, to be held Tues. mornings starting **Oct. 13**, at 9:15 am at St. Cecilia Parish, Stamford. This retreat will bless even the busiest of people. Cost: workbook, \$20; '33 Days to Morning Glory' book, \$5. For more info or to register, contact Vicki

Alton: Vickia@optonline.net or 203.322.8526.

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS of Greater Danbury (ages 18-35) meets at The Newman Center (off the campus of Western CT State University) #7 8th Avenue, Danbury. Praise and Worship Holy Hour, Tues., **Oct. 13**, from 6:30-8:30 pm, followed by a social. Medieval Masquerade: costumes, food, games dancing, Tues., **Oct. 27**, 6:30-9 pm; current events discussion (with ice cream) with Fr. Andy Vill, Tues., **Nov. 10**, 6:30-8:30. For more info, go to catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or call 203.417.2695.

ENCOURAGE apostolate for friends and family of loved ones with same sex attractions meets the third Saturday of the month (**Oct. 17**) at 10:30 am and is strictly confidential. For more info, contact the Norwalk chapter: EncourageNorwalk@gmail.com.

MASSES OF HEALING AND HOPE will be celebrated Mon., **Oct. 19**, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Fr. Larry Carew; Mon., **Nov. 9**, at 7:30 pm, at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, with Fr. Ed Nadolny; and Mon., **Nov. 16**, at 7:30 pm, at Christ the King with Fr. Carew. For more info, contact the Charismatic Renewal Office: 203.268.8253.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS are held around the diocese: Mon., **Oct. 19**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, at 7:30 pm; Thurs., **Nov. 5**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, at 7 pm; Mon., **Nov. 16**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, at 7:30 pm; and Thurs., **Nov. 19**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, at 7:30 pm. For more info, contact Anne Marie: amromano@att.net.

WOMEN'S GROUP at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, will meet on Mon., **Oct. 19**, at 10 am in the parish hall. Featured speaker will be Robert Novak, local historian, who will speak on "Yesterday's Headlines." All welcome. For more info, call Pat: 203.261.8020.

GREENWICH CATHOLIC SCHOOL Imagine Campaign will sponsor a cocktail reception and dinner with Bishop Caggiano on Wed., **Nov. 4**, at Tamarak Country Club, 55 Locust Rd., Greenwich. 6-7 pm, cocktail reception, 7-9 pm dinner. RSVP by Wed., **Oct. 21**. For more info or for reservations, visit www.

Bishop to speak at B'nai Israel

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be guest speaker on Fri., **Oct. 23**, during the Shabbat service at Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport. His speech will commemorate the 50th anniversary of a historic Vatican document, Nostra Aetate (In Our Day), which created sweeping changes in the teachings of the Catholic Church and its relationship with Jews.

The bishop will speak during the 6 pm Sabbath service and again during a private dinner that evening at the Temple, greater Bridgeport area's oldest and largest synagogue, located at 2710 Park Ave., Bridgeport. The bishop's remarks will focus on the importance of the Nostra Aetate proclamation on Oct. 28, 1965 by Pope Paul VI.

"We're deeply honored Bishop Caggiano will join us. Since coming to the area he has done much to build bridges of learning and tolerance throughout the community," said Rabbi James Prosnit, spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Israel.

gcsc.org/imagine.html.

FIRESWORD MINISTRIES CONCERT with the Vince Defelice Band will take place at Assumption Parish, Fairfield, on Sat., **Oct. 24**. Mass: 4 pm; pizza, 5 pm; concert 6 pm. Cost: pre-sale, \$10 (online at www.thevincedefeliceband.com or at Assumption parish office); \$15 at the door. For more info, check out the website or call FireSword Ministries: 203.836.4405.

HARVEST CRAFT FAIR held at St. Mary Parish, Stamford, on Sat., **Oct. 24**, from 9 am-3 pm. For more info or for reservations, contact Sharon MacKnight: 203.327.1806 or smacknight@optonline.net.

ARE YOU CALLED to be a Franciscan? St. Mary of the Angels Secular Franciscan Fraternity invites you to join them on the fourth Sunday of each month (**Oct. 25**) for the 9 am Mass at Vikingsborg/St. Birgitta's, 4 Rukenhage Road, Darien, followed by coffee and meeting. For more info, call Anita Field: 203.938.0874 or red-

dingglen2@optonline.net.

RAKE n BAKE 16th annual community service project in the Brookfield/Danbury area is accepting registrations for the **Nov. 14** event. Scout troops, sports teams, youth groups, Church groups, and neighborhood teams are welcome, along with individual volunteers. Registration closes on Tues., **Nov. 3**. To register go to www.hdhm.org/rake-n-bake-2015-registration/. For more info on the Handy Dandy Handyman Ministry, go to www.hdhm.org.

FIRST FRIDAY LECTURE at St. Luke Parish, Westport, will take place Fri., **Nov. 6**, at 7:30 pm. "Pope Francis: Mercy, Compassion and Tenderness" will be preceded by a wine and cheese reception at 7 pm. For more info, call 203.255.6981 or marymadelyn1@att.net.

VETERANS' DAY MASS and blessing at St. Margaret Shrine, Bridgeport, Sat., **Nov. 7**, at 12:15 pm. For more info, call 203.345.3244.

SPIRITS OF HOPE wine,

HONDA

By *Curtiss*Ryan*

www.curtissryan.com

ONE OF CT'S LARGEST VOLUME HONDA DEALERS

CT'S FIRST ESTABLISHED HONDA DEALER • APRIL 1973

- Open All Day Saturday for Service & Parts
- Senior Citizen Discount

333 Bridgeport Ave • Shelton
M-Th 9am-9pm • Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-5pm

CALL CURTISS RYAN AT

1-800-523-4190

203-929-1484

NEW & USED VEHICLES • SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • BODY SHOP

The Art of Illustration

COLUMBIA'S COVER STORY

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM

1 State Street, New Haven • 203-865-0400 • kofcmuseum.org

Open Daily: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Free Admission & Parking • Gift Shop

SCHOOLS & GROUPS WELCOME

Bits & Pieces

beer and hors d'oeuvres tasting to benefit Kolbe Cathedral's athletic program, held Sat., **Nov. 7**, from 6:30-9:30 at Kolbe, 33 Calhoun Place, Bridgeport. Tickets: \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. For more info or for tickets, go to www.kolbecaths.org/alumni or call the school: 203.335.2554.

CHRISTMAS FAIR at our Lady of Good Counsel, Bridgeport, Sat., **Nov. 14**, from 11 am-6 pm. Vendors, raffle, White Elephant corner, baked goods. Hot lunch available. Vendor tables: \$25. For more info or to reserve a vendor table, call Migdalia: 203.372.4854.

VENDORS NEEDED for St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, holiday craft fair and bazaar, Sat., **Nov. 14**, from 10 am-4 pm. For more info, contact Pat: 203.775.9236 or visit www.stmarguerite.org.

CATHOLIC UNDERGROUND will meet on Sat., **Nov. 14**, at Sacred Heart Church in Danbury. For more info, visit: www.catholicunderground.net/home.html.

WINE TASTING to benefit Caroline House, held Fri., **Nov. 20**, from 7-10 pm at the Fairfield Museum & History Center, 370

Beach Road, Fairfield. Tickets: \$40; available at www.thecarolinehouse.org.

WORKSHOP: "Spirituality and the World's Major Religions" held Sat., **Nov. 21**, from 9 am-5 pm at St. James Parish, Stratford. Presenters are Dr. Sr. Patty Cook, RSM and Dr. Maria Decsy. Cost: \$50 prepaid; \$60 day of event. Includes lunch. For more info or to register, call the parish: 203.375.5887.

WOMEN SUFFERING from a past abortion can begin a healing journey and experience God's love at "Entering Canaan" a day of prayer and healing, on Sat., **Nov. 21**. Time and location are confidential. For more info or to register, call the confidential phone line: 203.416.1619 or email projectrachel@diobpt.org.

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND with Fr. Arthur Mollenhauer, **Feb. 11-21, 2016**. Cost: \$3,285 includes round-trip flight from NY, 8 nights' accommodation double occupancy w/ breakfast and dinner, most lunches, guide, transportation, entrance fees and tips. For more info, call Sharon MacKnight: 203.327.1806 or email smacknight@optonline.net.



IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL



I AM SCHOLARLY



I AM ATHLETIC



I AM TALENTED



I AM FAITHFUL

DISCOVER YOUR 2020 VISION!

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 18th @ 11:00am

MUSTANG FOR A DAY

Visits Begin Late September

ENTRANCE EXAM (HSPT)

Saturday, October 31st & November 14th @ 8:00am

Immaculate High School
73 Southern Boulevard
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 744-1510

www.immaculatehs.org • info@immaculatehs.org

Independent Senior Living Communities in Trumbull, CT

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

Maintaining your independence and helping you enjoy your life is our main goal at Carmel Ridge and Teresian Towers. Located on the grounds of St. Joseph's Center, our unique independent senior communities provide the supportive environment you may need to live life to its fullest.

Amenities

- ◆ 24-hour emergency maintenance
- ◆ 24-hour emergency medical monitoring
- ◆ On-site management
- ◆ Activities coordinator
- ◆ On-site chapel
- ◆ Optional meal plan
- ◆ Library
- ◆ Community room
- ◆ Swimming pool and nearby golfing

Call today for more information,
203-261-2229 in Connecticut,
or 1-800-852-3866 out of state.

Inquire about our Rentals, starting
from \$1,150 per month, or our
Life Use Units from \$58,000.

Teresian Towers & Carmel Ridge

6454 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611



A non-denominational facility owned by the Archdiocese of Bridgeport. Professionally managed by WinnResidential.



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Starring
THE NEW YORK TENORS
DANIEL RODRIGUEZ
ANDY COONEY
CHRISTOPHER MACCHIO

THE BIG APPLE ORCHESTRA
with Musical Director **AARON GANDY**

Special Guest
ACTOR/COMEDIAN
JIM LABRIOLA

Palace Theater
Wed., December 9 • 7:30PM
PalaceStamford.org • 203-325-4466
61 Atlantic Street, Stamford, CT 06901

All concert proceeds benefit Malta House

planMYcare.com

Schedule Urgent Care
Appointments Online



St. Vincent's
Medical Center



Bridgeport • Fairfield • Monroe
Shelton • Stratford • Milford