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(Photos by Amy Mortensen)
Local News

Fan the Fire inspires faith

A Legacy Gift makes an impact on seminary

FAIRFIELD—“The seminarians are our future and I want to be part of that by supporting them,” says Susan Barrett, retired educator and state legislator who has chosen to remember the seminarians in her will.

She recently notified the diocese that she will be leaving a gift to the St. John Fisher Seminary Residence in Stamford to support vocations in Fairfield County.

A lifelong Fairfield resident and a proud member of the first class of Holy Family School, Barrett says she chose to remember the diocese through her estate because it will enable her to make a larger gift than she could make in life, and it will keep on giving when she is gone.

Jeff Machi, diocesan director of development, says that Legacy Gifts are a great way for people to support the work of the church through wills and bequests, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts and retirement plan assets that enable even people of modest means to have a major impact on diocesan programs and services.

“These gifts ensure that the vital ministries of the diocese will be there in the future. They represent a powerful legacy along with lasting personal generosity,” Machi says.

Barrett first became interested in St. John Fisher when a young man from her parish, now Fr. Jeff Couture, began his studies there for the priesthood. She saw how the seminary supports local vocations and the kind of formation experiences it provides.

“I was there for his ordination,” she says, “Now Fr. Couture serves at St. Mary’s in Bethel. He had such good guidance while at St. John Fisher. For me, that’s a strong personal connection.”

Barrett has attended Mass and other events at St. John Fisher, which now has 17 seminarians in residence and a total of 38 men involved in its programs. She always finds the atmosphere very welcoming, prayerful, and affirmative.

“Fr. Bob Kinnally has done a great job with the seminarians,” says Barrett.

“Fr. Bob Kinnally has done a great job with the seminarians.”

Barrett is proud of being the first female parish council president of Holy Family Parish, where her 90-year-old father, William Rusher Barrett, still serves as an usher. She also continues to serve as a Eucharistic Minister and usher.

Being Catholic has been the center of her life, and she has fond memories of attending Mass and prayer services with her late mother, Wilma, her father and her brother, William Jr. “We were always very involved with the parish. Dad remembers the little mission church. We prayed together as a family, and we always knew we could count on the Church,” she says.

“I’m not a wealthy person,” says Barrett, a retired teacher who now lives on a fixed income, which is challenging in Fairfield County, “but remembering the seminary in my will is a way of making a donation when I’m no longer here. When my final day comes, I’ll have the certainty of my gift going to the Church.”

(Legacy Gifts are permanently recognized through enrollment in the Perpetual Light Society. For more information on making a Legacy Gift, contact the Development Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport CT 06606-2892, or call 203.416.1472.)
Local News

Blue Mass to Commemorate 9/11

BRIDGEPORT—The Annual Diocesan Blue Mass honoring fire, police and rescue workers will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2012 at St. Aloysius Church, 40 Maple Street, New Canaan, at 11:30 am. A reception follows at the Stapleton Hall adjacent to the church.

The Mass will be celebrated by Msgr. Jerald Doyle, diocesan administrator, and area priests who serve as chaplains for local fire, police and rescue companies.

The annual Blue Mass was initiated by Bishop Lori to commemorate the lives of those who died in the tragedy of 9/11/2001.

Law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service personnel of Fairfield County of all faiths are invited to attend the Mass and reception.

During the Mass, special awards will be presented to Police Officer Jeffrey Deak, New Canaan Police Department; Captain Michael Socci, New Canaan Fire Department; and Emergency Medical Technician Grant Nelson, Darien Emergency Medical Services.

The Blue Mass takes its name from the blue uniforms worn by police, fire and emergency services personnel who are honored and prayed for at the yearly mass and reception. The honorees of all faiths were nominated by their respective chiefs and chosen from among more than 90 police, fire and EMS departments in Fairfield County. They have been selected for the award because of their heroism and sacrifice for others.

“Each time I see a patrol car or hear a fire engine or an ambulance, I realize that men and women have heard the Lord’s call to ‘love one another.’ In the words of the Lord, ‘No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’ (John 15:13). Msgr. Doyle said in his invitation to uniformed personnel, “we shall also remember those who died in the tragedy of 9-11, eleven years ago.”

“The Blue Mass is an occasion to affirm and encourage you and all who continue in that noble duty of protecting the life and property of your fellow citizens. I personally want to thank you for your devoted service,” he said

Serving as 2011 Blue Mass chairs are Fr. Robert Post of St. Thomas More Parish in Darien, chaplain for Stamford Fire & Rescue Department; Sir Knight Michael F. Basso, Past District Deputy 36; and Deacon John J. Moranski, chaplain Bridgeport Police Department.

Chaplains of the Fairfield County fire, police and emergency medical service Departments include: Fr. Charles Allen, S.J. Fairfield police; Fr. Richard Futie, Stamford police; Fr. Tom Lynch, Stratford fire; Fr. Joseph Malloy, Bridgeport fire; Msgr. Frank McGrath, Westport fire and police and Noroton fire; Deacon John Moranski, Bridgeport police; Deacon William Murphy, Germantown (Danbury) fire; and Fr. Raymond Petrucci, Danbury police.

The Blue Mass is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Fourth Degree Knights from various assemblies will process into the Mass with emergency personnel and bagpipers.

The Mass of Thanksgiving reception is sponsored by the Assemblies of the Knights of Columbus.

(To learn more about this event, contact Joan Talamelli: 204.416.1358.)

Schools welcome three new principals

BRIDGEPORT—The Office for Education of the Diocese of Bridgeport has announced three new interim principals for the 2012-13 school year. “Each of the interim principals is grounded in our Catholic faith and tradition as well as being an experienced Catholic school educator,” says Dr. Margaret Dames, superintendent of schools. “They will provide the schools with strong leadership and bring their unique gifts to the school community while we initiate the collaborative search process.”

St. Joseph School, Brookfield

Mary Jo Bokuniewicz is the new principal of St. Joseph School in Brookfield. Parents and students already know her well, as she first came to the school as interim principal during St. Joseph’s spring semester. Prior to her appointment at St. Joseph, Bokuniewicz was assistant principal at St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown.

She and her husband, Ed, and two college-age children live in Newtown, where they are members of St. Rose Parish.

Born in Joliet, Ill, Bokuniewicz graduated from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill. She majored in accounting, with a minor in computer science. Taking a job at Arthur Andersen & Co. accounting firm Chicago, she worked in software development, support and training, becoming senior manager and international liaison. While at Arthur Anderson, her group developed the first CDROM technology used in the accounting field.

When the family moved to Connecticut, Bokuniewicz took the opportunity to pursue a new life path. When her children enrolled in St Rose of Lima, she became a resource and study skills teacher there, giving children the skill and tools they needed, just as she had for auditors during her business career. Starting in 2003 she became a first grade teacher, holding that position for eight years before becoming assistant principal.

Bokuniewicz was on the technology team assessing the introduction of iPads on the pre-K and kindergarten level in a pilot program conducted at St. Rose. With the support of her teachers, she has already made the commitment to make St. Joseph’s an outstanding STEM school. St. Joseph hosted a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fair in May, with projects delivered by students in Pre-K through eighth grade.

A lifelong learner, Bokuniewicz will be continuing her own educational pursuits at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield this fall, working on a master’s degree in literacy and pursuing coursework toward a 092 certification.

“St. Joseph’s is every new principal’s dream,” she says. “We’re blessed to have dedicated, passionate teachers. Our pastor, Fr. Chip O’Neil, is a driving force behind the growth of the school, and we have the support of a strong parent and parish community. The children of St. Joseph’s are fortunate to have such strong encouragement in their academic and spiritual growth.”

St. Jude School, Monroe

Patricia Ann Griffin is the new principal of St. Jude School in Monroe. A native of Massachusetts, she holds her bachelor’s degree in elementary education.

Continued on page 16
Local News

Basilica painting project completed

By MSGR. STEPHEN DiGIOVANNI
(Msgr. DiGiovanni is the pastor of St. John the Evangelist Basilica in Stamford.)

STAMFORD—The newly-repainted Victorian Gothic Revival Basilica of St. John the Evangelist is complete! It is a beautiful gift and a statement that God is very real, and we did it in the same manner as did the earliest parishioners: giving our best to God, in our own way.

The parish church of St. John was built in its own idiosyncratic version of English Gothic beginning in the 1870s. Originally designed to be the largest stone church in New England by James Murphy, the region’s premier ecclesiastical architect, the project ran out of money, with only the basement church and lower course of the side walls and transepts completed in stone.

It had been decided to end the work, capping the stunted building with a flat roof, when a parishioner volunteered his talents and ideas to complete the building. John Ennis, an Irish immigrant who fought in the Union Army during the American Civil War, moved to Stamford from Chicago with his wife and children. His trade was the designer of theatrical stage sets! And that is what he designed for St. John’s.

To reduce the cost, Ennis designed a lofted vaulted ceiling, not in carved stone but in plaster and wood lathing, with the upper clerestory of wood. While not architecturally perfect, the design produced acoustics that are, in fact, the best church acoustics in the State of Connecticut. The hammered tin exterior mimicked the carved stone of the lower walls. The building was completed in 1886, albeit with a significant debt, to the hoorahs of the citizens of Stamford and the praise of newspapers from Boston to Philadelphia—lauding this largest of churches in the State of Connecticut as a local architectural wonder, comparable to the cathedral in Milan!

In typical St. John’s style, parishioners donated the money to build the best church of its day, adorned with magnificent stained-glass windows. And that is why the decision was made now to use the best—the John Canning Studios—to repaint our Gothic Revival Basilica just as the earlier members of our parish intended it to be: a beautiful gift to God, and a statement to build the best church of its kind. A simple gold pattern of color emphasizing the sky. Those dark and lighter toned blues are seen in the ceiling colors; the turquoise is used to highlight the detail work in the capitals of the columns and thin lines of color emphasizing the arches.

Colors found in the sanctuary paintings done by another parishioner, Thomas Magee, in 1927 were also used: dark red and gold on the walls; silver and blue on the ceiling. Our walls now are various shades of green, as a tribute to those founding families of St. John’s who were immigrants from Ireland. Likewise, along the side aisles, between each of the Stations of the Cross, a smaller banding of green and gold serves as the decoration, composed of golden vines and shamrocks on a dark green ground.

The silver-and-blue pattern now running down the center of the transept and aisle ceilings. They form a large cross, with Our Lord’s name in the central plaster roundel or boss: “IHS,” which are the first three letters of the name “Jesus” in Greek. The other plaster roundels or decorative bosses along the central ribs of the ceiling contain golden pomegranates with red centers: symbols of immortality in the Resurrection.

Each of the pillars is now painted red, the same red Magee chose in 1927 for the sanctuary. A simple gold pattern of gothic arches decorates each pillar, and the front two have the gold crossed keys of St. Peter—because we are a basilica, the Pope’s church in Fairfield County.

Crowning each pillar is a capital, in the shape of gilded acanthus leaves, with touches of bright reds and turquoises, taken from the windows. Crowning each arch throughout the basilica is a symbol of one of the Apostles. We have the original eleven (minus Judas), Matthias (who took Judas’ place), and Paul, who was called personally by the Resurrected Christ to preach to the gentiles.

I am grateful to all our parishioners and friends of the parish who donated so generously that the repainting of our basilica might be completed. Their kindness provides beauty free of charge to everyone who enters the basilica doors, that their hearts might be moved to the Author of all that is true, good, and beautiful, Our Lord.
Family Life

New Director for Marriage & Family

By JAVIER SOEGAARD

The Office for Pastoral Services has announced that Angela Mantero has been named diocesan director for Marriage and Family.

“Angela is an extremely gifted person whom I feel God had chosen for this position. I believe that work in the Pastoral Services Office, one must be a person of prayer, have a heartfelt desire to truly serve the parishes and selflessly give all glory to God. Angela fits this model completely,” says Damien O’Connor, director of Pastoral Services.

O’Connor explains that the Office for Marriage and Family serves parishes by providing ministries that assist engaged couples, married couples and families who are striving to live their Catholic Faith. The overall objective of the ministry is to promote and support healthy, joyful and holy marriages and families.

Since 2008, Mantero and her husband, Frank, have been helping Catholic couples as presenters for WorldWide Marriage Encounter and the diocesan Marriage Preparation program. In 2010, they were named the volunteer coordinating couple for Marriage Preparation. Their responsibilities included finding faithful Catholic couples to become presenters for the diocese’s engaged couples.

Mantero, a native of Atlanta, GA, and alumna of Emory University, lives with her husband and their four children in Shelton, where they are members of St. Joseph Parish.

“I am so excited to be in this position because the Sacrament of Marriage is about more than just a lifetime of commitment, it’s about the lifetime of grace we receive when God is in our marriage” says Mantero.

The Manteros are astounded by the grace they witnessed when “empowering other couples who are trying to live their life, their sacrament, and realizing that they have a gift to share with others.”

She describes her current situation as a direct result of her vocation to married life and motherhood. “My vocation became my ministry, and in turn my ministry became my career,” she says.

After not having been a regular churchgoer in her adolescence, she and her husband made a promise to cultivate a deep and abiding faith, and to pass that on to their children. Her joy about this decision is unmistakable. She says, “Our family’s faith is something that my husband and I formed together. It’s the thing I’m most proud of, the faith that he and I have given my family.”

Since her own marriage was the impetus to truly live out her faith, Mantero has a unique ability to identify with and minister to young couples beginning their life together. Among her goals for the future, she hopes to develop programming to guide newlyweds couples through the first years of their marriage.

Moreover, her focus is not simply on those preparing for and living out the Sacrament of Marriage.

“I want to get the message of John Paul II’s Theology of the Body out to people of all ages—to teens and to families—so together we can explore the Holy Father’s wonderful message about the sacredness of who we are as people.”

The Diocesan Marriage Preparation program is a two-day program for engaged couples which explores in depth the vows they will make on their wedding day. The Marriage and Family Ministry also promotes Natural Family Planning (NFP), the moral, healthy and successful practice of planning for children.

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In the spring and fall, the it sponsors the Wedding Jubilee Masses, open to all parishes in the diocese, for couples celebrating marriages of 15, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50+ years.

The Marriage and Family Ministry offers family outreach opportunities and assists those with questions about issues such as parenting after divorce, grieving after the death of a family member and enhancing family communication.

(Angela Mantero can be reached at amantero@dioctpt.org or 203.416.1627.)

Auger to St. V’s

BRIDGEPORT—Dianne J. Auger has been named senior vice president of St. Vincent’s Medical Center/St. Vincent’s Health Services and president/CEO of St. Vincent’s Medical Center Foundation.

She comes to St. Vincent’s after serving as regional chief executive officer with the American Red Cross, Connecticut and Rhode Island, and interim regional chief executive officer for the Greater New York Region, where she managed delivery of service, fundraising, government relations and operations of the largest strategic region in the country, serving 13 million residents.

“Dianne is a leader who will make major contributions to St. Vincent’s Health System as we move into a time of great change for hospitals and health care in general,” said St. Vincent’s Health Services President/CEO Susan L. Davis, EdD, RN. “I know her background and experience will help position us in the best possible way for the future challenges we face.”

Born and raised in Bridgeport, Auger has spent much of her career close to home. Prior to her 13 years with the American Red Cross, she was director of business development and administration for Ahlbin Centers for Rehabilitation Medicine in Bridgeport, vice president of marketing and development for the Discovery Museum and vice president, market segmentation manager for People’s United Bank, both also in Bridgeport.

After earning her MBA with a concentration in management and marketing from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Auger later served as director of corporate relations and annual giving for the University.

Auger lives in Stratford with her husband Joe and their three children. They are members of St. James Parish.

CELEBRATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

The Second Vatican Council in 1962 led to the founding of Sacred Heart University by Bishop Walter W. Curtis as the first Catholic university in America led and staffed by lay people. Sacred Heart will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Vatican II and its close affiliation with that historical occasion with a series of events.

October 10, 11 and 13, 2012
Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, Connecticut
All events are free and open to the public.

PANEL DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION
Wednesday, October 10, 7:00 p.m. | University Commons
PANELISTS:
Ladislas Orsy - Visiting Professor of Law, Georgetown University
Nicholas Lash - Theologian and Author
Gregory Baum - Professor Emeritus of Theological Ethics and Sociology of Religion at McGill University, Canada

CONVOCATION
Thursday, October 11, 2:00 p.m. | Chapel of the Holy Spirit
PREMIERE OF A CONCERT PERFORMANCE OF “MASS OF THE NEW LIGHT” AND ADDITIONAL WORK COMPOSED BY PETER TOGNI
Saturday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. | Chapel of the Holy Spirit
“Mass of New Light” was commissioned by Sacred Heart University in celebration of its 50th anniversary and in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council.

For more information, please contact 203-371-7904 or nevillea@sacredheart.edu.
Fr. Falla leads outreach to Spanish-speaking

By Brian D. Wallace

Fr. Gustavo Falla has been named director of ministry to Spanish-speaking Catholics for the Diocese of Bridgeport. He was appointed to the new, full-time post by Bishop William E. Lori shortly before he left to become Archbishop of Baltimore in May.

According to 2010 census statistics, more than 155,000 Hispanics live in Fairfield County, a dramatic increase over the previous census, representing 16.9% of the total population of 917,000. Hispanics account for fully a quarter of the Catholic population of this diocese. Many are from South and Central America but recently more have come from Mexico.

Before his appointment to this full time position, Fr. Falla had been serving both as administrator of the St. Augustine Cathedral Parish and vicar for Hispanics.

“The diocese has a very long history of reaching out to Spanish speaking Catholics, even before it was officially formed. When we were part of the Archdiocese of Hartford, we were already offering many services,” says Fr. Falla, who adds that he was grateful to Msgr. Aniceto Villamide, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport, who served as the first diocesan vicar for Hispanics, and to other priests who have ministered to the Hispanic community in the diocese.

Fr. Falla said he will continue to do many of the same things he has done over the past year in his new post, but will now be able to focus his entire ministry on the outreach to Hispanics. One of the first things he hopes to do is create a survey for all parishes in order to identify needs and opportunities.

“We want to look at maybe developing programs and looking for ways to move forward. Then we can gather the clergy and all those reaching out to Spanish speaking Catholics. We need to regroup and to identify ways we can serve people better. The opportunities are there."

Fr. Falla was born in 1968 in Guadalajara de Buga, Valle, Colombia. He attended the Seminario Juan Pablo II in Armenia, Colombia, where he earned a B.A. in philosophy. In 1993, Fr. Falla became the first international candidate to be accepted into the formation program at St. John Fisher Seminary Residence. He completed his seminary studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ, and was ordained by Bishop Edward M. Egan on May 25, 1996 at St. Augustine Cathedral.

Fr. Falla’s first assignment was at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bridgeport, where he later served as administrator. In 2001, he was named chaplain of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, with residence at St. Mary Parish in Norwalk. During that time he also served as a columnist for Fairfield County Catholic.

In 2004, Fr. Falla was named pastor of St. Benedict-Our Lady of Montserrat Parish in Stamford, at the age of 35, making him the youngest pastor in the diocese at the time. The parishes, which had been consolidated in 2000, included Hispanic and Slovak parishioners.

On January 15, 2012, he was appointed administrator of St. Augustine Cathedral Parish by Bishop Lori, and worked alongside Fr. Peter Lenox during the transition as St. Augustine’s and St. Patrick’s began their merger into the new Cathedral Parish.

Fr. Falla reflects on immigrant faith and American values:

“It is often said that the new immigrants represent the future of the Church. They're not the future, they're the present. The new immigrants are here now along with everybody else, and the better we serve them, the better off we'll be. They're here with their gifs and talents, struggles and needs. If we wait for the future, we will have lost them. We are all one Catholic Church under one Shepherd.

Immigration has become a divisive issue in political life and perhaps also in the Church. Many people associate people of Hispanic descent with illegals. The mandate of the Church is to welcome the stranger. And as a matter of record, the diocese has welcomed the stranger; not only the Spanish-speaking but
65 years of dedication

STAMFORD—The Lafayette Assembly #109 4th Degree Knights of Columbus gave a testimonial dinner to honor Msgr. Thaddeus Malanowski’s 65 years of dedication and service to the Church. A Mass of Celebration and a dinner were held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Stamford on May 11. More than 200 people were in attendance. Among them (l-r) Bishop Basil H. Losten, Bishop Emeritus of the Eparchy of Stamford; Carmine J. Vaccaro, past Faithful Navigator; Jack Cavnanaugh, columnist and author; Msgr. Malanowski; and Mike Sandlock of Greenwich. At age 96, Sandlock is the oldest living major league baseball player. He once played for the Brooklyn Dodgers and three other professional teams.

the Vietnamese, Polish, Cape Verdeans, the Nigerians and so many others. However, not every parish is prepared to take on the task. In one way, there’s little difference between both new and former immigrants; they were both rejected by society. The sad part is that new ones in some cases are being rejected by their own—by their fellow Catholics. That cannot be allowed. It is not consistent with our faith or tradition.

How important is it to maintain bilingual services within our parishes?
Many of the older Spanish-speaking residents will need service in their own language, but we can’t continue teaching the children in Spanish because they are growing up here in the U.S. and are surrounded by the culture. They are Americans. We need to reach out to them in our language, and the children need to learn and celebrate the faith in our language. If we don’t teach the faith in English to our children, we’re eventually going to lose them.

Catholic schools have traditionally played a strong role in serving immigrants and building citizenship. I really want to promote Catholic education. Once educated, you are empowered. We need to get Spanish-speaking students into our Catholic schools. God bless our public schools and the many good teachers, but we can best pass on the faith and Catholic values to children through our schools.

What do new arrivals bring to those of us who have been here for generations?
These new Catholics to the area have a tremendous sense of Church, respect for the hierarchy, strong humility and understanding of the need for community. They know that they have a shepherd and they want to worship with much faith. And they’re not afraid of expressing their faith publicly.

What do they learn from us?
The faithful in the U.S. have achieved what no other Catholics have achieved anywhere else in the world—the level of organization, commitment, sacrificial giving and the dedication to Catholic education, which creates real benefit for the community. Catholics in the U.S. are exemplary. And when new arrivals see that other Catholics have given despite the challenges and rejections they faced, they are inspired to step up and do the same.
Renewed respect for workers key to renewed economy
WASHINGTON, DC—
People of faith stand with people who’ve been left behind and should seek economic renewal that makes workers and their families a central concern, according to the annual Labor Day Statement from the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

“Millions of Americans suffer from unemployment, underemployment or are living in poverty as their basic needs too often go unmet. This represents a serious economic and moral failure for our nation,” wrote the committee’s chairman, Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, CA, in the statement, Placing Work and Workers at the Center of Economic Life.

Bishop Blaire cited the 12 million Americans officially unemployed, the millions more who are underemployed or who have given up looking for work, 10 million “working poor” families, and 46 million people, including 16 million children, living in poverty, as a sign of a broken economy. He cited the words of Pope Benedict XVI, who said poverty often “results from a violation of the dignity of human work,” either because of a lack of job opportunities or because, in the words of Pope John Paul II, “low value is put on work and a voice in the economy, but they cannot purchase the goods they make, stay in the hotels they clean, or eat the food they harvest, prepare, or serve.”

“An economy that allows this exploitation and abuse demands our attention and action,” wrote Bishop Blaire. “May God guide our nation in creating a more just economy that truly honors the dignity of work and the rights of workers.”

“The full statement can be found online at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-identity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2012.cfm”

Vatican announces plans for Year of Faith
VATICAN CITY—At a press conference, Archbishop Rino Fisichella outlined plans for the Year of Faith that will begin October 11. “We must overcome the spiritual poverty affecting so many of our contemporaries who no longer perceive the absence of God from their lives as a void that needs to be filled,” said the archbishop, who is the president of the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization. He observed that the Year of Faith marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II, and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The Year of Faith will open with a solemn Eucharistic celebration on October 11. The Synod of Bishops will meet in Rome in October to discuss the New Evangelization. And the month will also see the canonization of seven new saints, including Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha and Maria Anna Cope.

Archbishop Fisichella introduced a web site for the Year of Faith, which provides information in several different languages and will be accessible by a variety of electronic devices.

Catholics urge Congress to protect food stamps
WASHINGTON, DC—The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Relief Services, and National Catholic Rural Life Conference are urging Catholics to ask their senators and representatives to “support and strengthen programs in the FY 2013 Federal Budget and appropriations, and the 2012 Farm Bill, that protect poor and vulnerable people in the United States and around the world advance the common good, and promote human life and dignity.”

Congress went on its summer break without passing a farm bill, of which food stamps form a part. Congress will take up the bill again when it reconvenes on September 10. In particular, Catholics are asked to urge Congress to “fully fund essential domestic hunger and nutrition programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps), which is under threat from cuts and structural changes that will harm hungry and vulnerable people,” and to “support the Food for Peace international food assistance program.”

In addition, Catholics are asked to call upon Congress to “reduce agriculture subsidies overall and target crop insurance to small and medium-sized farms which truly need assistance and comply with sustainable and environmentally sound agriculture practices.”

Planned Parenthood encouraged sex-selection abortion
AUSTIN, TX—An undercover video recorded by pro-life activists has shown a counselor at a Planned Parenthood clinic apparently encouraging a young woman to have a sex-selection abortion.

Live Action, a pro-life group that has exposed Planned Parenthood in several previous videos, recorded a session in an Austin clinic, in which an actress tells the counselor that she plans to abort if her unborn child is female. The counselor seems to approve of the plan, and provides details on how the young woman can obtain an ultrasound, using...
Medicaid funding, to determine the baby’s sex, and arrange an abortion if it is a girl.

Lila Rose, the president of Live Action, said that the video was the first in a series that the group would release to expose the prevalence of sex-selection abortion. She charged that American abortionists are “aiding and abetting this horrific problem.”

In the past, Live Action videos have shown Planned Parenthood counselors apparently violating laws requiring the reporting of statutory rape, and admitting that—despite public claims—their clinics do not provide breast-cancer screenings.

(Images from six different clinics in four different states can be viewed at www.ProtectOurGirls.com.)

Muslims in Kenya vow to protect Christian churches

GARISSA, Kenya—Reacting to a massacre at a Christian church in Garissa in July, a group of local Muslim leaders have promised to recruit volunteers to guard other Christian churches. Adan Wachu, who heads the Supreme Council of Kenyan Muslims, said that the Islamic community in Kenya does not want to see sectarian divisions in the country. “There are people out there who are determined to make Kenya another Nigeria,” he said, alluding to the Christian-Muslim clashes in that country.

“We decided as solidarity that the Muslim youth will provide a vigilant service to the churches not only in Garissa but in any other places that the Christians may deem fit.” He said that it was now up to the Muslim leaders in Garissa to organize how the estimated 30 churches in the town would be protected.

“Muslims felt that because those Christians are a minority in their domain they must be protected at all cost.”

Evangelical college joins in suit against HHS mandate

WHEATON, Ill.—One of the nation’s leading evangelical Protestant colleges, in partnership with the Catholic University of America, has filed suit against the HHS mandate. “The mandate, which is a regulation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, forces both institutions to violate their deeply held religious beliefs by providing access to abortion-causing drugs or paying severe fines,” Wheaton College said in a statement. “This alliance marks the first-ever partnership between Catholic and evangelical institutions to oppose the same regulation in the same court.”

“Wheaton College and other distinctively Christian institutions are faced with a clear and present threat to our religious liberty,” said Philip Ryken, the college’s president. “Our first president, the abolitionist Jonathan Blanchard, believed it was imperative to act in defense of freedom. In bringing this suit, we act in defense of freedom again.”

Cardinal examines Pope’s teaching on environment

VATICAN—Pope Benedict’s teaching on ecology helps Catholics to avoid extremes in thinking about the environment, according to the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. Mother Earth cannot be treated as a kind of ‘lifeless machine’ that needs to be mastered. But it cannot be subject to abuse, either.

Similarly, ‘nature’ is not more important than ‘human,’ but equally the ‘human’ must not presume to have the monopoly on all meaning and design in ‘nature.’”

Cardinal Turkson laments “the chronic social injustices that force the poor into agricultural practices which result in wanton deforestation, erosion, desertification; or the warmongering that leaves devastated landscapes in its wake.”

He points out that Pope Benedict developed “the links between natural ecology, or respect for nature, and human ecology. Experience shows that disregard for the environment always harms human coexistence, and vice versa.” The vital importance of human ecology rests in this: “to protect mankind from self-destruction. … If there is a lack of respect for the right to life and to a natural death, if human conception, gestation and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology.”
Youth Group

Catholic “Workcamp” celebrates fellowship

FAIRFIELD – Fourteen-year-old Carolyn Purdy of Fairfield and other members of St. Pius X Parish, spent a week painting homes, cleaning closets and helping the elderly—and they couldn’t have had more fun! Carolyn, sophomore at Fairfield Ludlow High School, was one of 30 members of the St. Pius X Youth Group who traveled to Groton, Massachusetts, in early July to participate in the Catholic Heart Workcamp mission trip.

She says that their big project was to paint the home of an elderly couple in Groton. They worked with brushes and rollers to give the ranch house a coat of light blue paint that delighted the owners.

“They were really nice and they said it was an amazing job. I felt really good. It’s so nice to be able to help people and they were really appreciative,” she says after returning home.

Fr. Sam Kachuba and adult parishioners served as chaperones for the seven-day trip that brought the young people together for youth fellowship and Christian service.

“I was really excited and wanted to go,” says Carolyn, who has participated in previous missions.

“It was beyond my expectations, and just so great to meet other people and see the effect of helping others. Painting a house was a big project to tackle. I think that’s where my group learned most about each other and the work we were doing,” she says.

The boys and girls stayed at Lawrence Academy and started the day with Mass each morning. They then worked from 9 am to 3 pm on a variety of service projects.

The mission of the Catholic Workcamp programs across the country is to serve elderly, disabled and neglected individuals by helping to beautify their homes and revitalize community spaces.

The Florida-based group was founded by a young couple who had performed mission service for other denominations and wanted to create a program specifically to engage Catholic youth through faithful work, prayer and the sacraments.

Fr. Michael Dogali, pastor of St. Pius, says he was proud of youth group members for “truly sharing the love of Jesus with those who are neglected and in need.” He says that the mission experience empowered the young people to live as disciples of Christ by serving others.

Carolyn Purdy can’t wait to sign up again next year because of the great people she met.

“It was amazing,” she says. “I learned that little things can have the biggest impact on people.”

Dan Guido, director of youth ministry, says the mission trip made the young people aware of the poverty that they’re not used to seeing.

“A week-long trip immerses them in the lives of others and makes the poverty real for them,” says Guido, who accompanied the youth along with six chaperones from the parish. “I think it gives them a new perspective and level of humility.”

He says that daily Mass and prayer connected the work they were doing with their faith and the need to serve others.

“It makes faith more alive for them,” says Guido, who emphasizes that the mission trip brings prayer and good works together.

“During the week, they’re doing both, and learning that they work hard in hand. We don’t do things just to feel good, but as Catholics we need to give of ourselves to help others in need.”

(St. Pius youth group email: stpiusyouthgroup@gmail.com. For a list of youth groups in Fairfield County go to www.bridgeportdiocese.com/index.php/youth.)
D-Day has lived in my memory in the decades that have rolled by since that unforgettable World War II turning point. As ten-year-olds in Brooklyn, my friends and I were aware of what was happening across the Atlantic, even without TV, the Internet, tweets and the like, and we talked about it in class at P.S. 201. The Daily News and the Philco radio kept us informed.

For me, the human cost of the Normandy invasion and what followed hit home early. Scant weeks after June 6, 1944, my cousin, Air Force Sergeant Guido Signoretti, and the crew he served with on a Flying Fortress in support of the troops below, perished from firepower in the skies over Merseburg, Germany. You never forget that.

Through the years after hostilities ended, riveting Greatest Generation tales in print and on the screen were vivid reminders of what our young military faced on those explosive French beaches. A Normandy veteran, drafted at 17, described for me the terror of wading ashore at Omaha Beach with the second wave.

“I made it through because of my mother’s prayers,” Rocco Moretto said. “The Longest Day,” both book and film, grabbed my attention. (A sobering memory: Years ago I was asked to contact Cornelius Ryan, a Ridgefield resident who wrote the book that inspired the film, to invite him to speak at an event at Our Lady of Fatima in Wilton. Finding his number in the phone book, I dialed it and asked to speak with him. “I’m sorry,” replied a shaken voice at the other end of the line. “He passed away during the night.”)

All of this is to explain why, when my wife hinted that she’d love to see Rome again in this year of our 50th anniversary, I suggested that we also visit Normandy, long fascinating to me. Thus it began, in Bayeux, two-hours by train northwest of Paris, in the Normandy region where the native Camembert and Calvados, the apple brandy, are aplenty. A small town with a massive 11th-century cathedral, Notre Dame, it is the seat of a Benedictine monastery built on granite, with its challenging ascent to the abbey church some 250 feet above sea level.

Cathy, a charming French lady steeped in the details of the famed Bayeux Tapestry that depicts the Norman Conquest in 1066.

Close to the wartime beaches off the English Channel, Bayeux is also not too distant from Mont Saint Michel, the imposing one-time Benedictine monastery built on granite, with its challenging ascent to the abbey church some 250 feet above sea level.

Cathy, a charming French lady steeped in the details of the famous Bayeux Tapestry that depicts the Norman Conquest in 1066.

Next, Cathy led us to the line. “He passed away during the night.”

Pope Benedict XVI has declared the Year of Faith beginning October 11, 2012 — the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council — and conclude November 24, 2013 — the feast of Christ the King.

The Vatican recommends a Pilgrimage to fulfill the Year of Faith.

In the Holy Land we will walk in the footsteps of Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the apostles. A trip to the Holy Land will make the Gospel come alive for you. Every Christian should take one trip to the Holy Land in their lifetime, if possible.

We will also visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

There will be ample time to take a mud bath in the Dead Sea which is recognized worldwide for its effectiveness in the treatment of dermatological diseases, particularly Psoriasis, Atopic Dermatitis, and more.

The cost of the trip is $2,900 per person (including all taxes and fuel charges) from New York (including all taxes), room and two meals daily, and all transportation for site seeing. For more details call Scott Scaria at 860-289-2606 or write to Poland-Medjugorje Pilgrimage, P.O. Box 281059, East Hartford, CT 06128 or visit us on the web at www.polandmaj.com.
Parish News

Parishes celebrate jubilees

By MARIA O’BRIEN

1962 was a busy year in Fairfield County. The population was exploding, streets and houses were going up on former farmland and cities were booming.

For the Church, too, it was an exciting time. The Diocese of Bridgeport had only been established in 1953. Bishop Walter W. Curtis, the second Bishop of Bridgeport, followed the example of his predecessor, Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, founding new parishes throughout the diocese.

As the Church continued to grow, the young diocese would see an astounding 14 parishes established in the decade of the 1960s. The year 1962 saw three parishes open, reflecting the diversity of the growing diocese. Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Bridgeport was founded to support the large Portuguese population, drawn by opportunities on Connecticut’s largest industrial city. Holy Spirit Parish was established in the northern part of Stamford to serve parishioners who had formerly traveled down to St. Cecilia Parish, south of the Merritt Parkway. Christ the King Parish (originally named Most Precious Blood) was created in response to the growing density of Trumbull, in an area that had been home to family farms not many years past.

Christ the King Parish in Trumbull was founded on September 15, 1962. The parish, then called Most Precious Blood, celebrated Mass in Trumbull High School until the church and elementary school were dedicated two years later. The parish changed its name in 1973 in response to liturgical changes following Vatican II. The parish feast day, the Feast of the King (November 25 this year), completes the Church’s liturgical calendar.

After the school closed in 1973, plans began for the rebuilding and renovation of the parish plant, including the construction of a modern, semi-circular worship space in what had been the former auditorium/gymnasium. On Christmas Eve of 1983, an overflow crowd filled the new church for its first Mass.

Fr. Larry Carew is Christ the King’s pastor. The parish will celebrate its foundation on September 30 with a lunch at Vazzano’s Four Seasons in Stratford. Photos and memorabilia of the parish’s history will be on display at the event.

Holy Spirit Parish in Stamford was also established on September 15—it was a busy day altogether for Bishop Curtis. Following a building drive and groundbreaking, the first Mass was celebrated in the original worship space on Easter Sunday of 1964. Holy Spirit School opened that fall.

Groundbreaking for the current church took place in 1986. One year later, on the Feast of Pentecost, the parish’s feast day, a crowd of over 400 people assembled for the dedication. Holy Spirit School, under Principal Patricia Torchen, continues to combine excellence in education with the concern for the development of each individual child.

Holy Spirit was privileged to be the setting for an historic Mass when Cardinal Ignatius Kun Ping Mei, Bishop of Shanghai, who spent 30 years in Chinese prison for his faith, celebrated an anniversary Mass to mark three milestones: 20 years as a cardinal, 50 years as a bishop, and 70 years of priesthood. More than 50 priests and bishops gathered for the occasion.

Fr. Robert Hyl is Holy Spirit’s pastor. The parish will celebrate their golden jubilee with a gala dinner dance held at the Italian Center in Stamford on September 21.

Scarcely a week later, Bishop Curtis dedicated Our Lady of Fatima Church on September 23. The devout Portuguese community had celebrated Mass in the basement while the church was built above them. Over time, parishioners have generously contributed to improvements to the parish property, most recently with the addition of a garden shrine in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, completed in 2002.

The parish includes a child care center, opened in 1990, which serves not only parish children but many from the neighborhood’s diverse population.

The parish will honor its 50th anniversary with a special dinner at the Portuguese Vasco da Gama Club in Bridgeport on September 16. An outdoor Mass and procession are planned for September 23.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE of Holy Spirit Parish in Stamford was recognized on the parish’s feast day, Pentecost Sunday. Fr. Robert Hyl (center), pastor, was joined by Deacon Paul Jennings; Msgr. William Scheyd, PA; and Fr. William Galvin, MM, a Maryknoll missioner. Holy Spirit is one of three parishes to celebrate their 50th anniversary this year.

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Parishes celebrate jubilees

Parishes celebrate jubilees

Parishes celebrate jubilees

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All Saints Catholic School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.
Shining light at St. Margaret Shrine

By DON HARRISON

Donald Foust wore many hats throughout his lengthy career in education…teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal, basketball coach. Today, some people know this multi-faceted man as the operator of Deacon Don’s Driving Service.

Those who attend St. Margaret Shrine, located on Bridgeport’s upper Park Avenue, appreciate Deacon Don for what he’s accomplished in his new role as the shrine’s administrator of finances, facilities and functions. He was appointed to the newly created position in January by Bishop William E. Lori.

As Deacon Don tells it, the pastor of a parish in Fairfield had requested his services in January by Bishop William E. Lori.

“We know this multi-faceted person as the operator of Deacon Don’s Driving Service,” says Sherry Varrone, a longtime parishioner. “He is a confident person, a people person, who makes every effort to get people to come back together,” says Sherry Varrone, the office manager who accompanied Foust from Holy Rosary to St. Margaret Shrine in mid-January. “He’s getting the Shrine back on its feet.”

For Varrone, it was a homecoming of sorts. She was a Shrine parishioner as a girl, and her late father, Raymond Varrone, was the president of the Holy Name Society and active in the annual Feast of St. Anthony.

Deacon Foust, who was ordained in 1998, is pleased to play a major role in St. Margaret Shrine’s revival. “The Shrine fell on hard times for a while, but it’s made a nice comeback in recent years,” he says. “People are coming back. New families are joining.”

Spirituality and basketball, he says, “have been part of my entire life. I played at Stamford Catholic (now Trinity Catholic) High School and I went to St. Bonaventure and played on the freshman team.” For a while, he contemplated entering the priesthood as a member of the Franciscan Brothers. His coaching credentials—at Norwalk High School, Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield and the University of Bridgeport—were so impressive that he was elected to the Connecticut Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000.

A magnetic man, Foust has enlisted volunteer support from Richard Loris, a longtime friend and teaching colleague at Norwalk High, to oversee the upkeep and refurbishing of the shrine’s vast grounds and facilities. A few longtime parishioners, notably Rosa Franzese and Mary Kristy, have stepped forward to assist.

“This place is very special and it’s a joy to work here,” says Loris, who puts in 15 to 20 hours a week. “It’s a real blessing to be able to do it…to give glory to God. Thank goodness we have some help now.”

Loris’ list of duties run the gamut, from repairing the religious statues to mowing the three acres’ plus of grass, weeding, putting down yards of mulch. You name it.

St. Margaret Shrine was created by Msgr. Emilio Iasiello, then pastor of St. Raphael Parish in Bridgeport, in December of 1941, just after America’s entry into World War II. He determined that the new church—to be built on a rough, rocky parcel called Columbus Park—would be hallowed ground, dedicated to peace in the world, the protection of parishioners serving in the war and the memory of locals who gave their lives.

The 1940s parishioners and family members who were craftsmen—many of whom were Italian-American—fashioned and carved many parts of the shrine, including the altar.

“NEW FAMILIES ARE JOINING,” says Deacon Don Foust, St. Margaret Shrine’s administrator of finances, facilities and functions. The Shrine, set in a rustic parcel of land on Bridgeport’s Park Ave., was built during World War II.

High School in Fairfield and the University of Bridgeport—were so impressive that he was elected to the Connecticut Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000.

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➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
Not really back

Yellow school busses will soon be rolling again. We’ll see them and remember, fondly or not, our own school days. School is back in session.

Yes, it’s in session—but it’s not really back. Not unless our memories include instruction in Chinese, or prayers in Spanish, French and Portuguese. Not unless your teachers gave you the freedom to solve problems on your own, giving you a turn on the electrophoresis machine. In elementary school. That’s what school is in the 21st Century: a window on the world, a challenge, an opportunity to excel. The Catholic schools featured in this issue combine all that with the lived experience of faith. There is no better foundation on which to build a life.

The schools we went to prepared us well for the excitement of the 20th Century, and we flourished with their help. It’s a new millennium now, calling for collaboration, communication, problem solving and a multicultural vision. A new world is opening up before our eyes; our children will be in command of it. So welcome the new school year. Enjoy the traffic snarls those yellow busses make twice a day. Our future rides in them.

Concerning Faithful Citizenship

According to the latest polls, we’ve already made up our minds. Only a very small portion of the electorate remains susceptible to the nearly one half billion dollars more in political ads that are likely to jam the airwaves between now and November. Beyond that, most of the firepow er is aimed at the so-called swing states that will determine the winner.

The building scale of charges and counter-charges has created a kind of political tornado of Babel; the more information we get, the more we may be confused or simply ready to tune out.

Yet the Church’s teaching with respect to political responsibility is very clear. In “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” the U.S. Catholic bishops tell us that we have a duty to safeguard the dignity of every human person, particularly the most vulnerable, and to bring our convictions into the public square.

The document gives us the opportunity to understand and assimilate the Church’s teachings, which offer a complete moral framework with the right to life and the dignity of the human person at its center.

The bishops teach us that the key is not to vote from mere partisan or ideological agendas, but from the conviction, based on Church teaching, that sees “all human beings as children of God.”

As the election nears, we urge all Catholics to visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website, www.usccb.org, and read “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.” It calls us to a higher level of citizenship and perhaps, in these divided times, offers us a path to unity by developing a consis tent life ethic that guides our dual responsibility as faithful Catholics and American citizens.

Fleeting Summer

Where did summer go? It seems like only yesterday we were looking forward to vacations and weekend getaways, and now we’re on the heels of Labor Day. The older we get, the more time seems to disappear, but our fleeting sense of summer is more than that. Aren’t we really seeking the certainty of having lived deeply, of being fully alive? For that, we need more than outdoor living or even a great vacation. Our faith tells us we have to look elsewhere—only in reverence will we find the fullness of time and the depth of our existence.
Experiencing the Blindness of Racial Injustice

A Woman’s View
BY ANTONETTE BOSCO

Antonette Bosco is a member of St. Margaret Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield.

E
ey summer I take my
dughter Mary and my
two daughters-in-law,
Judi and Sue, to see a
Broadway play of their choice—
always an occasion to have a spe-
cial time together with the rest of
the family afterwards. This year
they chose a play I hadn’t yet
heard of, “Clybourne Park,” play-
ing at the Walter Kerr Theatre.
Before the first act was half
over, we in the audience had trav-
eled back to the fifties and were
unexpectedly re-experiencing what
it was like to be a black woman
or man in those days. I’m talking,
of course, about the racial prejudice
that flourished back then. And,
oh yes, the writers of this play had
the audience laughing, hiding our
discomfort as we remembered
how it was between whites and
blacks in the history of our many
past decades.

But then came Act Two. Ah,
now we were in the year
2012, and all was friendly,
peaceful, funny—you get it, I’m
sure—between white people and
black people. But not quite. The
authors rather brilliantly, using
a lot of humor, exposed a truth
we like to deny—racial prejudice
is still alive and well, even if it
appears to be hidden in our con-
tacts and relationships with, as
we say, “people of color.”

The play made me recall a
week-long television program
that got a lot of attention back 35
years ago. It was called “Roots,”
and it was an invitation to feel
pain, to begin to understand emo-
tionally what it meant to be both
black and slave in the past two
centuries. Seeing this series, you
had to ache for human justice
so that never again in our world
could man be so inhumane to
man. I wanted my family and
friends to feel this injustice.

One personally surprising out-
come of this program for me was
the discovery that so few people
I spoke to had ever really looked
about what it was to be
forcefully taken from one African
village, to be chained to 100-
plus other people in a stinking,
vermin-infested, disease-laden
ship’s hold, where food and water
were scarce and you slept in your
own waste with your skin each
day rotting away more and more
from festering sores.

I did—quite by accident. I
had become acquainted with the
human tragedy of slavery when
I was a teenager. I was an avid
reader, devouring books of all
kinds. I had come across a book
written by a French Jesuit priest
in the early 1800s. He was Fr.
Henri Gregoire, a democratic
liberal, involved in politics, an
opponent of Napoleon, and the
first French churchman to seek
the abolition of slavery.

He wrote, “Friends of slavery
are necessarily the enemies of
humanity,” and attempted to
expose the brutality of slavery by
writing both of the horrors of the
slave trade and the human quali-
ties of the Negro slaves.

Several decades later, I’d had
the good fortune to study one
summer at Oxford University in
Great Britain and unexpectedly
once more came across work by
Fr. Gregoire. Again, it was about
the injustice of slavery. He wrote
that greed was such a power-
ful influence over the mind that
English and French colonists
believed, or pretended to believe,
the black color of the Africans
was sufficient excuse not only for
making them slaves but also for
treating them worse than animals.
He attempted to prove that Blacks
have a “keen and penetrating
mind” and high intellectual and
moral faculties in a treatise he
wrote in 1810, telling of the lives
and contributions of 15 Blacks in
science, literature and the arts.
Fr. Gregoire did not live to
see the abolition of slavery. The
emancipation of slaves in French
possessions finally occurred in
1850, 19 years after his death.

This unusual French priest
suffered great personal pain in his
life, mainly because of his “liberal
policies.” For that, his superiors
took away his priestly faculties
and later had him excommunicat-
ed for disobedience. He remained
faithful to his vows, praying for
reconciliation with the Church
until his death. I grieved read-
ing of the treatment he received.
This good priest may have been
silenced, yet his voice made
waves through two centuries,
even reaching me!

I Love You Anyway

A Dad’s View
BY MATTHEW HENNESSY

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

W
hen the kids play
together, there’s
often a lot of whin-
ing. Sometimes
there is “toy hoarding.” Almost
always there is foot stomping and
arm stiffening.

It may be a function
of age—they are 8, 6, and 3—or
it may just be that brothers and
sisters will occasionally get on
each other’s nerves. Then again,
maybe it’s Magdalena. The kids
get especially frustrated with her.
I understand where they’re
coming from. I get frustrated with
Magdalena, too. She’s the 6-year-
old. She’s the one with Down
syndrome. We love Magdalena to
pieces, of course, but she can be a
handful. Kids with Down syndrome
aren’t always the little angels they
are made out to be. Sometimes
they are sweet as sugar plums.
Sometimes they are devious little
devils. They are a lot like the rest
of us.

The thing with Magdalena is
that she almost never does what
you want her to do. Rules mean
nothing to her. She’ll listen
to your instructions but then
simply disregard them. She
often punctuates her disregard
with a non-sequitur, just to
make you crazy.

Her current preferred response
to a question she doesn’t want to
answer is, “A cherry!”

“What did you do at school
today Magdalena?”

“A cherry!”

“Did you play with Teddy?”

“Yes.” Pause. “A cherry!”

Magdalena’s eyes close and
her head flies back. She roars
with glee.

“Sweetie, I’d prefer you
didn’t say ‘A cherry!’ every
time I ask you a question. Daddy
wants to know what you did at school.”

“Okay.” At this point, her
face gets serious. Her eyes go
guant, but only a true sucker could
miss the sparkle in them.

“Are you going to say ‘A
cherry!’ again?”

“No.”

“Promise?”

“I promise.”

“So, what did you do…”

“A cherry!” Peals of hysterical
laughter.

Maybe it sounds cute when
you read it, but in person it
always leaves you!

I pray that the world will view
Magdalena the way we do. We’re
all disabled in a way. We’re all
annoying to someone. At some
point we all disregard our explicit
instructions.

Anyone reading this prepared
to throw the first stone? If so,
here’s what I have to say to you:
A cherry!
September 2012

School News

New Principals from page 3

Salem State College in Salem, Massachusetts, was founded in 1895. Griffin, who can point with pride to 20 years in education, also holds a Certificate in Educational Leadership from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. In addition to teaching at St. Ann School in Bridgeport, Griffin was literacy chair at St. Anne’s, and was a Master Teacher in the Professional Development Model of the Teachers’ Learning Community in the Cathedral Cluster.

Griffin was honored with the Tim Russet Make a Difference Award in November 2010. She and her husband, Gerry, are the parents of four grown children. They are members of St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton.

“I believe that God has a plan for each of us and knows where we can best serve his people,” Griffin says. “I am excited that St. Jude School is within his plan for me as a Catholic school educator. I am passionate about teaching and learning, supporting teachers in ‘best’ practice, and integrating Gospel values into all that we do in our classrooms.”

Star of the Sea, Stamford

Our Lady Star of the Sea School welcomes Phillip Adzima as their new principal. A native of Bridgeport, he graduated from Notre Dame Catholic High School and holds his bachelor’s degree and teacher certification from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield and his master’s from Fairfield University.

While new to Star of the Sea, Adzima has spent 27 of his 40 years in education in the diocesan school system, beginning as a teacher at the former St. Pius X School in Fairfield. In addition to working in this diocese, he was dean of students at Fairfield Country Day School and assistant principal at Notre Dame High School in West Haven.

He became principal of St. Mark School in Stratford in 1992, and during his 17 years there helped St. Mark’s earn the Blue Ribbon School award in 2009. Since 2009, Adzima has been assistant principal and junior high math teacher at Trinity Catholic Middle School in Stamford.

During his years in the diocesan school system, Principal Adzima has chaired numerous team visits for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the regional accreditation association.

He and his wife, Phyllis, live in Milford, where they are members of St. Agnes Parish.

“For those of us in Catholic schools, this is our vocation and not merely a job,” he says. “Everyone I have met at Our Lady Star of the Sea has been welcoming and extremely helpful. We are already a Blue Ribbon School, and I will do my best for the children, their families and the teachers as we continue into the 21st Century.”

Canterbury School

An independent Catholic coeducational boarding and day school for grades 9-12

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, October 13, 2012

The chapel was dedicated by Bishop Maurice F. McAuliffe, Bishop of Hartford (the Diocese of Bridgeport had not yet been formed), on Sept. 20, 1942.

Before the end of World War II, the beautiful new church was drawing thousands of visitors, many of whom would have their wedding photos taken in this naturally rocky setting, where a brook cascades down the steep sides of a ledge.

“People still come here for their wedding photos,” Deacon Foust says.

Renovation of the Shrine began under the guidance of Fr. Alfonzo Picone, then administrator of St. Raphael’s, who recognized the potential of the site’s natural beauty and charming chapel. Fr. Picone undertook the challenge of the Shrine’s physical restoration, and is currently its rector.

Among the outstanding features of the series of religious edifices and works on the grounds is the Temple of Peace, dedicated to the men and woman who served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II. Atop the marble altar is a replica of Michelangelo’s “Pieta.”

While technically not a parish, the Shrine has become the spiritual home of many old as well as new families. Mass is celebrated in the 265-seat chapel weekdays at 8:15 am, there is a Saturday Vigil at 4 pm and five Masses each Sunday: 8:15 am, 9:30 am (the latter in Italian), 10:45 am, noon and 6 pm.

Masses are conducted by Fr. Picone; Fr. Giandomenico Flora, parochial vicar; and Fr. Grazioso Artuso, a retired priest in residence. Deacon Don supplies a well-crafted homily or two each week. (For information about St. Margaret Shrine, call 203.333.9627, e-mail SaintMargaretShrine@gmail.com or visit www.parishesonline/stmargaretshrine.)
Parents enthusiastic about Cathedral Cluster schools

By PAT HENNESSY

Why do parents choose Catholic schools for their children? What makes them take on the financial challenges necessary? This question becomes most acute when it is posed to parents in the inner city.

A survey conducted just before the close of the 2011-12 school year asked parents in the Cathedral Education Cluster, composed of the six Catholic schools in Bridgeport, what considerations were most important when choosing a school for their children. Responses indicated overwhelming agreement on the three most important areas: academic excellence, safe environment and emphasis on faith and values.

The reputation of Catholic schools has spread throughout the community. Most parents report that they heard about the excellence of Catholic schools from their friends and family. Parents have learned that nationwide, Catholic school students score higher on math and science than their public school counterparts. In addition, thanks to the curriculum mapping initiated through the Office for Education in the Diocese of Bridgeport, every single school in the diocese—from Greenwich to Brookfield to Bridgeport—follows the same curriculum.

It’s interesting to note that, although 40% of students in the inner city schools of the Cluster are not Catholic, more than half of all parents say that the atmosphere of faith was their main reason for choosing a Catholic school. All diocesan schools are Catholic through and through, not just during religion class: from morning prayer to living Rosaries to community service, the life of the Church is fully expressed and woven throughout the curriculum.

In the survey, parents were asked to rate the effectiveness of their children’s school in a number of areas.

In the critical areas of academics, safety, and an environment of faith, parents gave the schools a resounding vote of approval, with each of the schools receiving a good or excellent rating of over 80% in each area. In addition, parents gave the schools high marks for the caring attitude of teachers, the personal interaction between teachers and their students and the care and involvement of principals.

“This data does not surprise us but clearly confirms that families understand the mission of our schools,” says Sr. Joan Magnetti, rajc, executive director of the Cathedral Education Cluster. “For generations it has been proven that Catholic schools are the backbone of American life. Our schools shape citizens who work hard, take responsibility for their own lives and that of others and make decisions shaped on religious values and a solid faith. I believe that children learn by being surrounded by loving adults who trust and care for them, teachers who are mission driven and who challenge them to bring out their own gifts. No wonder our six Bridgeport schools are such a strong alternative for the education of children in Bridgeport.”

The final question of the survey sums up parents’ response to Catholic education for their children. When asked “Would you recommend this school to friends and family,” their enthusiasm sets the bare statistics aglow. Fully 95.5% of parents would heartily encourage friends and family to enroll their children in the schools of the Cathedral Cluster.

Student success

Statistics, no matter how impressive, can only convey part of the story. A quick look at recent graduates from the six schools of the Cathedral Cluster puts a personal face on their story of success. The students collected thousands of dollars in scholarships and an uncounted number of awards from groups as diverse as the Knights of Columbus, the CT Academy of Scientists and Engineers and John Hopkins Talent Search. A partial listing includes:

- **St. Ambrose School:** From the class of 2012, Taraia Kemp will be attending Kolbe-Cathedral High School in Bridgeport; Tamia Brown, Isabelle Francois, Malique Moses and Ciara Rivera are all headed off for Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield; Ashley Ebanks will be going to St. Joseph High School in Trumbull and Jhaad Thomas will attend Christian Heritage School, also in Trumbull.
- **St. Andrew School:** Along with a number of scholarships and awards, St. Andrew’s points with pride to Jeremy Timpanenza, valedictorian of the Class of 2012 from Kolbe. Jeremy was also one of the first graduates of the High School Engineering Academy at Kolbe. Jeremy, who intends to study law, will attend UCONN with a full academic scholarship.
- **St. Ann School:** Patrick Bathelemy, who graduated from St. Ann in 2008, just graduated from Fairfield Prep and is going to UCONN this fall. Collin Nevis, CLASS OF 2003, just graduated from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, and is heading to Harvard Medical School this year. Dara Reyes, class of 2012, who was named the first Biodiversity Youth Ambassador by the National Parks Service, received a scholarship to Miss Hall’s School in Pittsfield, MA.
- **St. Augustine School:** Of this year’s graduates, Angelisse Melendez received a full academic scholarship to Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield, while classmate Isabel Negron will also attend Notre Dame on the Liptak Scholarship, given by the Cardinal Sheehan Center. Shane Harris received a full scholarship to Fairfield Prep.
- **St. Peter School:** Sean Alicia, who graduated in 2008 from St. Peter’s, was salutatorian at Kolbe this year. He is going on to study forensic science at the University of New Haven. Two of St. Peter’s students received high school scholarships: Andrew Allen is headed for Notre Dame, while classmate Lauren Butler is enrolled in Laurelton Hall, Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Milford.
- **St. Raphael School:** Four students from St. Raphael’s, Lucas Santiago, Alton Lam, Ayeshia Preston and Valerie Bien-Aime, have received four-year scholarships to Kolbe. Lucas is also a finalist for the Shepherd’s Program at Kolbe, which would give him a full scholarship for all four years. In addition, Simone Curtin-Rugless is headed to Laurelton on a scholarship, while Shennille Moodie has a scholarship to attend Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden.

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School News

Exploring her Irish-American Identity

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

“Here I feel Irish, there I feel American,” says 22-year old Colleen Taylor, who is about to leave for Ireland to begin work on a masters in English and Irish at Trinity College, Dublin.

Coming off a 4.0 GPA at Fordham University, where she graduated this May as class valedictorian and as a finalist for the International Mitchell Scholarship and an alternate Fulbright scholar, she’s looking forward to deepening her understanding of her Irish-American identity.

When she leaves in September, she’ll also be saying goodbye to more than 75,000 people from the tri-state area who listen to her popular Irish music show Cool nan Gaeil every Sunday morning on WFUV, 90.7 FM, an NPR affiliate whose on-air talent combines legends of FM radio and students like Colleen.

The Sherman native and member of Holy Trinity Parish says her fascination with Irish heritage and culture began to take shape when she started to practice Irish dance at the age of seven at the Horgan Academy of Irish Dance in Naugatuck. The dance steps and the costume designs, many of which came from the Book of Kells, enthralled her.

Like many Irish Americans, she was curious about her family’s history before they came to the U.S, but she had little knowledge of her ancestors— as if immigration had obscured the past. “I guess I started to search our history because we didn’t have stories handed down to us. I never knew my grandfathers at all and my grandmothers died when I was young. We had the culture that came to us in our blood and in the way we live our lives.”

While at Fordham, she minor ed in Irish Studies and spent the summer of 2010 studying Gaelic in an immersion program sponsored by Fordham and the Irish Government, and later spent her junior year studying Irish at Galway University in Western Ireland.

“Only about 5% of the population now speaks Irish, but in places like Kerry and Donegal it is the first language they learn, though most speak both Irish and English,” she says.

Her love for Irish culture and learning also led to her unexpected success as host of the WFUV radio show.

“It was mostly pure luck,” she says. “When I came in as a freshman, the Gaelic Society was dormant and I wanted to learn more about Irish culture. Someone put up a flyer asking for a student to host an Irish music show and I applied.”

Hosting the show for three years has given her the opportunity to meet and interview some of her idols, including Paddy Moloney of the Chieftains and the members of Cherish the Ladies.

While Fordham University opened many doors for Colleen Taylor, it also led to a deepening of her faith.

“I think Fordham made my faith so much stronger. I remember being in high school and Mom taking me to Mass, but I didn’t really want to be there. At Fordham I took theology classes and was able to approach the Church from its intellectual, creative and artistic tradition. I love being a Catholic and being a part of the history of the Church.”

She hasn’t decided on a career yet, though she has some interest in teaching at a university and she continues to write poetry, which serves as a bridge between the world her ancestors left behind and curiosity about her own family history and Irish-American identity.

She is quick to credit her early education at Sherman School and New Milford High School for preparing her for success. She is also humbled by the gifts of those around her.

“I never considered myself the smartest person around, but I will work the hardest. At Fordham there were so many smart kids. I was astounded by their intelligence in the classroom, and I always wanted to get the most of out my classes and the opportunity to learn.”

She’s eager to leave for Dublin on September 12, but knows that she’ll also miss her family, including her father, Joseph, mother Joni Burke Taylor and her 15-year-old-brother, Daniel.

“I feel I’ve had the best of both worlds,” she says of being American and having the opportunity to study in Ireland. “Going to Trinity was always a dream of mine,” she adds, “Everything about Ireland is poetry, the music, the landscape and the people.”

(To read Colleen’s poetry, go to www.brigitepardoece.com)
School News

International school recognizes diversity

By Pat Hennessy

Students at St. Peter-Sacred Heart School in Danbury speak seven languages and come from 11 different countries. “We are such a diverse community here,” says Principal Mary McCormack. “To meet the needs of our children, we decided to celebrate that diversity.”

The school had already begun to respond to the varied cultures of its students. A multicultural dinner complete with music, dances and songs from their home culture performed by students has been a popular fixture with students and parents. A “Parade of Nations” with the flags of all the countries represented at the school was a highlight of Catholic Schools Week. “When our Student Council sponsored a multicultural lunch, parents were so enthusiastic they brought in enough food for two lunches,” McCormack says.

The Sacred Heart campus is home to children from eight weeks to four years old, in a variety of age appropriate classes. Older students attend school at the St. Peter’s Campus. Because of the demand, the St. Peter Campus is adding classes in the school’s pre-K-4 Faith Formation program.

International schools in the area start their curriculum at the kindergarten level. Starting this spring, teachers in grades K through eight began visiting schools in other cities to assess their curricula and see how they handled a diverse student body. They were astonished to find that none of the schools equaled their range of ethnic and economic backgrounds.

“When we went to the U.N. International School in New York, they greeted us warmly,” recalls McCormack. Teachers of the diocesan curriculum map,” says John Cook, deputy superintendent of schools for the diocese, who assisted in the development of St. Peter-Sacred Heart as an international school.

Cook points out that number of elements in the international curriculum were already in place in diocesan schools. Instruction in Spanish is already taught in all

Continued on page 21

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School News

Notre Dame adds Teaching & Learning Center

By PAT HENNESSY

Beginning with a special tutoring program this summer, the new Teaching and Learning Center at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield gives students and faculty an added resource for academic support. “Our students come from 30 towns and over 50 different schools, public and private,” notes Notre Dame’s principal, Chris Cipriano. “Some kids need additional skills or reinforcement of concepts. We want to provide the academic support to make sure that all our students achieve their full potential.”

Because Notre Dame draws from such a wide area, the establishment of a Learning Center was made part of the school’s strategic plan. The plan, which was presented in the fall of 2011, also calls for facilities updates, enhanced alumni relations and expanded course offerings. “A plan begins on paper, but it’s already becoming a reality,” says Cipriano. He points, among other items, to the upgraded biology lab being readied for the fall semester and the expansion of the AP course offerings during the coming school year. These, as well as the closer relationship with Sacred Heart University, have boosted the freshman class’ enrollment by 20% this year.

The Learning Center will be directed by Larry DiPalma, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him to this position. He recently retired from Ansonia public schools and was the 2011 Connecticut recipient of the National Distinguished Principal Award. In addition to his duties as principal, he served as a K-8 math coordinator in the Ansonia School System. DiPalma had been the principal of the former Sacred Heart/St. Anthony School in Bridgeport until it closed in 1991. He has also taught courses in Sacred Heart University’s Graduate School of Education.

DiPalma is happy to be part of the diocesan school system again. He points with pride to Notre Dame’s slogan “Building character, faith and intellect.” “It feels good to be able contribute to enhanced alumni relations and expanded course offerings. “A plan begins on paper, but it’s already becoming a reality,” says Cipriano. He points, among other items, to the upgraded biology lab being readied for the fall semester and the expansion of the AP course offerings during the coming school year. These, as well as the closer relationship with Sacred Heart University, have boosted the freshman class’ enrollment by 20% this year.

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DiPalma is happy to be part of the diocesan school system again. He points with pride to Notre Dame’s slogan “Building character, faith and intellect.” “It feels good to be able contribute to that,” he says. DiPalma had already begun implementing his vision for the Learning Center by providing one-on-one math support for any incoming freshman during three-weeks in July. In July Notre Dame launched Jump Start, a one-week math skills program designed to reinforce math skills learned in junior high school.

The program focused on specific areas targeted from the school’s entrance exam. “Mr. DiPalma helped many students, including me, to be more prepared,” says incoming freshman Tim Furgiuele, who comes from All Saints School in Norwalk. “I’m grateful for it.”

This fall, the Learning Center will provide extra assistance to freshmen and sophomores studying algebra and geometry. During the year, struggling students will be assigned class time in the Learning Center in lieu of a study hall. “It’s like having a double dose of math every day,” says Principal Cipriano.

He expects the Learning Center to grow and change as the year progresses. “I see it evolving during the school year. We don’t know what it will look like in December, or what we’ll be looking at in June.” In the future he’ll consider ways to include peer tutors, and possibly train adults or retired teachers who would like to come in to teach or mentor a student.

“We want our kids to succeed,” Cipriano concludes. “It’s our job to give them the support they need.” (The Learning Center welcomes interested adults who will like to be trained to tutor or mentor a student. For more information, contact Larry DiPalma: dipalma@notredame.org.)
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School News

INTERNATIONAL FROM PAGE 19

dioecesan elementary schools, and Mandarin Chinese, starting at the kindergarten level, is being added in the fall semester. “Looking ahead, teachers and students will partner with schools in Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese speaking countries in project-based activities to form a true international connection,” Cook adds. “One of the basic elements in an international school is a curriculum that supports the recognition and value of different cultures,” says McCormack. The school was able to put that element in place right away. “Because our students are already learning Spanish, we made one Wednesday a Spanish-speaking day, with our prayers and lunch conversation in Spanish. The following week, our Haitian students led the prayers in French, and shared some conversational phrases we could use at lunch.”

Starting in the fall, a different language and culture will be presented each week, and students will take turns leading the prayers in their native language.

During the coming year, global awareness will be built into the curriculum. “We have to think with an international lens,” McCormack says. The math room boasts an abacus five feet tall, and math teacher James Hines shows students how to do rapid calculations on its beads.

Social studies will look at current events with a global perspective. Art classes can link with subjects being studied in social studies and the language arts. The library will seek to add more books celebrating China and Africa.

Taken as a whole, the international curriculum will encourage students’ appreciation of each other’s heritage, enriched by the teaching of their Catholic faith. “International schools teach respect for one another,” says McCormack. “Being Catholic, we know that each one of us is a creation of God, and we live out that understanding in the daily practice of our Gospel values. It’s an overall environment, and we will be deepening our awareness throughout the year. It’s an open-ended process.”

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St. Ann School
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St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School
St. Gabriel Catholic School
St. James Catholic School
St. Joseph Catholic School
St. Jude Catholic School
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$548,000 in financial aid awarded to this class. (2.1 million in total financial aid awarded this school year to all four classes.) All financial aid is awarded on the basis of need.

St. Aloysius Catholic School
St. Ann School
St. Augustine Cathedral School
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School
St. Gabriel Catholic School
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St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
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School News

Educators explore biomedical engineering

By PAT HENNESSY

“Think about the transfer of forces,” presenter Mark Krotec said. “Go toward the ankle joint. The painstaking exploration and fascination of a new challenge during this lab session engaged his students. Not students in the ordinary sense—at this biomedical engineering session, educators from diocesan schools became the students.

For two days in August, a dozen middle school and high school science teachers worked in teams on a Tissue Engineering project. They in turn will teach a new approach to exploring life science, not only to their students but to other teachers throughout the diocese. Krotec, a biology teacher at Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, PA, is the creator of the Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative, a biomedical engineering program. The program emphasizes collaborative working, creativity and critical thinking.

“It involves taking a problem and asking: ‘What can we do to solve this?’” says John Cook, deputy superintendent for the Diocese of Bridgeport, who was instrumental in arranging for PTEI training for diocesan teachers.

The challenge in the workshop this summer week was a hot one: LeBron James, the Miami Heat basketball star, has shattered his leg, collapsing after making the winning basket in a tight game. But the Olympics are coming fast—we need him for the American team. How can we rebuild his tissue so they can excite students,” Krotec explains. “Reading and following a set of instructions doesn’t achieve that purpose. It ruins the fun of discovery. In this process, you’re letting students be independent scientists.”

Diocesan schools have already earned a reputation for their excellence in introducing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) instruction into all levels of the curriculum. The beauty of the PTEI curriculum is that it is flexible; it can be modified to work on many levels. “We won’t just be introducing biomedical engineering to eighth graders, we’ll be encouraging students to explore, letting them make mistakes,” says Katherine Sniffen, the STEM coordinator at St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown.

“It’s student-centered learning,” agrees Dan Walsh, who teaches AP biology at St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury, and Brian Highland, STEM coordinator for St. Joseph School in Brookfield, explore the mechanics of anatomy as teachers become students in a biomedical engineering workshop.

“For LeBron’s damaged limb,” estimated the needed growth factor—employing math skills to check their distributions—used a spectrophotometer to check concentrations of solutions, worked with a gel electrophoresis apparatus for DNA analysis and gene expression, and built stronger bones.

“Our goal is to excite educa-

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TRACE THE LIGAMENTS; see how they connect the leg to the foot.
Christine Fahey, middle school science teacher at St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury, and Brian Highland, STEM coordinator for St. Joseph School in Brookfield, explore the mechanics of anatomy as teachers become students in a biomedical engineering workshop.

(PHOTOS BY PAT HENNESSY)
School News

own schools and then to the entire diocesan school system. “We have a veteran staff,” says Kevin Dunleavy, chair of the science department of Immaculate High School in Danbury. “When we have our first department meeting in August, the teachers will drink this information up. We’ll be using it within the first month of school.”

Thanks to the Foundation grant, participating teachers will be able to take the materials, from pipettes to electrophoresis machines, back to their science labs. “Our biggest challenge is having a stocked lab,” says Bethany Blackwood, the freshman biology teacher at Kolbe-Cathedral High School in Bridgeport. “This will give us the tools for a more hands-on approach.”

Not only will the components of the PETI initiative become part of all levels of science exploration in diocesan schools, they will find a special home in the High School Engineering Academy (HSEA) launched by the Bridgeport diocesan schools in 2008. HSEA students meet on Saturdays during the school year to study civil engineering, architecture, digital electronics and engineering design and development. Biomedical engineering would make an ideal capstone course for that program.

“This will be an excellent component to add to the HSEA course,” says Bardhyl Gjoka, who guided the Engineering Academy through its early years. A former teacher in Kolbe’s excellent engineering program, he has just become the assistant principal at All Saints School in Norwalk. “This has been an eye-opener. We will be assessing how best to incorporate it into the HSEA curriculum.”

“Our mission at PETI is to grow future scientists,” says Krotec, pointing out that the hottest jobs in the new millennium are in the biomedical engineering field.

GIVING JUST ENOUGH information to get them started, presenter Mark Krotec of the PETI biomedical engineering program gives diocesan science teachers a demonstration of fluid measurement, then sets them free for hands-on experimentation. Participants will introduce the latest critical thinking and problem solving methods into their classrooms.

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Fairfield County Catholic
After 50 years, Montelli bids St. Joseph adieu

By DON HARRISON

Numbers seem to abound in the life of Vito M. Montelli. Some are round, others are not. By any standard, all are substantial.

Eighty years of age. Fifty-three years of marriage (to the former Dolores Murphy). Six children. Seventeen grandchildren. Fifty years of coaching basketball at one high school, St. Joseph of Trumbull. Eighty years of age. Fifty-three years of coaching basketball at one high school, St. Joseph of Trumbull. Eight hundred seventy-eight coaching victories—a high school record for New England. Eleven state championships—a high school record for Connecticut. The timing, he said, seemed appropriate. “People have always asked (about retirement), but the last couple of years, I’ve always answered ‘It’s not my call,’” he told the assemblage of family, staff members, media and, by many estimates, some 30 former St. Joseph players spanning his entire coaching career. “I think He sent word down that maybe this is the right time and we’ve got a good man to take over. It’s time.”

The “good man” and the patriarch’s chosen successor is Chris Watts, an All-State player on St. Joseph’s 1986 and ’87 Class M state championship teams and a four-year letter-winner at Providence. Watts has served as Montelli’s assistant coach for many years.

Montelli is proud of his multitude of accomplishments: The back-to-back Class LL state championships in his final two seasons, which gave him 11 titles and moved him past Charlie Bentley (Harding), Bob Saulsbury (Wilbur Cross) and the late Sam Bender (Hillhouse), who won nine apiece. His three National Coach of the Year awards. His induction into the national and Connecticut coaches halls of fame. The fact that 27 of his players won McDonald’s All-American recognition and 34 were selected to All-State teams. That the majority went on to further their education and several played at the NCAA Division-I level.

Mere numbers tell only a part of the Montelli story, though. He’s led a faith-filled life, which took root with his parents, Salvatore and Lucrezia Montelli—Italian immigrants with limited formal education—in upstate Bristol. “My parents were very spiritual. My father worked two jobs, and my mother dragged me to everything in church,” he recalled.

He also credits three Roman Catholic priests for providing the guidance, inspiration and opportunities that led to “the chair I sit in today.” They were:

• Fr. Victor Iannotti, “a young curate at St. Anthony Church (in Bristol) who got me into CYO ball for three years.”
• Fr. John McGough, a young priest in the Diocese of Bridgeport office who promised, “When you’re done with the Army, I’m going to have a job for you.” After his discharge, Montelli returned to coach baseball and teach physical education at Notre Dame High School prior to his shift to St. Joseph.
• Msgr. Bartholomew Laurello, the first principal at St. Joseph. They had formed a friendship while teaching at Notre Dame, and Laurello told Montello, “They’ve promised me a high school and I’m taking you with me.”

James Olayos, the school’s current athletic director, has seen Montelli through different lenses, first as coach and father figure, and since 2002 as his supervisor. They’ve experienced few problems through the years.

“I played guard on his first state championship team in 1974-75 and I was the captain in 1976 when we were runner-up (to St. Thomas Aquinas),” said Olayos, holder of a law degree and once a practicing attorney. “We practiced between four and five hours a day and he had every minute scripted. To this day he’s still like that.”

Montelli, he says, “is a very respectful person. At first it was coach-player, and then it evolved into a friendship. We have a great relationship.”
YOUCAT talks faith

By ELISABETH McINTOSH

In 2011, publishers across the world released a small, yellow, paperback book called the "YOUCAT," in twenty-five different languages. Its catchy title is the popular nickname for the new "Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church," a book compiled with the enthusiastic input of Church leaders, teachers and youth. Its mission: to educate and inspire Catholic young people to delve more deeply into the doctrine and teachings of their faith.

The introduction of the YOUCAT contains a deeply personal message from Pope Benedict XVI, who entreats young people to embrace this new means of catechesis and to recognize its potential to transform their lives in Christ. "Study this Catechism with passion and perseverance. Make a sacrifice of your time for it! Study it in the quiet of your room...form study groups and networks; share with each other the Internet. By all means continue to talk with each other about your faith," the pope writes, "You need to know what you believe."

Each time I read these words, I am captivated by the Holy Father’s challenge: "You need to know what you believe." He does not mince words as he informs adults who have grown up in the Church, "Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church might ask, "Why the new format? Why not just study the CCC?" While the CCC is the ultimate summary of Catholic beliefs, tackling more than eight hundred pages of arti-
Sr. Crowe, OSU, 74

Sr. Patricia Crowe, OSU, died on June 25 at Queens Hospital in New York. She was 74 years old and had been an Ursuline Sister for more than 50 years.

Patricia Crowe was born March 8, 1938, and raised in Howard Beach, NY. She received a bachelor degree in elementary education from St. John’s University in Jamaica, Queens, and a masters degree in art education from SUNY in New Paltz, NY, and obtained additional certifications in elementary and art education from St. John’s University in Jamaica, Queens.

She entered the Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk on September 8, 1956, taking the religious name of Sr. Loretto. Sr. Patricia ministered for many years in education as both a teacher and a principal. After teaching on the elementary school level on Long Island she came to the Diocese of Bridgeport, where she served as an art teacher at the former St. Patrick’s High School in Greenwich from 1971-79.

In addition to her years in education, she served in bereavement ministry and continued to assist students as a private tutor until 2004. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sr. Patricia on June 28 in the chapel of St. Ursula Center in Blue Point, NY followed by interment in the St. Ursula Center cemetery.

Sr. Antoine Daniel Knipfing, SSND, dies at 100

Sr. Mary Antoine Daniel Knipfing, a school teacher, school principal, administrator and parish minister in four states over five decades, died on June 15 at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton. She was 100 years old and was celebrating her 80th jubilee as a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Elizabeth Ann Knipfing was born in Westbury, NY, in 1911. The ninth child in a family of 14 children, she was baptized at St. Brigid Parish. The School Sisters of Notre Dame opened St. Brigid School in 1918, and Elizabeth, just 7, became one of their first students. She later wrote, “For me it was ‘love at first sight’ and this love remained a constant all through my school days.”

In 1929, after graduating from St. Saviour High School in Brooklyn, she entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was given the religious name Mary Antoine Daniel and made her first profession of vows in 1932. Sr. Antoine earned a bachelor’s degree in education from what is today Notre Dame of Maryland University, and she earned a master’s in administration from Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ.

Following teaching assignments in Maryland, she came to Connecticut. She was principal and local leader at St. Stephen School in Trumbull from 1971-73. Following her years of teaching, she shifted to pastoral ministry for several years. In addition to parish ministry, she offered pastoral care to the sisters at Lourdes Health Care Center, something she continued even after moving to Villa Notre Dame, home to retired SSNDs, in Wilton.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at the chapel at Villa Notre Dame.
Los católicos de habla hispana en la diócesis

Por EL PADRE GUSTAVO A. FALLA
(El Padre Falla es director del ministerio de los católicos que hablan español).

De acuerdo a datos pastorales, los católicos de habla hispana en el Condado de Fairfield han estado presente en nuestra Diócesis de Bridgeport incluso antes de su fundación en 1953. Oficialmente, durante el comienzo de nuestra diócesis, se contó con la presencia de unas cuantas familias católicas puertorriqueñas que habían inmigrado a esta área en busca de empleo. A través de los años, el número de católicos de habla hispana ha crecido gradualmente y con este crecimiento de la población hemos visto también un incremento tanto en retos como en oportunidades.

Los centros migratorios por excelencia han sido Stamford, Norwalk y Bridgeport, ciudades en las que la industria ha ofrecido oportunidades a los nuevos inmigrantes. Poco a poco, personas provenientes de otros países latinoamericanos se han venido estableciendo a través del condado y así es como un buen número de cubanos, colombianos, peruanos y ecuatorianos han poblado, en buen número, estas y otras ciudades del Estado de Connecticut, desde hace más de sesenta años. La ola migratoria de hispanoparlantes creció admirablemente a partir de los años setenta trayendo así a personas provenientes de España, Centro América, el Caribe, México y de todo Sur América. Se puede decir que todos los países de habla española están representados en nuestro Condado de Fairfield y, de acuerdo con las proyecciones del Censo, en el año 2011 nos constituimos en el 17.4% de la población del Condado de Fairfield, es decir, unas 162.000 personas de habla hispana vivimos en esta pequeña región del Estado de Connecticut (el Condado de Fairfield ocupa un territorio de 625 millas cuadradas, aproximadamente). De este gran número de personas calculamos que un 70% al 75% somos católicos, es decir, unas 120.000 personas (el 30% al 35% de los católicos en el Condado de Fairfield somos de habla hispana).

Las cifras que hoy descubrimos hacen aún más evidente la necesidad de analizar el impacto de nuestra presencia en la Iglesia Local. La Diócesis de Bridgeport ha hecho un esfuerzo enorme al tratar de dar respuesta a las muy variadas necesidades de nuestra comunidad de habla hispana. Obviamente, la vida sacramental ocupa el lugar primordial en el cuidado pastoral que se ofrece pero debemos reconocer que hay muchas otras formas como la comunidad recibe el beneficio de grandes esfuerzos en su favor, desde servicios al inmigrante hasta asistencia social. A través de Las Caridades Católicas, la Diócesis de Bridgeport, es decir, todos nosotros, los católicos comprometidos con la fe, ofrecemos ayuda a miles de personas que no tienen donde acudir. Sin embargo, no estamos haciendo lo suficiente.

No es un secreto que el elemento clave para el progreso personal y comunitario es el conocimiento pero la formación humana se desarrolle en su totalidad ofrece grandes beneficios pero la sólida formación. La información enriquece el conocimiento y/o recibir una gran cantidad de información, sino en proveer y/o obtener una y solid formación. La información oferta grandes beneficios pero la formación hace que la persona humana se desarrolle en su totalidad. La información enriquece el conocimiento pero la formación da sentido y propósito a la vida. Nosotros estamos llamados a la formación en Cristo que nos agrada. A través de una buena formación podemos avanzar de una forma significativa y así contribuir de la mejor manera a nuestra Iglesia.

Hay familias que han hecho un gran esfuerzo al sacrificar cosas materiales para llevar a sus hijos a la escuela Católica y a hacerlo, como sabemos, han optado por lo mejor: lo bueno. Esas familias, al ver los resultados de la educación y formación integral de sus hijos en las escuelas Católicas, donde se ha ofrecido tanto preparación pre-sacramental como educación religiosa a los estudiantes, en su gran mayoría, no se arrepienten de sus sacrificios, al contrario, agradecen el haberlo hecho. Las familias que tristemente no tienen como ofrecer una educación en la escuela Católica a sus hijos pueden y deben buscar una buena formación religiosa para ellos a través de sus parroquias.

La formación de niños y jóvenes debe ser el primer reto al que nos enfrentemos uniéndonos. Debe ser la primera y más importante oportunidad para la acción. Comenzando por el hogar y siguiendo luego al nivel de la parroquia, nos dedicamos a formar personas nuevas y comprometidas con la fe. Es por eso, que, en nuestros programas de educación religiosa, por ejemplo, no podemos conformarnos con pasar información a niños y jóvenes. Debemos esforzarnos en formar católicos comprometidos de manera que, desde los comienzos mismos de la vida, estos seres a quienes amamos profundamente reciban la capacidad de conocer el sentido y el propósito de sus propias vidas. Los padres de familia y las personas encargadas de educar a niños y jóvenes deben familiarizarse con los programas ofrecidos en sus parroquias, y la familia pueda “salir de eso”; debemos escuchar si sus hijos reciben, bien sea información o formación, enformación o formación, en tanto que la educación religiosa de sus hijos sea la mejor posible. No podemos contentarnos con una simple preparación pre-sacramental de manera que los niños hagan la Primera Comunión y la familia pueda “salir de eso” sino que, por el contrario, se siga la norma diocesana y al niños se les ofrezca lo que les pertenece a ellos: Una sólida formación a través del programa de educación religiosa. La educación religiosa...
America’s deadly obsession with guns

From abortion to war, vigilante militias to hate groups, angry language to road rage, computer games to movies, violence holds so much of American society in its deadly grip. Countless numbers of Americans have either become violent, are insensitive to the grave harm violence brings, or are entertained by it. These easily observable facts point to a society that has significantly lost its respect for the dignity of each human life.

There is no one single solution to America’s obsession with violence. A multi-faceted strategy must be employed. We need to discover the values of kindness, courtesy, patience, compassion and selflessness. We need to more faithfully seek God’s gentle wisdom, especially when dealing with opposition of any kind.

And in light of Jesus’ words and example, we must break ranks with our violent culture, and love everyone—even our enemies.

And yes, we need strict gun control! The recent tragic mass murder in Aurora, Colorado, is but the latest in a long string of similar horrific events executed by mentally ill or angry persons who easily purchased guns—including assault weapons. According to Joshua Horwitz, executive director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (www.csgv.org), “Sales between individuals, under federal law, do not require a background check. This means that felons can ‘lie and buy’ at gun shows and other places where guns are readily available.”

According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, a gun in the home is far more likely to be used in a completed or attempted suicide, a criminal assault or homicide, or an accidental shooting death, than in a self-defense shooting. Of the more than 30,000 average gun deaths per year in the U.S., the FBI’s Expanded Homicide Data reports that only about 200 of those killed are deemed legally justified self-defense homicides by private citizens. Nearly all of the rest are gun involved murders and suicides.

Armed with the facts, we need to urge our local, state and national representatives to pass strict, common-sense gun control laws that will significantly reduce the carnage of gun-related murders and suicides.

During the Mass of Christian Burial for 18-year-old Alexander Boik, one of 12 people murdered in the Aurora shooting tragedy, Fr. Martin Lally said in his homily that “Our presence here is a true sign that love is more powerful than evil, that a gentle presence is stronger than bullets.”

If the day ever comes when Christians and all people of goodwill realize and practice the Gospel truth that gentle love is indeed more powerful that evil and bullets, the kingdom of God will be upon us.
The Sibling Bond

 POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

Come, let’s away, we two alone…we’ll live and pray and sing and tell old tales, and laugh” (King Lear, 5.3.8-12).

It is the longest lasting relationship most people have, longer than the parent-child or husband-wife relationship. It is the relationship between siblings. The bond between brothers and sisters is unique. It often is one of the most profound attachments in human life.

Clearly, there are numerous pairs of siblings who go through life not resonating to one another. The Bible tells how Cain murdered Abel. Jacob cheated Esau. The attachments in human life. Siblings often melt imperceptibly out of each other’s existence. Indeed, the bond becomes one of life’s most enduring and influential relationships.

Siblings usually attended the same schools, played with the same friends, wore each other’s clothes. They tend to be woven into each other’s lives, and loyalty goes deep. I have known brothers who compliment each other wonder-fully. There is no mistaking the affection between them, a quiet undemonstrative pleasure in one another’s company. They can talk away the night. They love to sit in silence, talking of the old times. They are quick to perceive the way each other’s mind run. One can sense the delicious feeling of unity, friendship, safety together. They never seem to weary of each other’s fellowship.

The Talmud says that wherever brothers meet in love is holy ground and God is glorified. Any brother where brothers meet in love is a temple and God is delighted.

I have known sisters where one can sense the strong and tender love which unites the two. They have a chemistry together, wondrous to see. I think we all know stories of siblings called to help a brother or sister in a crisis and who travel enormous geographical distances. When I’m with my own brother, I have the feeling of almost meeting myself. How easy I feel in his company, liberated from the necessity of putting up a false front.

I have known sisters where one or sister in a crisis and who travel enormous geographical distances. Most of us might agree that the best things in our lives are the loves we have known. They are the most “divine parts” of life, that part that is brother or sister to no one, and is most like God. It is bliss to be an only child. Yet they miss the companionship and security, both in childhood and especially in adult years, that come from having siblings. As an only child, one is brother or sister to no one, and there are no nephews or nieces.

Most of us might agree that the best things in our lives are love we have known. They are the most “divine parts” of life, that part that is most like God. It is bliss to be someone’s brother or sister.

With that bond we can have some of the best that this life has to give.

SAINTLY LIVES

BY ED WALDRON

Jerry served in the Polish army in a unit designated for seminary students in an effort by the Communist government to dissuade young men from their vocations. He was mocked and abused, receiving injuries that crippled his health for the rest of his life. He never waivered from his resolve to serve God. He was ordained 4 years later in 1972.

The communist government terrorized the faithful for decades, but was never able to stamp out Catholic devotion. The people cling to the church and the church was vocal in its condemnation of communism and in its defense of human rights. In 1980, Fr. Jerry celebrated mass in a Warsaw steel factory upon request of union leaders. This was the beginning of his mission as the spiritual guide for the solidarity movement.

In 1981, after a 15 month truce, the government declared martial law which unleashed a brutal military campaign on Polish citizens in order to crush the opposition.

He was arrested in July, 1984 and charged with being an enemy of the state. But it was on October 13th of that same year that the Polish pope John Paul II after celebrating Mass and leading a recitation of the Holy Rosary, he was kidnapped by government hitmen and clubbed to death.

News of his death electrified the world. The young Polish pope grieved over the loss. Communist came to an end in Poland in 1989. Fr. Jerry was beatified on June 6th, 2010 in Warsaw.
SUMMER FAIR will be held at St. Leo Parish, Stamford, Tues.-Sat., Aug. 28-Sept. 1. Foods, rides, games (one price ride bracelets), bingo; live entertainment each night starting at 7:30. For more information, call the parish: 203.322.1669.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS are held at locations around the diocese: Tues., Sept. 4, TBD, Bridgeport, at 7 pm; Thurs., Sept. 20, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, at 7:30 pm; Wed., Sept. 26, at St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield, at 7:30 pm; and Tues., Oct. 2, TBD, Bridgeport, at 7 pm. For more information, contact Ray: 203.268.8857.

SHARE (Sacred Heart Adult Religious Education) for the Diocese of Bridgeport has announced its fall courses.

American Church History, taught Tues. in Sept.-Oct., will begin Sept. 4; Acts of the Apostles, held Wed., starts Sept. 5. All courses are from 7-9 pm at Sacred Heart University Stamford Campus, 12 Omega Drive. For more information, contact Gina Donnarummo: 203.416.1446 or SHARE@diobpt.org.

GOSSIP OF LIFE SOCIETY meets the second Sat. of the month (Sept. 8) at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, at 10 am after the 9 am Pro-Life Mass. Sen. Joseph Markley, Dist 16, will speak on the HHS mandate and other legislative issues. For more information, contact Eileen Bianchini: 203.847.5727 or stmarygols@aol.com.

PARISH PICNIC at the Cathedral Parish will take place on the great lawn of St. Augustine Cathedral on Sun. Sept. 9, from 11am-5 pm (rain date Sept.16). Enjoy Vietnamese and Spanish cuisine or hot dogs and hamburgers. There will be live music, a raffle, and a nail polishing booth for the ladies. For more information, call 203.368.6777 or 203.335.0106.

50 YEARS AT ST. JUDE SCHOOL: St. Jude School in Monroe will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with a Mass on Sun., Sept. 9, at 12 noon in St. Jude Church. Reception will follow in the school gym. For more information, call 203.516.1821.

ANNUAL PICNIC will be held at Holy Cross Parish, Fairfield, on Sun., Sept. 9. Day starts with Polka Mass at 11 am. Live entertainment all day by the Polka Quads, Slovenian & American foods, games, crafts and raffles. Rain or shine. For more information, call the parish office: 203.372.4595.

PARISH PICNIC will be held at St. Pius X Parish, Fairfield, on Sun., Sept. 9, from 11 am-5 pm. The day starts with an outdoor Mass at 11 am. Fun follows with rides and games, tag sale, baked goods, food, Italian Ice, Sunny the Clown, and music with a local DJ. For more information, call the parish: 203.255.6134.

WOMEN’S GROUP at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, will resume their monthly meetings Mon., Sept. 10, from 10 am-12 noon in the parish hall. In addition to monthly socials and interesting speakers, there are opportunities to join a book group, knitting/crocheting group, and/or mahjong group. All women are welcome to join. For more information, call 203.261.8020.

“CATHOLICISM: Journey to the Heart of the Faith,” will be facilitated by Fr. Michael Novajosky at St. Jude Parish, Monroe, starting Wed., Sept. 12, from 9:30-11:30 am. This 12-week study program, created by Fr. Robert Barron, will provide insight to anyone who wishes to deepen his or her understanding of the faith. For more information or to enroll, contact Kathy Clark: 203.261.0707, or email loonsovergranby@gmail.com.

“CELEBRATE CATHOLIC AMERICA” a pilgrimage to Baltimore and Philadelphia, will take place Sun-Mon., Oct. 28-29. Pilgrimage will include talks by Dr. Joan Kelly, Mass at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD, tour of America’s first cathedral, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Baltimore, MD, and visit to St. Katharine Drexel National Shrine outside Philadelphia, PA. Cost: $219/person includes motor coach, lodging, Sunday dinner and Monday breakfast. Registration deadline: Fri., Sept. 28. For more information and to register contact Gina Donnarummo, director of Adult Formation: 203.416.1446 or gdonnarummo@diobpt.org.

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TEACHING and how it relates to politics, culture and the economy will be the focus of a talk by Bob Nalewajek, the president of CAPP-USA, held Wed., Sept. 12, at the Alumni House of Fairfield University. All are welcome; there is no charge for admission. For more information, call William J. Fox, president of the Fairfield County Chapter of CAPP: 860.659.0591.

MARIAN LADIES GROUP at St. George Parish, Bridgeport, meets two Weds. a month. Their opening meeting, Wed., Sept. 12, will begin with Mass in the chapel at 8 am, followed by meeting, social and Rosary. On Sept. 26 they will begin discussion of “Catholicism.” New members welcome. For more information, call 203.261.8020.

CARD PARTY/LUNCHEON will be held at St. Mary Parish, Stamford, on Fri., Sept. 14, from 12 noon-4 pm. (Door opens at 11 am.) Cost: $15/person. For more information and for reservations, call Vita Squillace: 203.348.7933.

MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE sponsored by the Charismatic Renewal Office will be offered Mon., Sept. 17, at 7:30 pm at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, with Fr. Charles Allen. For more information, call 203.268.8253.

BEREAVEMENT AND SUPPORT GROUP for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one is forming at St. Stephen Parish, Trumbull. Weekly meetings will be held Weds. starting Sept. 19, from 4:30-5 pm or 6:30-8 pm. For more information or to register, call the parish office: 203.268.6217.

ALPHA EXPERIENCE, a 10-week opportunity to explore the meaning of life, will be introduced at St. John Parish, Darien, on Wed., Sept. 19, from 6:30-8 pm. The course will be held Wed. Sept. 26-Dec. 5, at two times: 9:30-11:15 am, and 6:30-9 pm. Registration: $20. For more information or to register, go to www.stjohnalpha.com, or contact Jean Benitez: 203.655.5122.

TEEN ADORERS NEEDED to spend a Holy Hour with Jesus at St. Joseph Parish, Danbury, Adoration & Basketball on Sat., Sept. 29, from 6-9 pm. Praise & Worship led by Danbury Emmaus. Join us after Adoration for games, prizes, free food, and to shoot some hoops in the school gym. All high school teens are invited. For more information contact David Roman: SaintJosephYG@gmail.com or 203.606.1786.

MEN’S RETREAT from The Cathedral Parish of St. Augustine and St. Patrick will be held Wed.-Fri., Oct. 5-7, at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Rd., West Hartford. For more information, contact Frank Dausilio: 203.371.2902, or register online at www.holyfamilyretreat.org.

VENDORS NEEDED for a Harvest/Holiday Fair to be held at St. Mary Parish, Stamford, on Sat., Oct. 20, from 10 am-5 pm. New gifts and crafts for the Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, bake sale, raffle, beverages and lunch items for purchase. For more information, call Sharon MacKnight: 203.327.1806 or email smacknight@optonline.net.

Sunday, September 9, 2012
11:00am - 5:00pm
Come Celebrate Outdoor Mass 11:00am
Fun begins right after
- Rides & Games
- Tag Sale
- Food & Beer
- Baked Goods
- D.J.
- Raffle (6 chances to win a visa gift card)
-In theatres nationwide on September 14
Find theatre & ticket information at www.standusa.com/lastounceofcourage
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