



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 2015 | VOLUME 32, NUMBER 8 | BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE

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SYNOD Celebration Mass

Synod Celebration Mass is upon us

*My brothers and sisters
in the Lord:*

For many of us, September is a time of new beginnings. Parents and students return from vacations and their time spent away to resume regular routines. Our schools are reopening and students return to their studies and after school activities. Our parishes are preparing to start again their programs and activities, RCIA, Bible study and faith formation, and will celebrate the return of parishioners and students with activities such as homecoming Sunday.

Hopefully, we all had an opportunity to enjoy a restful and rejuvenating summer and are ready to undertake new challenges.

This September is certainly a time of new beginnings for us as a diocesan family as well! We have reached an exciting, and I would even add, unique time in our common life of faith.

On Saturday, September 19, more than 8,500 faithful will assemble for the Synod 2014 Mass at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport to celebrate our life as a diocese. We will give thanks through prayer, song and the celebration of Holy Mass for all the hard work that the synod accomplished over the past year. We will ask the Lord for the strength, wisdom and grace to realize the mission of the synod through a successful implementation of the recommendations approved in May by our nearly 350 delegates.

As you have heard me say before, a synod is a sacred journey. The purpose of our work over the past year was to discern God's plan for our diocese's future and to ask the Lord to give



PARISH COORDINATORS PICK UP TICKETS—Parish Coordinators for the Synod Celebration Mass attended a special session with Bishop Caggiano and synod leaders to prepare for the distribution of tickets to the Mass at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport on Saturday September 19. More than 8,500 people are registered to attend. Most tickets were distributed through the parishes. Many of the faithful will board buses in their parishes, while others are expected to drive or take the train.

us wisdom to see the challenges we face, and to discern what must be done to address those challenges together. Through the hard work and discernment of the delegates, we have outlined a plan that will shape us as a people of faith in Fairfield County for many years to come.

The synod was the sacred catalyst behind many of the initiatives approved by our delegates this past May. From ideas to reinvigorate our parish worship life, to the creation of the Catholic Service Corps and the Diocesan Leadership Institute, to the reestablishment of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, all of our initiatives are rooted in the desire to become a more welcoming, warm, and open Church for all who wish to follow Christ. Even

the Diocesan Youth Choir is rooted in this mission. We created our choir in order to provide another avenue for young people to worship Jesus Christ, and to spread the joy of their Catholic faith with their peers, parents, and all in our diocese.

More important than the initiatives and proposals that have arisen from the synod is the reconfirmation of our common desire to love, serve and accompany the people of our diocese in their lives of faith. All that we will do together is to lift people up in the power of Christ. It starts by providing and discovering opportunities to revitalize each of us on a personal level (the regular churchgoer, the occasional churchgoer, and the "spiritual, but not-religious") and to deepen

our relationship with the Lord Jesus. As we deepen our personal faith, hope and love, we will become better equipped to assist the many people who are searching for God in their lives. Our common mission is to help all who are seeking a true spiritual home to find it with us in the Catholic Church.

After the Synod Mass, the synod will not be over! In fact, it is just beginning. Each and every one of us must now begin the hard work of implementing the synod's mandates and do all that we can to strengthen, and in some cases, revitalize, our parishes and schools.

More than 8,500 people have reserved their seats at the Arena! I know from the Synod Mass coordinators in our parishes and

schools that there are many more who wish to be with us that day, but will not be able to due to the maximum capacity of the Arena.

For those who want to take part, there are other ways to participate in the synod activities. Each evening from September 11 through September 18, there will be a Novena to the Holy Spirit beginning at 7 pm at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. In addition, you will be able to follow along through the live streaming of the Synod Mass on Saturday, September 19 at www.bridgeportdiocese.com. The Mass will also be televised on Sunday, September 20, on WCCT-TV, Channel 20 out of Hartford, and Channel 84 on Cablevision.

There are hundreds of people to thank for all their efforts to support the Synod Mass. A full listing of those individuals and companies will be included in the October issue of the *Fairfield County Catholic*.

I am incredibly thankful to all who have brought us to this point with the grace of Christ our Lord.

The mission statement discerned by the synod delegates is simple and powerful. "Our common mission is to foster personal conversion and deepen each disciple's relationship with the Lord Jesus in the community of the Catholic Church."

May future generations say you and I lived the words of this mission statement in powerfully authentic ways, one person at a time!

May God bless each and every one of you and the great diocese that we form!

Francis Caggiano

ON THE COVER

WELCOME POPE FRANCIS—The eyes of millions of Catholics and others across the country will turn to Pope Francis on September 22, when he begins his first visit to the United States. The Pope will speak to a Joint Session of Congress, stop at Madison Square Garden, and celebrate Mass for almost two million people in Philadelphia. The diocese looks forward to a big meeting of its own with more than 8,500 faithful expected to join Bishop Caggiano at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport for the Synod Celebration Mass on September 19.
(PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

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Local News

Msgr. Powers to become vicar general

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Msgr. Thomas Powers, an official of the Congregation of Bishops in the Vatican, has been appointed to serve as the new vicar general and moderator of the curia of the diocese of Bridgeport.

The appointment was announced by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. It will be effective November 15.

"Msgr. Powers will end his service to the Holy See on November 1, completing ten years of exemplary and faithful service to the Universal Church. His personal faith, deep love for the priesthood, generous service and training in Rome have all prepared him well to serve in this new leadership role," said Bishop Caggiano.

"I look forward to collaborating closely with him as we move our diocese forward in spiritual renewal and towards realizing the vision and mandates of our Fourth Diocesan Synod," the

bishop said.

Msgr. Powers began his tenure at the Congregation of Bishops in September 2005, after serving as spiritual director for St. John Fisher Seminary Residence in Stamford and at Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford.

While on assignment as an English-speaking representative to the Congregation of Bishops at the Vatican, Msgr. Powers also served as adjunct spiritual director at the seminary at the North American College.

Born in Newport Beach, California, he grew up in Newtown, attending Saint Rose of Lima Elementary School and Immaculate High School in Danbury.

He earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1987 from the University of Notre Dame, and worked as a senior financial consultant for Andersen Consulting in New York City before completing his pre-theology courses at Saint John Fisher. He received



MSGR. THOMAS POWERS

his S.T.B. degree from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1996 and was ordained to the diaconate at Saint Peter's Basilica the same year. He served his deacon internship at the North American College in Vatican City and attended the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family in Rome.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Edward M. Egan on May 24, 1997, and began service to the diocese as parochial vicar at Saint Theresa Parish in Trumbull in July 1997.

In making the announcement of Msgr. Powers' appointment, Bishop Caggiano also thanked Msgr. William Scheyd, who has

served as vicar general for 28 years, having been appointed to the position in 1987 by Bishop Walter W. Curtis.

"Through his years of service, Msgr. Scheyd has helped lead our diocese both with his wise counsel and more importantly by his priestly witness. On a personal level, I am deeply indebted to Msgr. Scheyd for both the fraternal care he has shown me and the helpful advice that he has given me since my arrival in the diocese," said the bishop.

Msgr. Scheyd will continue to serve as pastor of Saint Aloysius Church in New Canaan. At Bishop Caggiano's request, he has also agreed to accept a new position, Episcopal Vicar for Senior Priests, effective November 15. The new position will provide pastoral and fraternal assistance to all retired priests. It will also help all priests nearing retirement to prepare for this important transition in their lives. ■

Catholic Underground comes to diocese

Catholic Underground is coming to the Diocese of Bridgeport beginning in October. Its reverent mix of Eucharistic adoration, art and music has attracted a diverse following and helped draw believers of all ages into the life of the Church. It is a cultural apostolate of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (C.F.R.).

The first Catholic Underground in this diocese, presented by the Sacred Beauty Project, is set for Saturday, October 10, from 7:30 to 10 pm at St. Ann Parish in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport.

"Catholic Underground is known for the great ministry it created in Manhattan. By bringing it to the diocese, the bishop is giving our young people a true gift. It offers a dynamic way for people to come together for Holy Hour, Confession and a Catholic cultural experience," said Father Peter Lynch, St. Ann's pastor.

The Catholic Underground name originated with the church-basement concerts that the C.F.R. home-grown funk band offered to follow their Holy Hours in Manhattan and the Bronx, but



ENERGIZING PRAISE and worship is one of the hallmarks of Catholic Underground, coming to this diocese in the fall.

also shares a link in spirit to the underground Rhapsodic Theater of the young Karol Wojtya, later Pope John Paul II.

"Catholic Underground was formed in response to St. John Paul II's teaching that the Gospel lives in conversation with culture and that we must be fearless in crossing the cultural threshold," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, who welcomed the movement to the diocese.

Upon meeting Sacred Beauty Project founders Paul Chu and Val Tarantino, the bishop requested that they create a Catholic

Underground affiliate group in the Diocese of Bridgeport. "As a Sacred Beauty initiative, Catholic Underground Fairfield County will be blending elements of high culture and pop culture with the sacred into one unified culture of worship," Tarantino said.

In addition to St. Ann's, Catholic Underground will also meet at Sacred Heart Parish in Danbury and St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk. Events will take place on the second Saturday of each month, starting in October, and will rotate between the three parishes.

"I'm very grateful for our pas-

sors who will be welcoming this movement to Fairfield County. We share a sense of excitement about this gift to all those who seek to experience their faith in a context that includes music and artistic expression," said Bishop Caggiano.

The bishop described how, throughout the synod process, many people asked for more opportunities for Adoration and for a richer and more varied approach to music. They also requested programs that fully engage the young and invite them into the Church.

"It's about prayer—about our Eucharistic Lord drawing people at every stage in their faith journey, their life journey, and bringing them into prayerful community in his presence," said Chu. "The evening begins and ends with the Liturgy of the Hours—Vespers and Compline. This is the universal prayer of the Church—prayed by Catholics throughout the world in every time zone and in every language."

After Vespers, there is a period of song, praise and worship, ending with solemn Benediction.

Then the celebration focuses on Catholic artists, sharing music, poetry, visual art, dance, film, and drama.

A short film festival is on tap for October; November 14 will feature rap theologian Sammy Blaze; February 13 will bring the folk singer and Catholic human rights activist Danielle Rose, with Bishop Caggiano as celebrant for the Holy Hour; and April will feature Father Claude Dusty Burns of the Diocese of Evansville, better known to many as the rapping priest "Father Pontifex."

Tarantino cited Sacred Beauty's patron saint, St. Peter Julian Eymard: "The Heart of Jesus is a furnace of love for God and for us. From it are constantly darting forth the most ardent and purest flames of divine love." She added, "In his presence, our worship and praise will be enfolded and set aflame by his own, and his light will illumine and spark the creativity and beauty of the art that follows."

(For more info, email Catholic Underground Fairfield County at cufairfieldcounty@gmail.com or contact the participating parishes.) ■

Blue and Red Masses set

Blue Mass: Honoring first responders

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

The Annual Diocesan Blue Mass honoring fire, police and rescue workers will be held on September 13 at 12 noon at St. Matthew Church, 216 Scribner Avenue, Norwalk. A reception immediately following Mass will be held in the Blanchard Center on parish grounds.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be the main celebrant, along with diocesan priests who serve as police and fire chaplains in Fairfield County. Father Charles Allen, SJ, special assistant to the president of Fairfield University, is serving as chair of the event.

Law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service personnel of all faiths in Fairfield County, along with members of the general public, are invited to attend the Mass and reception.



The Blue Mass takes its name from the blue uniforms worn by police, fire and emergency services personnel. Founded by Bishop William E. Lori, the Blue Mass was initiated to celebrate the life and heroism of those who

died during the 9-11 tragedy in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

Since that time, the Blue Mass has grown into a moving and memorable commemoration of the courage and commitment of

the uniformed personnel who protect our health and safety every day of the year in Fairfield County. The Fairfield County councils and assemblies of the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the Mass again this year.

Police, fire and other first responders to be honored at this year's Blue Mass are John Long of Bridgeport, a Fire Department dispatcher and Special Olympics volunteer; Newtown Police Canine Officer Felicia Figol, who started the Police Explorer Program; Greenwich police officers James Smith and Sergeant John Slusarz, for saving the life of a man trapped in a trash compactor; and Bridgeport Police Sergeant Gabe Meszaros for his leadership of the Police Explorer's Club and his work with disadvantaged youth.

Also to be recognized are

Norwalk Police Officer Hector Delgado for performing several community-oriented projects during the year; Police Officer Joseph Steyer for organizing and administering multiple "Gun Buy Back Days" throughout the Stamford community; and Ridgefield Fire Captain Richard Lawlor for his leadership in delivering the highest level of emergency response in Fairfield County.

At last year's Blue Mass, Bishop Caggiano thanked the uniformed officers for their service, "which is Christ-like in its mission to protect others from harm, never to abandon them in need and often to suffer with those they try to save."

(To learn more about this event, contact Debbie Charles: 203.416.1352; Father Charles Allen: 203.254.4000, ext. 2316; or the Diocese of Bridgeport: 203.416.1358.)

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Red Mass inspires lawyers

FAIRFIELD—The 2015 Red Mass will take place on Sunday, October 4, at 9 am in the Egan Chapel of Fairfield University. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will celebrate and be the homilist. Fairfield University will host this year's event and University President Father Jeffrey vonArx, SJ, will be in attendance.

The annual Red Mass traditionally seeks guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who strive for justice, and offers the opportunity to reflect on the responsibilities and challenges faced by Catholic legal practitioners. The public is encouraged to attend the Red Mass, along with members of the legal profession. Breakfast will be served following the Mass in the Oak Room on campus.

Father Richard Ryscavage, SJ, a nationally-known expert on immigration and refugee policy and director of the Center for Faith and Public Life at Fairfield University, will be the featured speaker at the breakfast. His topic is "Immigration and the Church Today."

"As a Jesuit priest who ran one of the world's largest refugee resettlement agencies, Father Ryscavage brings a unique perspective and first hand-experience to one of the most pressing and urgent topics around the globe," said Atty. Anne McCrory, chief legal and real estate officer for the Diocese of Bridgeport. "The ongoing child immigration crisis and the call of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) for compassionate immigration reform make this a timely and important discussion."

Father Ryscavage is also a professor of sociology and anthropology at Fairfield University. He has served as national director of the Jesuit Refugee Service, and his services have been tapped by the Vatican more than once. In 2006, he was invited by the Vatican to become a member of the official delegation of the Holy See to the UN General Assembly and participated in the

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Catholic Schools

Schools receive new administrators

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and Superintendent of Schools Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D., announced the appointments of new high school and elementary school principals and a Director of Instructional Leadership for the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport. The diocese enrolls 9,000 students in its 25 elementary/middle schools, five high schools and one school for special education, with 9,000 students enrolled this year.

“I look forward to collaborating with our new administrators in advancing our mission” says Sister Mary Grace. “They join a team of administrators that exemplify the best in Catholic schools and academic excellence.”

Two diocesan high schools will welcome new principals. Dr. Joseph Gerics, associate superintendent for secondary education for the Archdiocese of New York, has been named principal of Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford. Dr. James Keane, who comes to this diocese from Medway, Mass., is the new principal of St. Joseph High School in Trumbull.

Dr. Joseph Gerics Trinity Catholic, Stamford

A familiar face in this diocese, Dr. Joseph Gerics was a teacher at Fairfield Prep, chair of Prep’s theology department and director of community service prior to being named principal of Immaculate High School in Danbury in 1996. There he was credited with bringing about a renaissance by increasing enroll-



DR. JOSEPH GERICS

ment, improving the curriculum and creating a fund-raising program and an advisory board.

In 2004 he moved to New York, where he has served as headmaster at Xavier High School in Manhattan and was director of the Office of Educational Development in the Archdiocese of New York before becoming associate superintendent for secondary education.

Dr. Gerics holds his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Fairfield University, and both a master’s degree and a doctorate in education from Teachers College, Columbia University. He has also completed studies at the Institute for Not-for-Profit Management at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Business.

Dr. Gerics and his wife Susan reside in Trumbull and are members of the Cathedral Parish in Bridgeport. They are the parents of a grown son.

Dr. James Keane St. Joseph, Trumbull



DR. JAMES KEANE

Dr. James Keane comes to this diocese from Medway, Mass., where he served as vice principal of academic affairs at Catholic Memorial School in West Roxbury for fifteen years.

A member of the Catholic Theological Society of America and the American Academy of Religion, Dr. Keane holds a B.A. from Iona College, N.Y., a Master of Divinity degree in



ANDREW MALIONEK

social ethics from Yale Divinity School, a master’s in educational administration from Emmanuel College in Boston and a doctorate in systematic theology from Marquette University.

Dr. Keane led several innovative programs at Catholic Memorial, including a cross-cultural program that provided students with domestic and international service immersion



STEVE SANTOLI

opportunities.

He has also travelled the world and developed expertise in the area of international education. In 2013, he was featured in a documentary on international education produced and broadcast by Chinese National Television.

Dr. Keane and his wife, Eileen, are in the process of relocating to this area. They are the

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Catholic School Principals

PRINCIPALS

FROM PAGE 5

parents of three children.

The superintendent's office is also pleased to announce the appointment of five elementary school principals.

Andrew Malionek
St. Augustine Academy
Bridgeport

Andrew Malionek was the department chair and service coordinator at Catholic Memorial School in West Roxbury, Mass., before accepting the position of principal at the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport at St. Augustine Academy. He had previously taught theology at Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree, Mass., and was an adjunct professor in the philosophy department of the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

A graduate of Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., Malionek holds a master's degree in philosophy from Boston College, and a second master's in philosophy and religious studies, from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. He completed postgraduate course work at the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Oxford University in England. He most recently completed a certificate course in conflict analysis



SUZANNE CURRA

at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.

Principal Malionek is the author of *Reclaim Your Self: The Complexity of Identity*, published by Common Ground Publishing, 2010.

He and his wife, Kate, and their two daughters are moving to Fairfield County from Maynard, Mass., where they were members of St. Bridget Parish.

Steve Santoli
Assumption, Fairfield

Steve Santoli is the new principal of Assumption Catholic School in Fairfield. He comes to Assumption from another Fairfield school, St. Thomas Aquinas, where he was a social studies and science teacher and integrated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and



JACK LYNCH

Math) concepts into the curriculum of both subjects. He had taught high school social studies in Averill Park, N.Y., where he worked with special education staff to meet student goals in inclusion classes and mentored new staff members, and in high schools in Commack and Schenectady, N.Y. He first taught in Fairfield County at Ridgefield High School.

He is the assistant track and field coach at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, and has served as assistant director of graduate admissions at SHU.

Principal Santoli holds his bachelor's degree in history from UCONN and his M.S. degree in education from Dowling College in Oakdale, N.Y. He is an Educational Leadership Candidate at Sacred Heart University.

He is a Fairfield resident where he, his wife Rebecca, and their three children are members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.

Suzanne Curra
St. Gregory, Danbury



GREGORY VICEROY

Suzanne Curra comes to St. Gregory the Great School from her most recent role as the assistant principal of St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown. She brings to the position a strong hands-on background, having taught students at every level from second to eighth grade. She taught at St. Ann School in Yonkers, N.Y. and St. Joseph School in Croton Falls, N.Y., before coming to St. Rose of Lima in 2010 as a language arts teacher and later resource teacher for the middle school grades. She became assistant principal at St. Rose in 2013, with duties ranging from managing programs of the pre-school to ensuring kindergarten readiness to providing professional development workshops for teachers and implementing cross-curricular planning.

Curra holds her bachelor's degree in modern languages from Providence College in Rhode Island. She has an M.S. in education from the University of Bridgeport and her School



WENDY VACA

Leadership Certification from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

Curra and her family, including her husband and two teenagers, are members of St. Edward the Confessor Parish in New Fairfield.

Jack Lynch
St. James, Stratford

Jack Lynch brings extensive leadership experience in education as well as more than a decade in sales and communications. He taught language arts in Bridgeport and Newtown, where he first served as assistant principal at Newtown Middle School then vice principal of Newtown High School. He served as a reading and writing curriculum specialist for Stratfield Elementary School in Fairfield before going to the Stratford Public School system in 1998. He has been principal of Wilcoxson Elementary School and of David Wooster Middle School, and was Lead Elementary Principal for Stratford Public Schools,

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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RED MASS FROM PAGE 4

Secretary General's "High Level Dialogue on Migration." Most recently, Father Ryscavage met with Pope Francis in the Vatican, where he expressed his particular concern about young migrants around the world. Father Ryscavage has been asked to join the Federal government's Interagency Task Force on Unaccompanied Children.

As executive director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of Migration and Refugee Services, he oversaw large annual federal grants from the State Department and the Department of Health and Human Services. He also served as the president of CLINIC, the Catholic Legal

Immigration Network. He was the first Arrupe Tutor at the Refugee Studies Centre of Oxford University in England.

As director of Fairfield University's Center for Faith and Public Life, he oversees two grant-funded initiatives that relate to different aspects of the immigration issue: the "Immigrant Student National Position Paper" focusing on undocumented students and "Strangers as Neighbors: Religious Language and the Response to Immigrants in the U.S."

At this year's Red Mass, the diocese also will honor the work of the Bridgeport Chapter of the St. Thomas More Society, an association of Catholic attorneys, with a history of committing their time

and energy to works of charity in the Bridgeport area for well over 25 years. Bishop Caggiano has urged all legal professionals including attorneys, legislators, judges and other legal professionals to join the society in order to strengthen the union of Catholics in the legal field and to encourage collaboration, fraternity and service. Information on becoming a member of the Diocesan St. Thomas More Society will be available at the Red Mass event and afterwards.

(The Red Mass is free and open to all. Cost of the breakfast: \$45/person; tables of 10 are \$450. For tickets, go to www.bridgeportdiocese.com/RSVP. For more info, call 203.416.1385 or email dtietjen@diobpt.org.)

Creative Way to Give

Designing a gift with an impact on lives

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

How can you make a charitable gift that has a significant impact on people's lives?

A New Canaan donor who has asked to remain anonymous says that the Annual Catholic Appeal gave her an opportunity to personally target and shape a gift far beyond simply writing a check.

"Dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues are my passion," says the woman, a recovery consultant who specializes in working with young people and parents affected by drug addiction and alcoholism.

She is in her second year of funding a position for a licensed mental health therapist to serve as a counselor at Immaculate High School in Danbury. Over the past school year, she funded a part-time position that enabled Catholic Charities licensed family therapist Sara Iadarola, MSW, to work with Immaculate High School students.

Based on the report she received from the high school guidance and administrative leaders, she decided to increase her gift and fund a full-time counseling position for Immaculate.

"You don't know in advance how important a donation will turn out to be, even if you change just one person's life. This one turned out to be very substantial and impactful at just ten hours a week. Hiring a full-time counselor will help many more students."

Topics addressed in individual counseling sessions provided through this generous donation run the gamut and include divorce, parental alcoholism/substance abuse, grief, anxiety, depression, parent-child relationships, self-esteem, self mutilation, suicidal thoughts and peer relationships.

If the range of issues sounds dramatic or alarming, the donor, who focuses on teen substance abuse and related issues in her private practice, says that they are fairly typical struggles for Fairfield County youth whether in public or parochial schools. "Kids self medicate with drugs and alcohol to deal with these issues. Substance abuse rates have skyrocketed in our area," she says.

While young people struggle with many issues, the donor remains optimistic about their



HELPING STUDENTS LIKE THESE at Immaculate High School in Danbury become happier and more productive, a New Canaan donor made a targeted gift to have a family therapist serve as part-time counselor at the school.

ability to do well if they receive help when they are at risk. "I'm a strong advocate of prevention and early intervention. The earlier you can intervene, the earlier you can prevent a problem from snowballing out of control."

In addition to providing one-on-one counseling, her donation also funded a stress management group for juniors and seniors and a "Surviving the Teenage Years" workshop for parents.

"Drugs have collateral damage for the entire family," she notes. At the same time, many families can't afford counseling for their children and look to the schools as a safe place where help can be provided.

As a donor she became interested in the concept of "effective altruism," which means not simply making a gift but also having the ability to track its effectiveness and outcomes. She says the first-year report from the Immaculate leadership team was personally gratifying as well as evidence-based. The report included letters from parents, students and teachers about the value of the counseling provided. Students reported being less troubled, happier and more productive in the classroom and in sports activities.

"The letters and comments validated the need for this program, and it makes you ask: What would these kids have done without the counseling provided to them? In my profession, I see what happens when problems go unchecked. It's important to know these kids have a safe place to go to deal with them," she says.

In the long term, she hopes that the school will be able to put the cost of a therapist in its budget, but for now she's pleased to be able to play a "start-up" role

in creating a program that has shown impressive returns. And she knows there is a great need for counseling services.

"There are many schools across the diocese that would benefit from this resource. While most have guidance counselors to help with school-related issues, many cannot afford trained ther-

apists to help young people deal with loneliness, anxiety, stress and substance abuse," she says.

She also hopes that her gift will inspire others to give, either to support more counseling in the schools or to fund another program based on their interests.

"The reason I'm participating in this article is that I want people

to know that targeted giving is a good model for others who want to make a donation. It's a great opportunity to invest in their passion and do something that can really make a difference in someone's life."

(For more info or to make a designated donation, contact the Development Office: 203.416.1479.) ■



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Veneration of Saints

Relics of St. Maria Goretti at St. Theresa Church

By **JOSEPH PRONECHEN**

St. Maria Goretti, the youngest canonized saint in the Catholic Church, is coming to St. Theresa Church on October 6. Among the 18 stops on the eight-week pilgrimage of her body, St. Theresa's will be the only stop in Connecticut.

"This will be tremendous. It's an extraordinary privilege," noted Father Brian Gannon, pastor of St. Theresa's. "I like to think it's been granted by heaven."

Indeed, the whole tour is extraordinary because this is only the second time her body has left Italy. Her complete skeletal remains, except for a small amount of bone for reliquaries and her right arm, which is in a church in the town where she was born, are within a wax statue of her likeness inside a glass-sided casket. Maria used her right arm to defend herself in the attack.

The tour is officially called the "Pilgrimage of Mercy."

Maria Goretti, an extremely popular saint, is the Patroness of Purity and also the Patroness of Mercy. Only 11 years old

when she died July 6, 1902, she was stabbed 14 times during a horrendous rape attempt. In the hospital and dying, her last words were of mercy and forgiveness towards her attacker: "I forgive Alessandro Serenelli ... and I want him with me in heaven forever."

"Mercy is something the modern mind has forgotten," said Father Carlos Martins. "People don't know how important forgiveness is."

It was the kind of forgiveness that years later Pope St. John Paul II showed the man who tried to assassinate him.

Father Gannon read her story years ago and always admired her

courage, faith, and holy concern for the soul of her assailant even in the midst of his violent attack on her. "She was more worried about his soul than about her physical life," he said.

Because she is a model of forgiveness and mercy, the pilgrimage comes purposely as a forerunner to the Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has declared to begin on December 8. The Vatican's Congregation of the Causes of Saints, her basilica, and Treasures of the Church Apostolate organized it to prepare people in the United States for this great celebration.

"Mercy is something the modern mind has forgotten," said Father Carlos Martins, the director of the tour and expert biographer of Maria Goretti.

"People don't know how important forgiveness is," he said. But when they hear Maria's story and think of people they still resent, they learn "now I see the importance that I needed to forgive them from the heart. And all this is coming from an 11-year-old girl."

Before the rape attempt and her murder as she defended her purity, Maria was bullied for



ON THE ONLY STOP IN CT, the body of St. Maria Goretti will come to St. Theresa Church on October 6. The victim of an attempted rape, Maria forgave her attacker before she died.

(PHOTOS COURTESY OF FATHER CARLOS MARTINS AND MARIAGORETTI.COM)

months. But her forgiveness eventually converted her assailant. After serving a long prison sentence, he turned to spreading devotion to God and to Maria Goretti.

Also Patroness of Purity, "Maria Goretti is a great sign and hope of what sexuality is all about—that it is ultimately sacred and holy and a gift from God," said Father Gannon. "St. Maria Goretti reminds us of that in a culture that sees it as a commodity."

He explained that she has "so much to teach us about the sacredness of human sexuality and to perceive that our highest priority is to preserve the sanctity of our souls in relation to God, even if it is at the cost of our physical life. By giving her life in such a pure and holy sacrifice to Christ, now millions are touched and inspired by her incredible witness and deeply moved to follow Christ and also share her heroic story with others."

Father Gannon says that this visit will affect countless lives "because she's real, and a real hero," he said.

"She will inspire children to a deeper appreciation and sacredness of human intimacy and the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit," he explained. "She'll also inspire people in this time of division in families to recall that forgiveness in even the most unjust circumstances liberates us from useless revenge and engenders powerful conversions and deep holiness."

"Her courage and willingness to forgive are so central to this," Father Gannon emphasized.

On this tour, Father Martins believes many miracles will happen. "I've been teaching about Maria Goretti and familiar with Maria for a long time," he said. "I see many miracles before my eyes."

Public veneration of St. Maria Goretti begins at 10 am; a solemn Mass in her honor will be celebrated at 7 pm; veneration continues until 11:45 pm. St. Theresa's is at 5301 Main St. in Trumbull.

(For more info, contact the parish: 203.261.3676. For more on the tour of the relics, visit MariaGoretti.com.)



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Fan the Fire

Charged with excitement

By **CAITLIN MCELROY**

Fan the Fire was a rejuvenating faith experience for me. From time to time, we all need something in our faith journey to keep us focused on God and to keep our fire burning for him. Fan the Fire did just that.

I am a member of St. Joseph Parish in Danbury, one of the leaders of the Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury that meets at St. Marguerite Parish in Brookfield, and a convert to the faith. Not being born Catholic, I joined the Church at 15 and never really got the chance to attend retreats like this. Going into this, I really didn't know what to expect. I thought it was going to be a long, boring day of talks and discussions.

I was wrong. I walked into Fan the Fire and immediately

started dancing to inspirational, uplifting music. The speaker, Jackie Francois Angel, was really interesting. The Holy Spirit definitely worked through her to reach the audience. I felt myself completely charged. By Holy Hour, I was giddy with excitement and was elated to be able to spend time with our Lord exposed in the monstrance.

We are always learning on our faith journey, and this was no exception. One thing I found interesting was how Jackie described the Eucharist. She described it as a wedding. She said that when you receive First Communion, you are attending your own wedding, as you are dressed in white, like a bride, or in a suit, like a groom. I have never heard First Eucharist described like this and it intrigued me.

Sometimes in our faith journey, we can stray a little. It happens to the best of us as we are all sinners. Events like Fan the Fire help us to be focused on our Lord, and what it means to be one of his disciples. This is exactly what it did for me. ■



Climate change talk at SHU

FAIRFIELD—*Laudato Si'* is the first papal encyclical focused solely on the environment, in which Pope Francis makes a call to protect the planet on behalf of the poor and future generations. In advance of the Pope's Apostolic Visit to the U.S., during which he is expected to make additional comments on environmental issues, on September 16 Sacred Heart University will host Dan Esty, Hillhouse Professor at Yale University and former commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), for a conversation on the encyclical.

In a panel discussion with SHU faculty and clergy, Esty will discuss new leadership on the environment and Pope Francis' global urge for stewardship.

Professor Esty has appointments at Yale in both the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and the Law School. He serves as director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, as well as a board member of the Center for Business and the Environment at Yale, which he founded. He is an author and editor of many works focused on environmental protection and its connection to policy, trade and the economy, and his prizewinning book *Green to Gold: How Smart Companies use Environmental Strategy to Innovate, Create Value, and Build Competitive Advantage* has been named the top-selling "green business" book of the past decade. From 2011-14, Professor Esty served as Commissioner of Connecticut's DEEP and oversaw such innovations as the state's first-in-the-nation Green Bank.

The conversation on the encyclical, sponsored by the Human Journey Colloquia Series, will take place at the Schine Auditorium at SHU, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, on Wednesday, September 16, at 7 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

(For more info, contact Deb Noack: 203.396.8483 or noackd@sacred-heart.edu.) ■



Catholic High School Open House and Entrance Exam Schedule 2015

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Date	Location	Time
October 15	 Trinity Catholic High School www.trinitycatholic.org	6pm-8:00pm
October 18	 Immaculate High School www.immaculatehs.org	11am-1:30pm
October 18	 St Joseph High School www.sjcadets.org	1pm-4:00pm
October 22	 Kolbe Cathedral High School www.kolbecaths.org	6:30pm-8:30pm
October 25	 Notre Dame High School www.notredame.org	2pm-4:30pm



All locations will be administering the High School Placement Test on October 31 and November 14 at 8am-11:30am. Visit our high school websites to learn more about upcoming events and the admissions process including Financial Assistance and new for the 2016-2017 school year, the Bishop's Scholarship Fund is available for qualified high school students.



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October 31, November 14
8 am – 11:30 am

2-Day Entrance Exam Prep Course
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Saturday, October 24
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EDITORIAL

A Time for Celebration

The coming days are momentous for the Diocese of Bridgeport and for the Catholic Church in the U.S.

As we prepare to welcome Pope Francis to Washington, New York and Philadelphia, we are also looking forward to our own Synod Celebration Mass next Saturday at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport.

The excitement over a papal visit is palpable and has captured the attention of our nation. It is estimated that up to 2 million people may turn out for the Papal Mass in Philadelphia at the close of the World Meeting of Families on September 27.

Here in Fairfield County, more than 8,500 faithful are expected to turn out for the Mass, which will celebrate the work of the synod and ask for blessings on the implementation of new initiatives.

It's interesting that both conclaves—the World Meeting of Families and Synod 2014 in our own diocese—are focusing on many of the same issues: reaching out to families, sharing Catholic teaching, building a bridge to divorced Catholics and others who may feel unwanted, and renewing the Church.

As a result of the work of the synod, many good things are already happening in the diocese: we have a new Diocesan Youth Choir that will debut at the synod; the Bishop's Scholarship Fund has dispersed over \$2 million to help families who choose Catholic schools; and we are about to launch exciting new initiatives including a Diocesan Service Corp and Leadership Institute that will help to prepare and empower a new generation of lay leadership.

The bishop has made it very clear that the Synod Mass is a time for celebration: "This is going to be a festival of joy. There is enough bad news in the world! This is the time for us to talk about the Good News of Jesus Christ. There is a need to celebrate our faith in a big way. And there is no better way than to gather in Webster Bank Arena, with each seat to be filled by people like you, believers who are excited about being Catholic, who believe in the future of our Church, and who want to show the world the Church is alive and well and has a path to spiritual renewal."

Catholics in the U.S.

When the Pope's jet touches down at Joint Base Andrews Airport in Maryland on September 22, he'll be visiting a growing, diverse and changing Catholic Church in the U.S.—one that defies easy categorization or understanding.

The 70 million Catholics in the U.S. represent 22 percent of the total population—comprising the largest single religious body in the country. We worship in more than 17,000 parishes in 195 dioceses. If you factor in Catholic schools, colleges, hospitals and charities collectively, you see the staggering impact of Catholics on American life, philanthropy and spirituality.

A recent national study by Public Religion Research Institute found that Catholics are a diverse group often separated by age, generation, ethnicity and politics in their relationship to the Catholic Church, but they are united in their admiration for Pope Francis and his view of the Church as a place for mercy and reconciliation.

Likewise, the latest Marist Poll conducted for the Knights of Columbus found that nearly three quarters of Americans (72 percent) think the Pope has a message for all Americans. That number grows to 90 percent among Catholics.

Yet real challenges remain. The young of all stripes are moving away from the Church, increasingly identifying as spiritual but not religious. Many Catholics continue to leave; others identify as Catholic but do not attend Mass or register with a parish. And many of the recent arrivals to the U.S. do not always feel visible, welcome or integrated into the mainstream Church.

One final perspective: the 70 million Catholics in the U.S. represent only 6 percent of the more than 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide. The Pope's visit is a reminder that it's not simply about us. In addition to our own challenges, our brothers and sisters in Christ across the globe face profound struggles in human rights, religious liberty, economic justice, and respect for life issues. His visit here unites the entire Catholic Church and the aspirations of millions across the globe. He brings the prayer of the Universal Church with him and that is a gift and a responsibility for all of us.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Mass Mob is one year young!

Mass Mob of Fairfield County celebrated its first anniversary on August 9 in St. Mary Church in Bridgeport. Seminarian Andre Escaleira, Jr., one of the driving forces behind the Mass Mob, says that the excitement and commitment are building. "Pope Francis has encouraged young people to 'make a mess in the dioceses.' Mass Mob is that opportunity to 'make a mess' in our own diocese by gathering in the hundreds at one place, at one time, to join our voices in the greatest prayer of the Church." ■



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

VICAR GENERAL
AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

REVEREND MONSIGNOR THOMAS W. POWERS, Official of the Congregation for Bishops, Vatican, to Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, residing at Saint John Fisher Seminary, Stamford. Effective date is November 15.

EPISCOPAL VICAR

REVEREND MONSIGNOR WILLIAM SCHEYD, P.A., to Episcopal Vicar for Senior Priests. Effective date is November 15. Monsignor Scheyd will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Aloysius Parish, New Canaan.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

REVEREND ROJIN ZACHARIAS KARICKAL, new to Diocese, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Jerome Parish, Norwalk. Effective date was July 22.

REVEREND JUSTIN RAJ, IMS, Parochial Vicar, Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Elizabeth Seton Parish, Ridgefield. Effective date was September 1.

GRADUATE STUDIES

REVEREND GREG J. MARKEY, Sabbatical to Graduate Studies, The Catholic University of America, Washington DC. Effective date was September 1.

OTHER

REVEREND FOSTER SIMON GARDINER, Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Grace Parish, Stratford, to home diocese of Cape Palmas, Liberia. Effective date was July 31.

THE FOLLOWING MEN HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY CREATED SACRED ARTS COMMITTEE:

FATHER JOSEPH MARCELLO, MONSIGNOR KEVIN ROYAL, MONSIGNOR ANDREW VARGA, MONSIGNOR ROBERT WEISS, effective date was September 1.

Reverend Ian Jeremiah,
Episcopal Vicar for Clergy
September, 2015

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Editorial



'They have no wine'

CATHOLIC BY GRACE

BY DENISE BOSSERT

Denise Bossert is a national Catholic writer and columnist.

It is the Wedding at Cana all over again. It really is.

Everyone is celebrating. The crowds are excited and hopeful. And behind the scenes, the apostles realize that the families involved are dealing with a crisis.

The Blessed Mother sees both: the celebration and the building crisis. And she steps into their midst. "My Son, they have no wine."

Right now, we are gearing up for a celebration. This September, the Church comes together to celebrate the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage and the beauty of the

domestic Church—the family. It should be a time of celebration. A time of hope. A time of gratitude and praise for the gifts we have in marriage and family.

Just as at Cana, a crisis threatens marriage. And Blessed Mother seems to be saying it again. "My Son, they have no wine." The fundamental building block of our society is crumbling, and the whole thing is about to collapse. It will all come to a screeching halt—this celebration of marriage and family—if something doesn't happen.

What does it mean to run out of wine today? We see it in the

proliferation of pornography, the commonplace use of artificial contraception, the growing number of babies conceived through in vitro fertilization—a process that claims the lives of five to ten embryos with every cycle of IVF.

The wine runs out as we see our young people sexualized at earlier and earlier ages, as young women are objectified, as the unborn are sacrificed on the altar of our agendas, our pre-conceived plans, our ideas about the future.

The wine runs out when couples stop working at marriage, stop dating each other, stop putting faith and family at the top of the list.

The wine runs out when men and women stop advocating for marriage and new life, when those advocating for marriage are advocating a completely different reality than the Church has ever held.

The wine runs out when society tells the Church what a sacrament should be, which lives to protect, when a marriage is over.

My Son, they have no wine.

And yet, the celebration goes on—as it should because marriage and family are worth celebrating. No need to throw our hands into the air and give up. Our Lady has proven that she cares about marriage, and she even cares about the celebrations that surround it.

She intercedes, and her Son acts.

We are living in the moment between celebration and disaster. The bishops and Pope Francis, the successors of the Apostles, see how fragile the family is in modern culture. They have heard Our Lady speak. They have been given the directive to do whatever he says.

It is an odd place to be, standing here, seeing it all. The celebration this September, so like the Wedding at Cana. So like the moment when Our Lady speaks and our Lord acts.

Celebration and crisis.

The water and wine of grace. And the reality of outside forces.

This could be our finest hour. This could be the beginning of a world-wide ministry to the fam-

ily. It began at the Wedding of Cana. Our Lord's public ministry. The miraculous intervention. The pairing of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart.

In my darker moments, I see only the approaching crisis. People building hasty marriages. Efforts to redefine marriage. Decisions to discard marriages like they were last year's fashion statement.

The domestic Church is in trouble and the answers won't be easy. The answers may even require something miraculous.

But we have been here before.

It's time to rise up. Some things are worth protecting, defining, defending, and salvaging. And once again, water can turn into wine. The celebration will continue.

And the Church will lead the way because she has received the mandate: do whatever he tells you.

Let the Church be the Church. Pray for the bishops, today's Apostles.

And expect a miracle. ■



Secrets of the Big Manila Envelope

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

I recently came into possession of some round-edged, matte-finished pictures of myself from the Pleistocene era. My sister Colleen has been cleaning out my dad's basement. She found the doozies (we'll call them vintage shots) and packed them into a great big manila envelope.

Next stop: memory lane.

I love a bit of nostalgia as much as the next guy. The manila envelope didn't disappoint. What a hoot to see pictures of my parents at roughly the age I am now. They look just as preoccupied with the humdrum

things of life. Like me, they could use a good nap. It's a timely reminder that I'm not the first to travel this road.

I got a chuckle out of seeing my grownup sisters and brother the way they used to be. They all have good jobs now—pillars of their communities. But I knew them when their pajamas didn't match. Even when we're all old and toothless I'll still see them as I did when we were all young and our mouths were full of braces.

The envelope showed me familiar faces I hadn't seen in years. I've lost track of some old

friends, sad to say. We all do. Some old friends have lost track of me, too. It's much easier to stay connected these days, yet it seems harder to make real connections. Why is that?

Not everything in the envelope was cause for happy reflection. For some reason I'd always thought of myself as a cute kid. Boy was I wrong.

Far from the dashing Catholic columnist you're used to, the seven-year old Matt was a comically grotesque, gap-toothed kid who didn't quite know how to smile. His hand-me-down wardrobe looks to have been handed down from the Partridge family.

It's tough to accept: I was a disco-era Howdy Doody.

Shocking though its contents were, I wouldn't trade that manila envelope. I'm grateful to have that Kodacolor record of my childhood. It's a peculiar joy to shuffle through a pile of fading Polaroids. Clicking or swiping on a screen isn't quite the same.

I wonder: will my kids ever get

a great big manila envelope like that? Doubt it.

Then again, the envelope was definitely a blow to the ego. The questions it raised haunted me for several days. Eventually I arrived at the following hypothesis: The big manila envelope was God's way of reminding me to take care of some fundamentals.

First—be humble. Someone who spent his early years looking like a baked potato with a bowl-cut should never put too much stock in personal appearances.

Second—don't forget where you came from. The people in those pictures loved you no matter what you looked like. They still do. They always will.

And third—for Pete's sake, when someone takes your picture, just smile. It doesn't cost a

thing

The envelope contained another lesson. Photographs distort memories. That happy Christmas spent in the warm and safe embrace of my loving family isn't ruined by the pimply picture

"I got a chuckle out of seeing my grownup sisters and brother the way they used to be. They all have good jobs now—pillars of their communities. But I knew them when their pajamas didn't match."

of me in the Mark Bavaro jersey. That was a great day, one that should—and does—live forever in my heart. If I'd never seen the snapshot, the memory would have stayed pristine.

Pictures may be worth a thousand words, but those words may not be worth the paper they're printed on. ■

Catholic Charities

Housing Program helps those at risk

By ROWENA DALY

Poor judgment, addiction and a lack of guidance put Serena A.'s life on a downward trajectory that culminated in a series of arrests and prison time.

In June 2014, she walked out of York Correctional Institution in Niantic, Connecticut, and vowed never to return again. "I was tired, said Serena. "I needed to get my life on track."

While incarcerated, she was screened for participation in Catholic Charities of Fairfield County's Connecticut Collaborative on Re-Entry (CCR) program to tackle overwhelming challenges such as obtaining a job, re-establishing family ties, making new and positive friendships and, most importantly, finding a suitable place to live.

Catholic Charities' CCR Housing program offers intensive case management and permanent housing for up to 25 individuals who have a history of chronic homelessness due to repetitive incarcerations. Serena fit the



ASSISTING WITH HOUSING and re-entry into the community, Catholic Charities Director of Housing Deborah L. Smith (second from right), meets with her team of CCR case workers (l-r) Kelly McGee; Vilma Vega, senior case manager; and Samuella Marlow.

criteria. Housing case managers Kelly McGee and Samuella Marlow assisted her in procuring furniture for her new apartment, linking her to appropriate community resources for treatment, social support, and providing constant reassurance.

Serena celebrated a series of accomplishments, including the

pinnacle victory of earning a position as a licensed plumber on a local construction site.

"She did the work, and we were there to make sure she had support," said Marlow. Serena stayed focused and felt supported by the Catholic Charities case managers.

In just one year, Serena became financially secure and she felt ready leave the program. She earns a good salary, pays her own rent and lives a productive life.

"Having her own housing provided the stability that she needed in order to have a better quality of life," said Deborah Smith, MSW, who has overseen the Catholic Charities Housing programs for the past two years. "Without this assistance, Serena and individuals like her would most likely re-offend."

Assisting individuals with housing, employment, behavioral health, and medical treatment has proven to help reduce the rates of criminal recidivism, added Smith, who has decades of experience in working with the Department of Corrections and as an advocate for homelessness prevention.

Prior to joining Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Smith retired from the Massachusetts Department of Corrections after 21 years of service. For the past decade she has worked as an administrator for Connecticut's Homelessness Prevention Programs, including the last two years with Catholic Charities.

In August, based on the exemplary work of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, the State's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services will

present the Housing Program with an additional 20 units of housing for CCR clients in Danbury, Stamford, Norwalk and Bridgeport. Over the past six years, 40 individuals have successfully moved through the Connecticut Collaborative on Re-entry program with Catholic Charities.

The Connecticut Collaborative on Re-entry program, formerly known as F.U.S.E. (Frequent Users of Support Enhancements), is operated through collaboration with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS), the Department of Correction, the Judicial Branch of Court Support Services Division and the CT Coalition to End Homelessness.

Other program criteria include client history of substance abuse, mental health, and/or co-occurring disorders. There is no application process through Catholic Charities; qualifying applicants are pre-selected by DMHAS.

(For more info on the re-entry program, contact Vilma Vega: 203.416.1612.)

St. Augustine
Legacy Society

An invitation to join the St. Augustine Legacy Society

Bishop Caggiano has inaugurated the St. Augustine Legacy Society to not only assist parishioners in providing for their parish or Diocese, but to educate parishioners in general on the necessity of having proper estate planning documents in place for the benefit of your family.

If you have already provided for your parish or the Diocese in your will, made a change to include us or plan to, Bishop Caggiano invites you to join the Society and honor you at a reception.

If your legacy includes helping those in need, future priests, scholarships for Catholic education, assistance for retired priests or other programs in your parish or the Diocese, we can help you make the choices that align with your personal interests.

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St. Pio Society

Emphasizing a call to prayer

BRIDGEPORT—"Prayer is the oxygen of the soul," insisted Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, canonized a saint by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

His call to prayer is followed by all who have a devotion to St. Pio. This is nowhere more true than at St. Margaret's Shrine in Bridgeport, which has a gem of a shrine to St. Pio and is the home of the St. Padre Pio Society and Prayer Group.

Renowned as a spiritual director and confessor, St. Pio entered the Capuchin Friars, a Franciscan Order, at the age of 15. As a spiritual director, he had five rules for spiritual growth: weekly

Confession, daily Communion, spiritual reading, meditation, and examination of conscience.

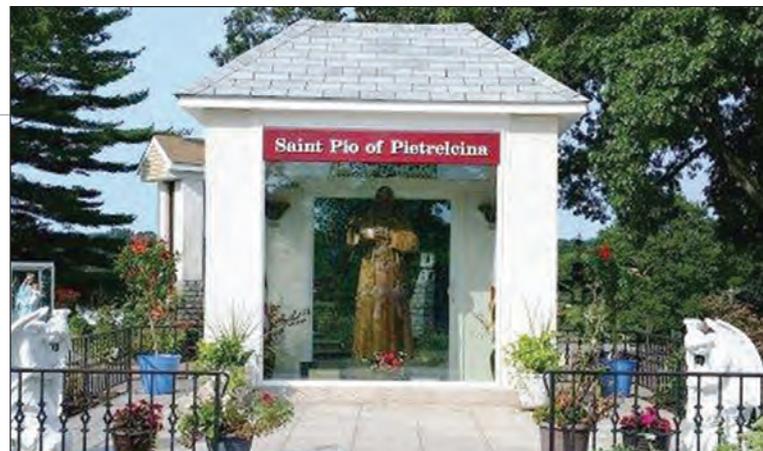
He summed up his advice on the practical application of theology in his now famous quote, "Pray, Hope and Don't Worry."

The St. Padre Pio Society and Prayer Group at St. Margaret's Shrine was founded by Father Alfonso Picone, former rector of the Shrine. Under his guidance, parishioners began the building of a St. Pio of Pietrelcina Memorial Shrine, which houses a life sized-bronze statue of Padre Pio brought over from Italy.

The shrine was completed in

2012 and inaugurated in 2013 by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano to benefit the entire community. Its mission, Bishop Caggiano said, was "To make the Padre Pio Sanctuary a pilgrimage shrine where people can come to pray and reflect upon the many blessing of St. Padre Pio."

In keeping with Padre Pio's emphasis on the Rosary, the St. Pio Society meets the last Friday of every month from March to November for a recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 pm, followed by Mass in St. Margaret Chapel. Father Giandomenico Flora, St. Margaret's current rector, is



the spiritual director. There are currently over 80 active members from varying nationalities throughout the diocese and new members are always welcome.

The society holds an annual feast day Mass and celebration in remembrance of the death of St. Pio (September 23, 1968), as well as various other spiritual events, day trips and pilgrimages. This year the feast day celebration will be held Sunday, September 27, starting with Mass at 12:15 pm at St. Margaret Chapel, followed by a procession and final blessing at the St. Pio Memorial Shrine.

A reception at Roberto's Restaurant in Monroe will conclude the celebration. All donations and proceeds from

events, day trips and pilgrimages go towards the upkeep of the St. Pio of Pietrelcina Memorial Shrine; the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, the hospital founded by St. Pio; and to the Saint Pio Foundation, where Bishop Caggiano is vice chair of the Religious Advisory Board.

(The reception at Roberto's Restaurant, 505 Main St., Monroe, includes dinner, table wine, dessert, entertainment and 50/50 cash raffle. Donation: \$50. Please make reservations by September 18. For more info or for reservations, contact Rose Santangeli: 203.922.8079 or Paola Verrelli: 203.936.9862 or email: padrepiosociety@hotmail.com. For more info on the St. Padre Pio Society, call 203.345.0942 or email: padrepiosociety@hotmail.com.) ■

St. Pio Award Ceremony planned for October

BRIDGEPORT—The Diocese of Bridgeport and the Saint Pio Foundation will hold the first "Saint Pio Award Ceremony," at Tashua Knolls, 40 Tashua Knolls Lane, Trumbull, on Saturday, October 17, at 6:30 pm. A cocktail reception will be followed by the gala dinner.

The Saint Pio Award has been established to recognize the selfless and outstanding contribution to the Church of

those individuals who have strongly committed to support the Saint Pio Foundation and its vision.

Special guests of the event will be Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and American singer and actor Franc d'Ambrosio, best known for his portrayal of the "Phantom" in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*. He is familiar to movie audiences for creating the role of Anthony Corleone in Francis Ford Coppola's *The*

Godfather III. The event will include live music and a special performance by d'Ambrosio.

Ticket price starts at \$250. Proceeds of the event will be allocated to the Pastoral Care ministries of the Diocese of Bridgeport and the Saint Pio Foundation. For more info and for reservations, call 203.416.1387, email stpiofndn@diobpt.org or visit www.saintpiofoundation.org. ■

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Inner-City Foundation

Midtown Men to perform in concert at benefit

GREENWICH—The Twenty-Fourth Annual Benefit Dinner for The Inner-City Foundation For Charity & Education will be held Wednesday, November 18, at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich. The Midtown Men—four stars from the original cast of *Jersey Boys*—will be the featured performers at the dinner.

The group took Broadway by storm in one of the biggest hits of all time and now they are reunited again. Tony Award winners Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and Tony Award nominee J. Robert Spencer star in this one-of-a-kind concert, bringing to life their favorite “Sixties Hits” from the Beatles, the Beach Boys, Motown, the Four Seasons and more.

During their time in the mega-hit musical *Jersey Boys*, these four talented artists shared the stage

for over a thousand performances. They have delighted television audiences with appearances on “Access Hollywood,” “Good Morning America,” and “The Today Show.” The Midtown Men have performed with over 25 major symphony orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra. Last year in partnership with PBS, their concert performance at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center was captured in high-definition by the Grammy and Emmy Award winning team of Pierre and Francois Lamoureux for rebroadcast on public television stations nationwide.

Daniel McCarthy, president and CEO of Frontier Communications Corporation, is the corporate committee chair for the event. Missy and Jim O’Shaughnessy, and Sabrina and Walter Raquet are chairing the



TONY AWARD WINNERS Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and Tony Award nominee J. Robert Spencer star in this one-of-a-kind concert, bringing to life their favorite “Sixties Hits.”

2015 Benefit Committee. They are being assisted by Audrey and Daniel Dornier, Helen and Dan FitzPatrick, Janie and Dean

Gestal, Vilma and Dick Matteis and Bill Mitchell who are serving as co-chairs of the 2015 Benefit Committee.

Five-time Emmy Award winner Dave Price will serve as master of ceremonies.

Since 1992, the Inner-City

Foundation For Charity & Education has awarded more than \$27 million in grants. In addition to providing scholarship funds for diocesan schools in Bridgeport, organizations receiving grants include the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford, Cardinal Shehan Center, Caroline House, Center for Family Justice, Child Guidance Center, Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Domus Kids, Family & Children’s Agency, Homes with Hope, Junior Achievement, Kennedy Center, Kids in Crisis, Liberation Programs, LifeBridge Community Services, Mercy Learning Center, Norma F. Pfriem Breast Cancer Center, Regional YMCA of Western CT, Shepherds, Thomas Merton House of Hospitality, Women’s Center of Greater Danbury and the YWCA of Greenwich.

(Donations and ticket purchases may be made by visiting the Foundation’s website, www.inner-cityfoundation.org, or by calling 203.416.1495.)

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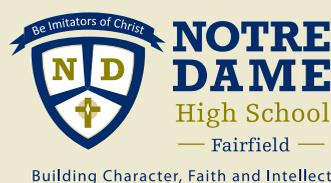
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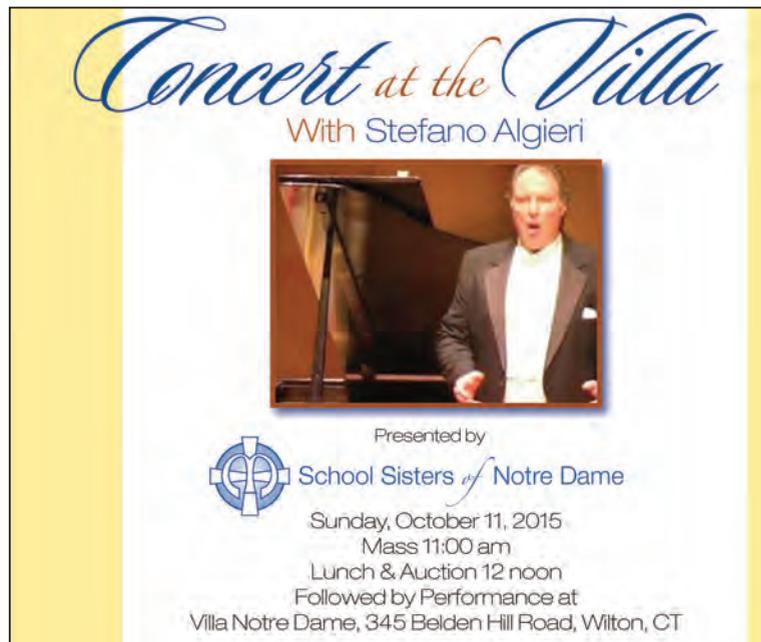
“Concert at the Villa”

By PAT HENNESSY

“This concert will be very personal, and a celebration,” says Tenor Stefano Algieri of his benefit performance at Villa Notre Dame on Sunday, October 11. “All the School Sisters of Notre Dame are part of my extended family.”

“Concert at the Villa” will begin with a Mass with Father Charles Allen, SJ, who will be the Master of Ceremonies for the day. Luncheon and auction follow the Mass, with the concert beginning at 2 pm.

The performance will be a family affair in more ways than one. “For a concert this important to us, I wanted someone with a strong connection to our Sisters and our mission,” says Sister John Vianney Zullo, director of pastoral care, who contacted Algieri for the performance. She had known him since he was a youngster in New Jersey, just starting to take voice lessons. Even closer, his sister, Janis, was the former director of Villa Notre Dame when it was the SSND Motherhouse. She and Sister



John Vianney were stationed together when they were both teachers at St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury. Sister Janis will be an enthusiastic presence at the concert.

“This performance will benefit both our elderly and infirm Sisters and our educational ministries,” says Sister John Vianney. “Stefano gives warmhearted support to both those goals.”

Internationally recognized as one of the leading tenors of his generation, Algieri has sung in many of the world’s major opera houses and with symphonies in New York, Berlin, Vienna, Paris, Toronto and Montreal, among many others. In addition

to his works on the concert stage, Algieri has recorded *Aida*, *Norma* and *La Forza del Destino* with the

BBC and Don Carlo with the CBC.

In 2003, he was invited to join the faculty at McGill University’s Schulich School of Music in Montreal. Many of his students have gone on to win international voice competitions and receive international engagements.

“These young students are very bright, very talented,” Algieri says. “I’m bringing some of them down to share the recital with me.”

Among the talents joining Algieri at the concert will be his daughter, mezzo-soprano Veronica Mariana Algie, and internationally famed tenor Vincenzo Scuderi. Algieri’s late wife, Mariana Paunova, also a mezzo-soprano, had sung with Scuderi in Verdi’s opera *Il Trovatore*. At the performance in Villa Notre Dame, Veronica will

pair with Scuderi in “Condotta” from that opera.

“It comes full circle,” says Algieri. “I can hear her mother’s voice in the performance, yet she makes it completely her own.”

In keeping with the warm-hearted atmosphere of the afternoon, the recital program contains works from the bel canto (beautiful singing) repertoire and French chanson (art song) and familiar opera arias, duet and ensembles. Nostalgic Irish airs add their own sweet charm to the program.

“*Concert at the Villa*” begins with Mass at 11 am, luncheon, auction, and 2 pm concert. Cost: \$60 in advance, \$70 at the door. Special clergy price: \$20. For more info, reservations, advertising or sponsorship opportunities, call Liz Ryan: 203.762.4414 or lryan@amssnd.org.

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High School Sports

Tradition-rich St. Joe's starts anew

By **DON HARRISON**

Salient fact: St. Joseph High School has won 12 state football championships, including the last two, since the inception of the CIAC playoff system in 1976. Only one other school has won more titles during that span: Ansonia, with 19.

Whether Coach Joe Della Vecchia's Cadets can add to that total this fall will be a formidable challenge, though. No fewer than 17 starting players—including All-Staters Lars Pedersen (now at Cornell) and 2,344-yard rusher Mufasha Abdul Basir—graduated from last season's Class-M-Small state champions. In addition, the defensive coordinator for St. Joe's last four state titlists, Chris Sadler, departed to become head coach at Notre Dame of Fairfield.

Della Vecchia and staff have

a lot of work to do prior to the Cadets' 2015 opener at Brien McMahon in Norwalk on Sept. 25.

Is the coach at least feeling cautiously optimistic?

"Quite honestly, it depends on which day you talk to me," says Della Vecchia, who is beginning his 18th season as head coach at his alma mater. "We have a lot of new faces who don't have any varsity experience. It's just a matter of everyone getting used to playing together, and how fast we can do that."

Della Vecchia has played a major role in St. Joseph's rich football tradition. A combination running back and defensive back, he captained the Cadets' first state championship squad in 1980. As an assistant coach to Christy Hayes, he contributed to three straight state titles (1988-89-90), and as head coach he's won

four (2009, 2010, 2013 and 2014).

His son, Joe, was an All-State quarterback who sparked the Cadets to back-to-back state championships in 2009 and 2010.

The current quarterback, Cory Babineau, who won eight of his nine starts last season, capped by the 37-7 triumph over Ledyard in the Class M state title game, returns for his junior year. Babineau improved steadily throughout the fall and became a major contributor to the school's most recent championship.

Babineau's former backup, senior Kevin Trefz, has been shifted to wide receiver, while his twin brother, Christian Trefz, will literally step in at running back.

Replacing the multi-talented Pedersen and Abdul Basir will take a bit of doing, however. Pedersen scored no fewer than 22 touchdowns a year ago—divided



ST. JOSEPH HIGH FOOTBALL coach Joe Della Vecchia is presented the state championship award following the Cadets' 37-7 triumph over Ledyard in the Class M-Small title game last fall. (PHOTO BY TINA BEYER)

among nine receptions, nine runs from scrimmage, two kickoff returns and two punt returns.

The 5-foot-10, 175-pound Abdul Basir also generated 22 TDs, one on a reception and the others on the ground.

Both tallied a pair of touchdowns in the Cadets' state title game against Ledyard in New Britain. Basir bolted for a 91-yard score in the opening quarter, and Pedersen outleaped two defenders in the end zone to snare Babineau's 32-yard pass in the second period. Basir made it 21-0 before the half with a 31-yard run.

Senior linebacker Cameron Ryan, a third-team All-Stater and "Division-I prospect" according to Della Vecchia, is the most important returnee on defense.

He's sharing the co-captaincy with three classmates, defensive end Mike Jones, linebacker Jake Smith and center Jack Ganser. Ryan registered a team-high 127 tackles and averaged nearly 39 yards per punt last fall. Another upperclassman and a part-time starter, Tim Beyer, returns at tackle.

With successive 11-2 and 13-2 records the past two seasons, Della Vecchia has accumulated 105 victories (versus 82 losses) during his career and thus has surpassed Hayes' total of 101 wins at St. Joseph. Whether he will match Hayes' five state titles this fall remains to be seen.

"With the success we've had the last seven—really eight—years, our kids expect to do it again," Della Vecchia says. ■

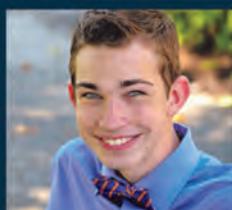
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Obituary

Father Nicholas Calabro, St. Roch

Father Nicholas J. Calabro, former pastor of St. Roch Parish in Greenwich, died on June 24 in Stamford Hospital following a long illness. He was 73 years old. All who knew him remember Father Calabro as a man filled with joy, energy, humor—and an enormous sense of compassion.

He was born on October 10, 1941, and attended Byram Grammar School and Greenwich High School. After attending St. Thomas Seminary College in Bloomfield, he completed his

theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md.

He was ordained by Bishop Walter W. Curtis on December 17, 1966, in St. Mary Church in Stamford.

Father Calabro's first assignment as parochial vicar was at St. Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport. He served in the same capacity at Sacred Heart Parish in Stamford, St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull; St. Patrick Parish in Bridgeport; St. Mary Parish in Bethel; Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton;

and Christ the King Parish in Trumbull.

"We were kids when he came to Sacred Heart," remembers Father Nicholas Pavia, pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Stratford. "He came with such joy and fun. He was a young man himself, and when it snowed he came out and threw snowballs with us. Seeing that he brought so much joy to the priesthood—he's the reason I became a priest. When I was ordained, he was at my first Mass."

In addition to his parish assignments, Father Calabro was a faculty member and spiritual director at Central Catholic High School in Norwalk from 1978-88.

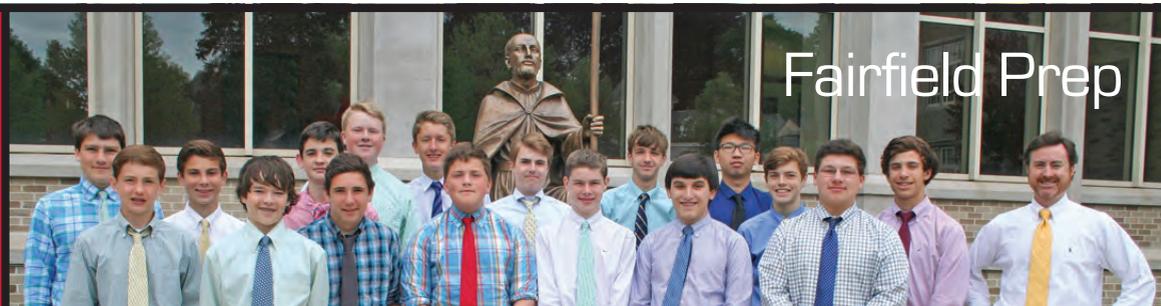
"The kids loved and respected him," says Father Tom Thorne, pastor at Assumption Parish in Westport, who worked with Father Calabro on Central Catholic's faculty. "He was a no-nonsense teacher who initiated



FATHER NICHOLAS J. CALABRO

curiosity and motivated them. At the same time, when a student faced tragedy he was there for

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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Knights of Malta

Plight of Christians in the Middle East

GREENWICH—George J. Marlin, author of *“Christian Persecutions in the Middle East: A 21st Century Tragedy,”* will speak on October 28, 7-8:30 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall, Riverside, Greenwich. The evening, sponsored by the Order of Malta, is open to all.

Even before ISIS launched its ultra-violent campaign targeting Iraqi Christians, Pope Francis proclaimed that the current wave of Christian persecution in the Middle East is worse than the suffering inflicted on believers in the centuries of the early Church. Muslim extremists have killed thousands of Christians every year, while destroying and desecrating countless churches. Christian communities in Syria, Iraq, and Egypt have been hardest hit.

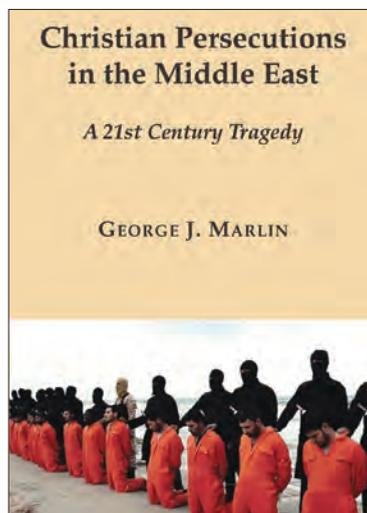
Marlin, chair of Aid to the Church in Need-USA, an agency under the guidance of the Pope

that supports the persecuted and suffering Church around the world, describes the rise in Christian persecution that could produce the unthinkable: a Middle East without Christians in the very lands that gave birth to Christianity.

Marlin will speak on the background to the current conflicts and share the latest voices from the bishops in those countries who are struggling to keep their faithful alive and protect them from harm.

“This talk will explore the plight of Christians in the Middle East and inform us about what we need to know today. Christians in the Middle East have been facing a dire situation for too long, and today the possibility of extinction is ever more becoming a reality,” said Dr. Karen Shields Wright, a Dame of Malta who is chairing the event.

“Pope Francis continues to



urge the international community to take action to help Christians in the Middle East, and calls us to continual prayer. What do we need to know in order to help? Come to hear what our brothers and sisters on the front lines have said.”

The Order of Malta is a worldwide lay religious order which seeks to glorify God by promoting the sanctification of each member through work with the sick and the poor and defense of the Catholic faith.

(Open to all; reservations requested. For more info, contact Dr. Karen Wright: drkaren@optonline.net. For reservations, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/plight-of-Christians-in-the-middle-east-what-we-need-to-know-to-day-registration-18033610013.) ■

CALABRO OBITUARY FROM PAGE 17

them in such a caring, supportive way.”

Father Calabro brought those same listening skills to the Blessed John XXIII priest support group, where his compassion and his loving touch of humor contributed greatly to the fraternity of the group.

In 1990, Father Calabro was appointed pastor of St. Roch, which had been his home parish growing up. He served at St. Roch until 2009, when poor health forced him to retire. Thereafter, he resided at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence in Stamford.

Respecting his wishes, there was no wake or vigil. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Roch Church on August 26. Father Carlos Rodrigues, chaplain of St. Camillus health care center in Stamford, was the celebrant and homilist. For eight years he had been Father Calabro’s weekend assistant, and had seen, firsthand, acts of generosity done quietly, without fanfare.

“Once he gave away his car to someone in need,” Father Rodrigues recalled in his homily. “He paid tuition for the child of one of his parishioners. One day he was in a restaurant, and he learned that the waiter wanted to go home and visit his sick mother but did not have the money. Father Nick bought the plane ticket. Or the time when he was with a taxi driver who got a ticket for speeding and he paid it. In my own experience, on weekends he would go to Neri’s Bakery and purchase pastries for the residents at St. Camillus nursing home where I work. At Queen of Clergy, where he last lived, he generously tipped the staff. And I am sure that for those of us who personally knew him the list can go on and on.”

“He did not just generously and willingly give of his possessions, but of himself as well. He served the Church for 49 years as a priest, almost 20 years here at St. Roch. And during those years, rarely did he take time off. He loved serving as a priest and he served with love. St. John of the Cross reminds us that, ‘in the twilight of our life we will be judged by how we loved.’”

Father Calabro is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Greenwich. He is survived in this diocese by his brother, Gary. ■

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Nuestra Voz

Telemundo presenta 'Francisco en América'

MIAMI—Telemundo anunció detalles sobre "Francisco en América", su cobertura informativa de la visita del Papa Francisco

Papa desde El Vaticano, hasta La Habana, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba, Washington D.C., Nueva York y Filadelfia.



TELEMUNDO A SPANISH LANGUAGE broadcast television network aimed at Latino Americans in the U.S. and audiences around the world, has announced details of its upcoming special, "Francisco en América," an intensive coverage of the visit of Pope Francis to Cuba and the United States. The coverage will begin with the arrival of the Pope to Cuba, starting Saturday, September 19, and continuing until his departure for the Vatican on September 27.

con una participación especial como imagen de la conmovedora campaña #ActosdeBondad que se desplegará en paralelo a la visita a través de la pantalla de Telemundo y sus propiedades digitales.

Entre la programación de "Francisco en América" se destacan:

Sábado 19 de septiembre:

- Llegada del Papa a Cuba (2 pm ET/11 am PT)

Domingo 20 de septiembre

- Misa en el Plaza de la Revolución (9 am ET/6 PT)

Martes 22 de septiembre:

- Llegada a Washington, D.C. (4 pm ET/1 PT)

Miércoles 23 de septiembre:

- Ceremonia oficial de bienvenida en la Casa Blanca

(9:15 am/6:15 C)

- Canonización de Junípero Serra (4:15 pm/1:15 PT)

Jueves 24 de septiembre:

- Palabras ante el Congreso de los Estados Unidos (10 am ET/7 PT)

Viernes 25 de septiembre:

- Palabras ante las Naciones Unidas (10 am ET/7 am PT)

- Visita al Monumento y el Museo de 9/11 (11:30 am ET/7:30 PT)

- Visita a Harlem (4 pm ET/1 PT)

Sábado 26 de septiembre:

- Misa en la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo (10:30 am ET/7:30 PT)

- Encuentro con inmigrantes (4:45 pm ET/1:45 PT)

La cobertura será amplificada

a través de los canales digitales de Noticias Telemundo, incluyendo Telemundo.com, donde se transmitirán en vivo los eventos claves del tour Papal, y las cuentas de Noticias Telemundo en las redes sociales: Facebook/TelemundoNews, @TelemundoNews en Twitter y Noticias Telemundo en Periscope.

Estudios Bíblicos

Le invitamos a participar de clases sobre las Sagradas Escrituras en la Parroquia de Santa María, Bridgeport, cada lunes en el salón parroquial. Santa Misa a las 6:30, clase 7-9 pm. Para más información, llame a 203.334.8811.

a Cuba y los Estados Unidos que le seguirá los pasos al Papa desde de su llegada a Cuba programada para el sábado 19 de septiembre a las 2 pm ET, hasta su regreso al Vaticano el domingo 27 de septiembre a las 8PM ET. "Francisco en América" ofrecerá un operativo informativo sin precedentes, incluyendo diez corresponsales que documentarán el viaje del

Los presentadores de "Noticiero Telemundo" María Celeste Arrarás y José Díaz-Balart y la copresentadora de "Un Nuevo Día", Ana María Canseco liderarán la cobertura junto a expertos y analistas, también en directo desde cada una de las paradas del Papa. La adorada cantante y actriz mexicana Lucero se unirá a este operativo informativo

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SEPTEMBER

14	Aloysius J. Hribšek.....	2014
15	Rev. Joseph V. Rossitto.....	2004
16	Rev. William J. Conklin.....	1992
	Rev. Martin Dennehy.....	2013
17	Rev. John A. Sullivan.....	1953
	Rev. Robert L. Christopher.....	1958
18	Rev. Msgr. Normand A. Methe.....	2002
20	Rev. Joseph J. Maglione.....	2003
	Msgr. Edward B. Karl.....	2009
23	Rev. Msgr. Edmund J. Hussey.....	1991
	Rev. Frederick H. Olschefske.....	1956
	Deacon Paul Tupper.....	2013
28	Rev. Edward A. Morgan.....	1992

OCTOBER

2	Deacon Joseph Filingeri.....	2013
3	Msgr. John H. Anderson.....	1967
5	Msgr. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M. Conv.....	1960



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Column: Thomas Hicks



The ways of God

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

The *Ways of God* is a small book by Thomas Aquinas that was first translated into English in 1942. The book's theme is that we are made in the image of God and, therefore, we are called to mirror the divine qualities in our lives. We are to become more God-like in our way of life. It's a fascinating idea.

Aquinas goes on to mention different perfections of God and indicates how this perfection can be reproduced in our lives. For example, the immutability of God—the fact that God doesn't change—calls for us to be faithful to our commitments.

The imitable attribute of God that most interests me is that God

is pleased by everything that is good in any way. No matter what type of goodness something has, it pleases God. Hence, all good things should please us.

Aquinas speaks of God being pleased with bodily qualities like beauty, strength, gracefulness. These things give him glory and he delights in them—and so should we.

In the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*, the actor playing Eric Liddell says, "I believe that God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast, and when I run, I feel his pleasure."

One can cite the marriage feast at Cana as indicating how God takes delight in human joyfulness. The Incarnate Christ celebrates with humans in their time of jubi-

lation. One can imagine people drinking and laughing, waiters scurrying about. God is pleased with their joy, the carefree laughter, the flavor of wine. Indeed, He doesn't let the human celebration be disrupted and changes the water into wine.

Psalm 45 is a wedding song for the marriage of an Israelite king and his bride. There is the exuberance of the festive occasion with its fragrances, music and beauty. The psalm clearly affirms a God who loves this celebrating of the joys of life. There are lavishly colored garments scented with exquisite aromas and interwoven with gold and fine embroidery. One can hear the sound of harps in the background and the shouts of joy encircling the young couple like the surge of waves.

The bride is said to move "with joy and gladness." One gets a sense of God celebrating with humanity in its times of joy and jubilation. The fourteenth century Sufi poet Hafiz wrote: "God shouts 'Yes! Yes! Yes!' to every luminous moment in existence." And Aquinas would say "and so should we."

Imitating God we should rejoice in the gifts of others. Some

things come to certain people rather naturally. There are actions they perform with astonishing ease. We are to love and affirm those good gifts. We are to develop the quality of seeing the good in other people. It is so easy to see faults. Indeed, we are ready to see the faults.

To please God, we are to love and develop our own intrinsic talents. Talents are to be developed

Ways of God calls us to be generous in recognizing whatever is good, wherever it may be, and model God's delight in that goodness.

There is a tremendous amount of good around us. Despite all the tribulations and burdens of life, it still remains a great grace and wonder. Writer Saul Bellow wrote of "unexpected intrusions of goodness and beauty. That is

"Psalm 45 is a wedding song for the marriage of an Israelite king and his bride. There is the exuberance of the festive occasion with its fragrances, music and beauty."

into excellence. God enjoys human excellence. Settling for being less that we can be must offend him. Excellence honors God. There is the famous line from Irenaeus in the second century, "The glory of God is man fully alive."

Thomas Aquinas thought that goodness and beauty, although logically distinguishable, coincide in fact.

Aquinas' teaching in *The*

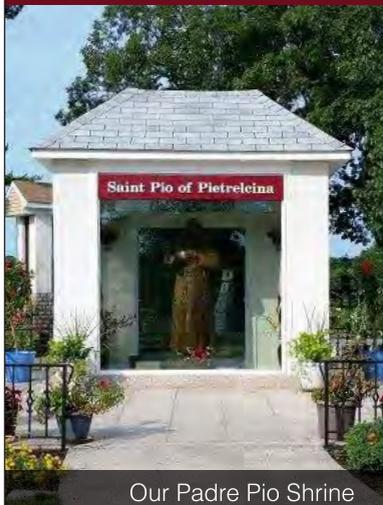
what life is." Goodness and beauty break out in strange places. Goodness stands out more prominently after we have experience some ugliness.

And John Haught asks us "to make our own lives part of a deepening of the goodness in the world" (What is God, p.88).

Finally, as John Keats tells us "some shape of beauty lifts the pall from our dark spirits" ("A Thing of Beauty" [Endymion]). ■

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Catholic School Principals

PRINCIPALS FROM PAGE 6

developing and implementing leadership strategies for elementary school principals, before coming to St. James.

Lynch holds his bachelor's degree in English from St. Leo University, two master's degrees in education from the University of Bridgeport, and his Executive Leadership Program certification from the UCONN NEAG School of Education.

A long-time member of St. James Parish, Lynch is particularly proud of his four grown children and five grandchildren.

**Gregory Viceroy
St. Mary, Bethel**

Proud of his deep roots in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx,

Principal Gregory Viceroy comes to this diocese from St. Barnabas Elementary School. St. Barnabas formed the foundation of his Catholic education and career—he graduated from St. Barnabas Elementary and his first teaching assignment was in St. Barnabas High School, where he has taught social studies, economics and music theory. He also coached the basketball and softball teams, and eventually became athletic director. Around this time, he created and directed the St. Barnabas Parish Summer Camp, where he taught music in the camp for all students from kindergartners through high school seniors. Viceroy became dean of

student affairs for St. Barnabas High School in 2009, a position he continued to hold when he became the elementary school's assistant principal in 2010 and principal in 2013.

He earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Pace University in Pleasantville, N.Y., and is finishing his master's in history from Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y. He has a second master's in school building leadership from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

Viceroy, his wife Laura, and their two young children are members of St. Barnabas Parish.

In addition to the new principals, the Superintendent's Office has created the new posi-

tion of Director of Instructional Leadership for the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport. Wendy Vaca has become the first director in that position.

**Wendy Vaca
Catholic Academy
of Bridgeport**

Wendy Vaca comes from the Archdiocese of New York, where she served for more than 15 years as a teacher, principal and regional instructional specialist. She will be the instructional leader working collaboratively with principals and faculty of the four locations of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport to further evolve the academic program that is already recognized for its strength in advancing students in their academics. In this newly-created position, Vaca will develop a long-range academic and instructional plan that will synchronize

curriculum and instruction as well as assessment.

Most recently, Vaca was the instructional specialist for the pilot region of the Northwest and South Bronx Schools. Under her direction, the scores on the New York State exams rose by 12 percent between 2012 and 2014.

Vaca holds her bachelor's degree in sociology from Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y. She holds two masters degrees from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., both with distinction: a master of science in childhood education and a second master's in school building leadership.

She, her husband and their two school age children are members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Pelham Manor, N.Y.

The diocese sponsors 31 Catholic schools:

5 high schools

Immaculate High School, Danbury
Kolbe Cathedral High School, Bridgeport
Notre Dame High School, Fairfield
St. Joseph High School, Trumbull
Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford

25 elementary and middle schools

PreK – Grade 5:
Holy Spirit School, Stamford
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford
St. Cecilia School, Stamford

PreK – Grade 8:

All Saints School, Norwalk
Assumption Catholic School, Fairfield
Catholic Academy of Bridgeport (St. Andrew Academy, St. Ann Academy, St. Augustine Academy, St. Raphael Academy)
Greenwich Catholic School, Greenwich
Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton
St. Catherine of Siena School, Trumbull
St. Gregory the Great, Danbury
St. James School, Stratford
St. Joseph School, Brookfield
St. Joseph School, Danbury
St. Joseph School, Shelton
St. Jude School, Monroe

St. Lawrence School, Shelton
St. Mark School, Stratford
St. Mary School, Bethel
St. Mary School, Ridgefield
St. Peter School, Danbury
St. Rose School, Newtown
St. Theresa School, Trumbull

K – Grade 8:

St. Aloysius School, New Canaan

Grades 6 – 8:

Trinity Catholic Middle School, Stamford

Special education school

St. Catherine Academy, Fairfield

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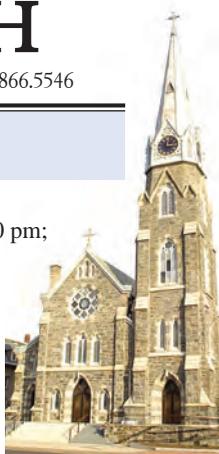
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Wednesday 6:00 pm Extraordinary Form;
Saturday 9:00 am Extraordinary Form
Saturday Anticipatory Mass:
4:00 pm, 7:00 pm (Spanish)
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am **Latin High Mass**,
11:30 am English High Mass,
1:15 pm (Spanish)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

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

ADORATION:

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Fridays: 8:30 am-5:30 pm



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Bits & Pieces

ENCOURAGE apostolate for friends and family of loved ones with same sex attractions meets the third Saturday of the month (**Sept. 19**) at 10:30 am and is strictly confidential. For more info, contact the Norwalk chapter: EncourageNorwalk@gmail.com.

POLKA MASS and parish picnic at Holy Cross Parish, Fairfield, on Sun., **Sept. 13** starts with Mass at 11 am. Slovenian & American foods, including pig & lamb roasted right on the grounds. Children's games & crafts. For more info, call the parish office: 203.372.4595.

CONCERT with Krista Adams Santilli at Sacred Heart

Parish, Stamford, on Sun., **Sept. 13**, at 4 pm. Tickets: \$75; reception follows the concert. For more info or to purchase tickets, call 203.968.1234.

MASSES OF HEALING AND HOPE will be celebrated Mon., **Sept. 14**, at 7:30 pm, at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Fr. Larry Carew; and Mon., **Sept. 21**, at 7:30 pm at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, with Fr. Ignacio Ortigas. For more info, contact the Charismatic Renewal Office: 203.268.8253.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS are held around the diocese: Thurs., **Sept. 17**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, 7:30 pm; Mon., **Sept. 21**,

at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, 7:30 pm; Thurs., **Oct. 1**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, 7 pm.; Thurs., **Oct. 15**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, 7:30 pm; and Mon., **Oct. 19**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, 7:30 pm. For more info, contact Anne Marie: amromano@att.net.

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS of Greater Danbury (ages 18-35) meets at St. Marguerite Parish, Brookfield. Join "S'mores and Stars" stargazing on Fri., **Sept. 25**, from 8-11 pm. On Tues., **Oct. 13**, join CYAGD from 6:30-8:30 pm for a Praise and Worship Holy Hour, followed by a social. For more info, go to catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or call Maria: 203.798.6923.

CURTIS STEPHAN CONCERT will take place at St. Ann Parish, 501 Naugatuck Ave., Milford, with two performances: Sat., **Sept. 19**, at 7 pm and Sun., **Sept. 20** at 4 pm. Tickets: \$12 premium seating; \$7 general admission. For more info or for tickets, call Mary: 203.877.1323.

WOMEN'S GROUP at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, will meet on Mon., **Sept. 21**, at 10 am in the parish hall. Featured speaker will be Teresa Cryan, wellness nurse for the Town of Trumbull. Her topic will be "Fall into Health and Wellness." All are welcome. For more info, call Pat: 203.261.8020.

SECULAR FRANCISCAN Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Emery Church, Fairfield, on Sat., **Sept. 26**, at 9:30 am. Fr. Norman Guilbert will celebrate Mass, followed by a social and meeting. For more info, call 203.255.8801.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING held at St. Stephen Parish,

Trumbull, Sat., **Sept. 26**, 12 noon-3 pm rain or shine. Cost: \$10 per box (standard paper size); \$25 for 3 boxes. For more info, call Janet Wrabel: 203.268.6860 or email ststephenfaithformation@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY: "The Gospel According to John" begins Fri., **Sept. 18**, from 9-10:45 am at Christ the King Parish. For more info and to reserve study materials, call Liz: 203.268.8695 or email ctkparish@aol.com.

MUSICIAN CURTIS STEPHAN will perform at St. Cecilia Parish, Stamford, on Fri., **Sept. 18**, at 7 pm. For more info, contact the parish: 203.322.1562.

50-YEAR REUNION for

Notre Dame Catholic HS Class of 1965 the weekend of **Sept. 25-27**. For more info, check the website: www.ndclassof65.com or call Steve and Diane Parker Cavallo: 203.371.6346.

AWARDS DINNER for the Knights of Columbus in Monroe will take place Sat., **Oct. 3**, at the Stone Barn, 175 Shelton Road, Monroe. Ted Schmidt will be honored as this year's Knight of the Year. Also honored will be Peter and Sharon Lucia of St. Jude Parish. Social hour with hors d'oeuvre 6:30 pm; dinner at 7:30 pm. Cost: \$45/ person; cash bar. Call Pete D'Ostilio: 203.261.0593 or Paul Seperack: 203.261.1890 by Fri., **Sept. 25**.

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Bishop officiates at wedding in Italy



This summer while he was in Italy, Bishop Frank Caggiano celebrated the wedding Mass for Jessica Ann Oster and Roberto Fabio Giansanti. The couple married on June 6, 2015, at Chiesa di San Giuseppe al Porticciolo in Santa Marinella, Italy. The bishop was assisted by seminarian Shane Nunes. The bride is the daughter of Richard and Ida Oster and the groom's parents are Luigi and Stella Giansanti of Southport. ■

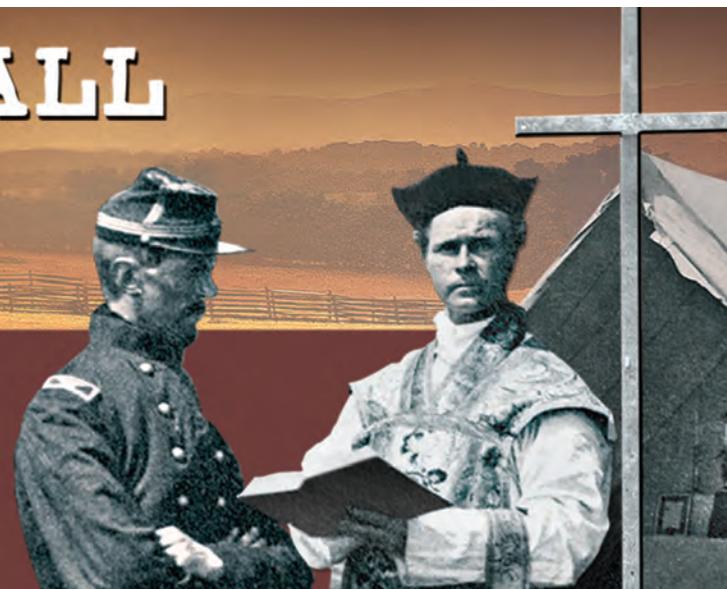
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Bits & Pieces

ARE YOU CALLED to be a Franciscan? St. Mary of the Angels Secular Franciscan Fraternity invites you to join them on the fourth Sunday of each month (**Sept. 27**) for the 9 am Mass at Vikingsborg/St. Birgitta's, 4 Rukenhage Road, Darien, followed by coffee and meeting. For more info, call Anita Field: 203.938.0874 or red-dingglenn2@optonline.net.

LITTLE ROCK BIBLE STUDY day and evening classes at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside: Mon., **Sept. 28** from 7:30-9 pm and Tues., **Sept. 29**, 10-11:30 am. "Lands of the Bible" will study the connections between the biblical text and geography. Registration available in the vestibule and online. Cost: \$20. For more info or to register, call 203.637.3661 or go to www.stcath.org.

DEADLINE for donating a Veteran's Brick to the St. Margaret Shrine, Bridgeport, Veterans Memorial is Wed., **Sept. 30**. The names of the veterans on the newly donated bricks will be read at the Veterans Day Mass and Blessing on Sat., **Nov. 7**, at 12:15

pm. For info on donating a brick for a vet from the U.S. Military or our allies—living, deceased, wartime, peacetime, or currently serving, call 203.345.3244.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: a series of ten consecutive weekly meetings will begin at St. Stephen Parish, Trumbull, on Thurs., **Oct. 1**, from 4:30-6 pm. For more info, call the parish: 203.268.6217.

MEMORIAL MASS on the Feast of the Guardian Angels held at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, Fri., **Oct. 2**, at 7 pm. This special Mass celebrates the lives of all children, living and deceased. Parents, relatives, and friends who have suffered the loss of a child can celebrate their lives before God at the Eucharist. For more info, contact Jill Kessler: 203.740.8500.

HELP THE HOMELESS: a benefit dinner dance sponsored by Off the Streets ministry will take place at Assumption Parish, Fairfield, on Sat., **Oct. 3**, starting at 6:30 pm. The meal will be prepared by five professional chefs; entertainment, dancing, beer and wine are included. Cost: \$75. For

more info or for reservations, call Ellen: 203.880.9814, or Ilene: 203.394.3441. For more about assistance to the homeless, visit www.offthestreetsnow.com/bft.

"ACCIDENTAL THEOLOGIANS: Four Women Who Shaped Christianity, "will kick off the First Friday lectures series St. Luke Parish, Westport on Fri., **Oct. 9**, at 7:30 pm. Wine and cheese reception at 7 pm. No charge; all are welcome. For more info, call 203.227.7245.

"EMPOWERING THE CAREGIVER," an introduction for caregivers to estate planning and the importance of planning ahead, held at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, on Wed., **Oct. 14**, at 6:30 pm: how to plan for care, finding resources and the importance of legal and financial planning. Reservations

needed by Fri., **Oct. 9**. For more info or to RSVP, call the parish office: 203.775.5117.

REUNION for all students, nuns, priests, and lay teachers of the former St. John School in Stamford, will be held at St. John the Evangelist Parish on Sat., **Oct. 10**. The reunion will start with 6 pm Mass with 7 pm reception/dinner to follow. For more info or to register, email Erin. Cody@SunGard.com, or call Ann Cody: 203.325.3128.

MAGNIFICAT, a Ministry to Catholic Women, will host a prayer breakfast on Sat., **Oct. 17**, from 9:30-12:30 at Ethan Allen in Danbury. Margaret Beutler will be the guest speaker. Cost: \$25; register by Sat., **Oct. 10**. No tickets sold at the door. For more info, contact Fran Hood: 203.744.1856 or s.m.hood@sbcglobal.net. ■

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Bishop Frank J. Caggiano

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Welcome Pope Francis and Special Synod Celebration Mass Preview



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WELCOME HOLY FATHER!

As the only Catholic hospital in the diocese, St. Vincent's is proud of its 112-year history in the community, and its healing mission rooted in the Catholic Church and historic witness of the Daughters of Charity to care for the sick and poor and all who are vulnerable.

St. Vincent's Medical Center and its affiliates are proud and honored to welcome the successor to Peter, Pope Francis, to the United States. His leadership and call for renewal, reflected also in Bishop Caggiano's work here in our own community, continue to inspire us and urge us to greater works of healing and charity.



Welcome Pope Francis

'We want to be part of it'

By PAT HENNESSY

"There's something different about this Pope that's hard to put your finger on," says Jeffrey Sprague of Greenwich. "He's so authentic and inspirational. We want to be part of that spirituality." Jeff, his wife Valerie, and their two daughters will be in Philadelphia for Pope Francis' open-air Mass concluding the World Meeting of Families.

While the Sprague family will be among the estimated two million pilgrims participating in the closing Mass, Pope Francis will have seen an even greater number of the faithful, all in all, before he concludes his historic trip to this hemisphere. His event-packed schedule will begin with an apostolic visit to Cuba and continue with an address to the U.S. Congress and the United Nations, among other highlights, before its climax with the Mass on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia.

In Cuba, the Pope will celebrate Mass in the Plaza de la Revolución in Havana, he will join in Vespers in Havana's cath-



dral with priests, religious and seminarians and have a meeting with Cuba's bishops.

Pope Francis touches down in the U.S. on Tuesday afternoon, September 22, at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. The following morning, after a welcome ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House and a visit with President Barak Obama, the Pope will meet with the U.S. bishops in St. Matthew Cathedral.

In the afternoon he will celebrate Mass for the canonization of Blessed Father Junípero Serra,

renowned founder of missions in the Southwest. Seminarians from this diocese will be among the delegations from throughout the country to attend the canonization ceremony.

"This opportunity means a lot to me personally," says seminarian Juan Colon, Jr., who is a parishioner at St. Joseph Parish in Norwalk. "Father Robert Hyl, the pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Stamford, was a mentor to me. He fell in love with Father Serra's missionary work and was looking forward to this canonization."

Father Hyl died in May of this year. "For me, finding out that I can go to the canonization, in a small way carrying on Father Hyl's devotion, is providential."

As he moves from one event to the next, Pope Francis' visit to the U.S. will reflect the themes and concerns he has expressed throughout his pontificate. He will address the United States Congress in Washington and the United Nations in New York, and celebrate with priests and religious there and in Philadelphia. In keeping with

his concerns for the poor, Pope Francis will meet with homeless people in Washington, visit a school in East Harlem and talk with immigrant families, and go to a prison in Philadelphia. Extending a hand of friendship, he will participate in an interreligious meeting at Ground Zero.

"There's something of a 'grass roots' feeling about him," says Sprague. "He personifies the call to service."

While the Sprague family are not officially attending the World Meeting of Families, they feel close to the concerns embodied in that congress. Jeffrey and Valerie are members of Regnum Christi, a lay apostolate of the Legionaries of Christ that works to strengthen couples and evangelize business people. Jeffrey is the director of the tri-state area.

"It adds an additional layer of contact with this visit of Pope Francis," he says. "This is an inspirational occasion. We want to be part of it and soak it in."

(Those interested in attending the Papal Mass can take "Rally Bus" from points within the diocese. See story on page 29 for more info.)

Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive

Since its inception by St. John Paul II in 1994, the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) has strengthened the sacred bonds of families. Held every three years at locations around the globe and sponsored by the Holy See's Pontifical Council for the Family, it is the world's largest gathering of families.

Each World Meeting of Families has a theme that focuses and enlivens the event while adding depth of meaning to the understanding of families. The theme of the World Meeting of Families—Philadelphia 2015 is "Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive," emphasizing the impact of the love and life of families on our society.

Over 15,000 people are expected to attend the congress. Its six keynote addresses and 67 workshops will explore how to "support each other in the joys and struggles of life," its program

proclaims. It is expected that visitors from at least 153 nations will attend. The concern for family life is common to all faiths; fully a quarter of its panelists are not Catholic.

The WMOF is headquartered in the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Each day, there will be a Mass, devotions, keynote speakers and multiple breakout sessions. Masses will be held inside the convention center, and Confession stations will be located at designated areas.

"The World Meeting of Families will present the teachings of Christ in a way that's consistent throughout the whole Church, geared towards the things people face day in and day out," said Auxiliary Bishop John J. McIntyre, who coordinated the international gathering for the archdiocese.

"Eighty percent of the workshop content responds to the



WORLD
MEETING OF
FAMILIES

2015 Philadelphia

challenges in the lives of families and individuals," said Mary Beth Yount, director of content and programming for the congress. An assistant professor of theology at Neumann University, Yount gathered a team that helped the archdiocese create the congress agenda.

Popular speaker and theologian Father Robert Barron, whom Pope Francis recently appointed auxiliary bishop of the

Archdiocese of Los Angeles, will open the congress with "Living as the Image of God: Created for Joy and Love." Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston will head the second day's session with "The Light of the Family in a Dark World."

While adult participants take part in talks and breakout sessions, a separate Youth Congress will provide an interactive program for young people.

One of the hallmark events of the WMOF, the Festival of Families takes place on Saturday, September 26, and is an international celebration of faith, family and community. The all-day festival will include performances from some big names, including Andrea Bocelli, Colombian musician Juanes and the Philadelphia Orchestra. That evening, Pope Francis will visit the festival and offer a few words.

The Papal Mass on Sunday, September 27, open to all, is expected to draw an estimated two million people. The 4 pm Mass will be held on Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway. From its opening speeches through the closing papal Mass, the World Meeting of Families will work to strengthen the bonds of the family throughout the world and witness to the importance of family to society.

Welcome Pope Francis

Papal music reflects joy and wonder

By PAUL CHU

If you are planning to take a walk through the woods along the shores of Lake Zoar, the music you hear may prove to be more than bird songs.

"The trails are my studio and a lookout high over the lake is my office. It's easy to write music when God has blessed me with such inspiring surroundings," said composer and Monroe resident Julian Revie, whose Mass of the Divine Shepherd premiered at Carnegie Hall this past June. The Canadian-born Revie, a 2002 Yale graduate, returned to Connecticut in 2014 as composer-in-residence at the Center for Music and Liturgy of Saint Thomas More Chapel at Yale University. His commitment to music for liturgy, however, reaches back much further. "I've been performing pretty much weekly as a church organist since I was eleven," Revie admitted.

This month, however, Revie will really be seeing his music brought out into the open air—but in a far different setting than the Monroe woods. His composition "The Love of God," based on the seventh



"THE LOVE OF GOD," a meditation on Christ's ultimate sacrifice, will be performed during the Papal Mass in Philadelphia on September 27. The selection is part of the Mass of the Divine Shepherd by Composer Julian Revie, which premiered at Carnegie Hall in June. A Monroe resident, Revie is part of the Catholic community at the St. Thomas More Chapel at Yale.

movement of Mass of the Divine Shepherd, has been selected as the Communion antiphon for the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in Philadelphia, marking the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families, on September 27.

The Mass, which is itself the culminating public event of the papal visit, will likely attract as many as two million congregants to Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The piece will be sung by a massed choir of over three hundred adults and a children's chorus, accompanied by the 90-member Philadelphia Orchestra,

under the direction of conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

"This spring, I traveled to Philadelphia to work with the children's choir at the cathedral in preparation for the Mass of the Divine Shepherd. It was at that point that I was first invited to submit music for the papal Mass. The official acceptance for the The Love of God antiphon came in mid-June," Revie explained. "I am grateful to everyone at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for this wonderful

opportunity to offer my gifts to the glory of God."

This has already been quite a year for Revie. The June 29 premiere of his Mass—the first major setting of the Mass in the revised English translation—was performed by over 650 choristers,

personally, is the entrance of the children's chorus, which is saved for the final part of the piece. The children, to me, represent the pure of heart, who shall see God. Once the children enter, they immediately take the lead, with all the other voices following, as if the act



instrumentalists and bell-ringers from around the world, and played to a nearly sold-out Carnegie Hall. Among those in attendance was Bridgeport's own Bishop Frank J. Caggiano

"I believe that the concert was a graced moment for everyone who attended. The music was magnificent, and the people who attended were clearly moved on many levels by their participation in the event," Bishop Caggiano later commented.

"The Carnegie premiere, by itself, would have been a once in a lifetime experience. The prospect of my music literally reaching millions is almost unimaginable," Revie reflected. "Yet there is something that ultimately strikes me even more.

"I wrote The Love of God as a meditation on Christ's ultimate sacrifice of love. As such, it is written to assist the congregation in worthy preparation for communion. It begins with the chorus singing alone; then they are joined by the orchestra. But the real point of the piece, at least for me

of radical, sacrificial love to which the children counsel were echoing through all humanity."

"That this moment—the very moment when my music is being sung and played—coincides with Pope Francis as celebrant receiving the Eucharist... this intimate moment of communion between our Eucharistic Christ and His Vicar on earth... that's just awesome to me."

The Pope himself provides Revie with a particular point of inspiration. He adds, "In his recent encyclical *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis describes how 'the Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world, because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder.' Over hundreds of hours composing, walking the trails, I do feel I've grown closer to the Lord. Perhaps, by my music, I can share some of the inspiration of the lakes, birds, and trees of Monroe with Pope Francis and with the whole Church." ■

ST. MATTHEW PARISH FAMILY

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Pope Francis

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

Celebration of the Family—the Sanctuary of Love and Life

And Honors

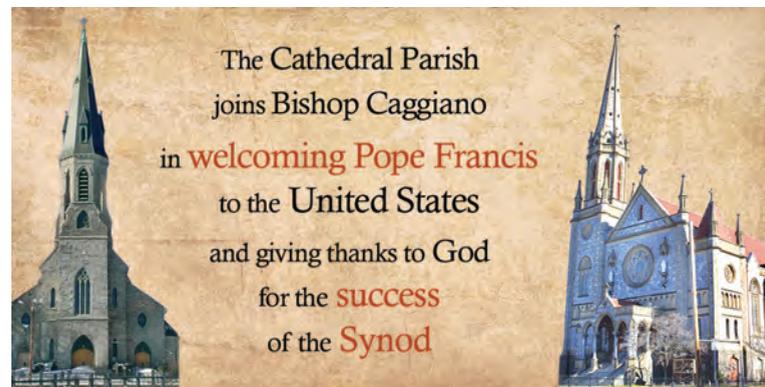
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The Cathedral Parish
joins Bishop Caggiano
in welcoming Pope Francis
to the United States
and giving thanks to God
for the success
of the Synod

Welcome Pope Francis

Rally bus to papal Mass

BRIDGEPORT—Rally Bus will help organize transportation for people from the Diocese of Bridgeport who wish to attend the Papal Mass in Philadelphia on Sunday, September 27.

“Many people have contacted the diocese to ask if we are planning transportation to the Papal Mass, and we’re very pleased to make Rally Bus available to those who will make the pilgrimage,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. “The Mass is open to all who can get there and we think bus transportation may be the best

option giving the estimated two million people who will come out to greet our Holy Father.”

The bishop said he was grateful to Tyler Lomnitzer, a parishioner of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, for helping to organize the transportation.

Lomnitzer said buses will depart from St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull around 7 am. Additional stops and starting points have been added in New Canaan and Ridgefield and more may be added. Rally Bus is flexible when it comes to creating and

modifying bus routes, he said.

No tickets are necessary to attend this Mass.

The Papal Mass is a monumental event in the history of the Catholic Church in the United States and is also likely to create a monumental traffic jam with heavy security measures in place and many highways and bridges closed to individual motorists and open only for bus access and pedestrians.

“Rally bus is definitely the best way to get into Philadelphia. It has authorization to drive directly



into the city. We’re really excited about using Rally Bus to aid the Diocese of Bridgeport in its organizational efforts to help as many of its members as possible attend Mass celebrated by the Holy Father,” Lomnitzer said.

The buses will arrive at Lincoln Financial Field, approximately four miles away from Ben Franklin Pkwy., where Mass is being celebrated. There will be shuttle buses and/or subway service available to bring riders closer.

Rally Bus provides a comfortable way to ride, with Wi-Fi,

on-board bathroom and air-conditioning. The final round trip fare will be determined based on the number of people who sign up for the bus. Organizers estimate that it will be in the area of \$90 per person, reduced to \$81 for those who take advantage of the discount.

(To reserve a spot on the bus, go to: rallybus.net/bridgeport-papal-pilgrimage. Use the promo code “pilgrim” to attain a 10% discount off your ticket. Those interested in attending can also call 855-RALLYBUS [855.725.5928] to reserve a spot.)

Official Schedule for Pope Francis’ visit to U.S.

Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, September 22, 2015

4 pm: Pope Francis arrives in D.C. at Joint Base Andrews

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

- 9:15 am:** White House Welcoming Ceremony and personal meeting with President Barack Obama
- 11:30 am:** Midday Prayer with U.S. bishops at Saint Matthew’s Cathedral in D.C.
- 4:15 pm:** Junípero Serra Canonization Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday, September 24, 2015

- 9:20 am:** Speech to the Senate and House of Representatives (Joint Session of Congress)
- 11:15 am:** Visit to St. Patrick Church and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington
- 4 pm:** Departure for New York from Joint Base Andrews (D.C.)
- 5 pm:** Arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport (New York)
- 6:45 pm:** Evening prayer at St. Patrick’s Cathedral (New York)

New York

Friday, September 25, 2015

- 8:30 am:** United Nations General-Assembly
- 11:30 am:** Multi-religious service at 9/11 Memorial and Museum, World Trade Center
- 4 pm:** Visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem
- 6 pm:** Madison Square Garden Mass

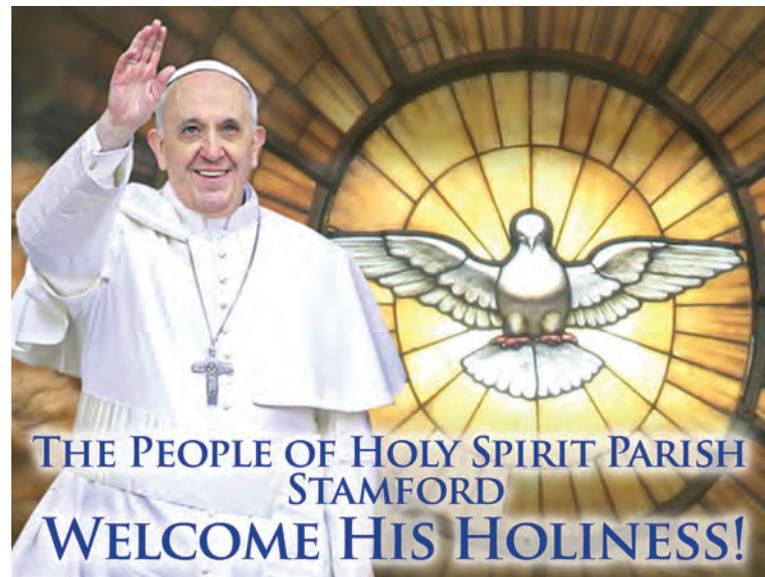
Philadelphia

Saturday, September 26, 2015

- 8:40 am:** Departure for Philadelphia from John F. Kennedy International Airport
- 9:30 am:** Arrival in Atlantic Aviation hangar at Philadelphia International Airport Philadelphia
- 10:30 am:** Mass at Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul
- 4:45 pm:** Visit to Independence Mall
- 7:30 pm:** Visit to Festival of Families at Benjamin Franklin Parkway and Prayer Vigil with World Meeting of Families

Sunday, September 27, 2015

- 9:15 am:** Papal meeting with bishops at St. Martin’s Chapel, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
- 11 am:** Visit to Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility
- 4 pm:** Papal Mass for World Meeting of Families
- 7 pm:** Visit with organizers, volunteers and benefactors of the World Meeting of Families at Atlantic Aviation
- 8 pm:** Departure for Rome



Welcome to the United States, Pope Francis and
Congratulations and Thanks to
Bishop Caggiano
for Shepherding the Fourth Synod of
The Diocese of Bridgeport

May God give each of you continued wisdom, a compassion heart and a true spirit of the Gospel as you lead us into the future.



Saint Rose of Lima Parish
Newtown, Connecticut

Welcome Pope Francis

Sainthood proclaimed for Father Junípero Serra

WASHINGTON, D.C.— On September 23, during his Apostolic Visit to the United States, Pope Francis will canonize Father Junípero Serra in a ceremony at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Who was Junípero Serra? Why is he being canonized?

Father Junípero Serra was a Spanish Franciscan friar who founded the first nine of what would become a chain of 21 Spanish missions in California, from San Diego to San Francisco.

Born Miquel Josep Serra Ferrer, he took the name Junípero when he joined the Franciscan order in 1730. Intellectually brilliant, he taught philosophy to seminarians in Spain, and was a professor again in Mexico City following his arrival there in 1749.

He requested permission to work as a missionary, and in 1768, Father Serra was appointed superior of a band of



“THE FOUNDER OF SPANISH CALIFORNIA,” a statue of Father Junípero Serra stands in front of Ventura City Hall. Founded as the mission of San Buenaventura, it is one of a string of missions the Franciscan missionary priest founded in California. Pope Francis will canonize Father Serra on September 23 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

15 Franciscans for the Indian Missions of Baja California. Traveling on foot, he reached California and established his first

mission, San Diego de Alcalá (present-day San Diego), in 1769.

He built eight more missions over the next thirteen years.

Most of them have become cities retaining a version of their original names: San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo (Carmel-by-the-Sea); San Antonio de Padua; San Gabriel, Arcángel (San Gabriel); San Luis, Obispo de Tolosa (San Luis Obispo); San Juan Capistrano; San Francisco de Asís (San Francisco); Santa Clara de Asís (Santa Clara) and San Buenaventura (Ventura).

Father Serra worked tirelessly to maintain the missions. Controversy swirls around the entire era of the European settlement of the Americas, with the introduction of infectious diseases and the destruction of Native American cultures. The Franciscan missions, including those Father Serra founded, are caught up in that debate.

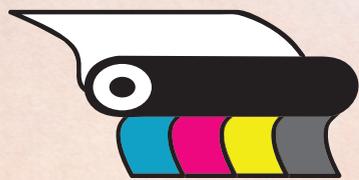
At the time they were founded, the missions were primarily designed to bring the Catholic faith to the native peoples, to integrate them into Spanish society, and to train them to take

over ownership and management of the land. As head of the order in California, Father Serra not only dealt with church officials, but also with Spanish officials in Mexico City and with the military officers in command of local garrisons. He pushed for a system of laws to protect natives from some abuses by Spanish soldiers, whose practices were often in conflict with his.

As a result of his tireless efforts, Father Serra has been given the title Founder of Spanish California.

Father Junípero Serra died in 1784 at Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo, present-day Carmel, California. He is buried there under the sanctuary floor. The site is now home to the National Shrine to Blessed Junípero Serra, and many visitors go there each year to honor the famous missionary, soon to be officially recognized by the Church as one of its great saints. ■

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in welcoming Pope Francis to the USA.**



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Welcome Pope Francis

Standing at the foot of the cross with Pope Francis

By SHANE NUNES

"Il Papa viene, il Papa viene!" These were the words heard as we were praying the Rosary. We were standing in the Chapel of the Pietá near the entrance of St. Peter's Basilica, waiting for Pope Francis to greet us before the Good Friday celebration of the Passion of Our Lord. I was looking at the *Pietá* directly next to me when, before I knew it, there he was walking into the chapel. The light that was emitting from his face and the serenity that filled the room were coming from Christ through his Vicar on Earth, His Holiness Pope Francis. As he made his way around the chapel speaking with the 20 of us, nothing but peace and joy filled my heart.

What was I going to say? Should I ask him to pray for people? For me? Should I just say hello? Before I had the time

to decide what to do, he came to me. I shook his hand and smiled, looking into his eyes as he gazed into mine. I said, "Buonasera Santo Padre, molto piacere." (Good evening Holy Father, very nice to meet you.) He was smiling back at me, and continued to gaze into my eyes for what seemed like minutes. He then nodded and moved toward my brother seminarian next to me. That simple nod felt like a reassurance of my vocation.

It was an incredible moment. And it was not over yet! I was asked to help vest Pope Francis and was graced to see him get ready for the Passion of Our Lord. As I entered the sacristy and began to help the Pope vest, the transformation I witnessed was unbelievable. I witnessed the joyous, smiling Pope Francis become very serious and contemplative as he prayed the vesting



"AS POPE FRANCIS CAME TO VENERATE the Cross, I could clearly see tears fill his eyes," recalls seminarian Shane Nunes (behind the cross-bearer, with glasses) of his opportunity to serve with the Pope during the Holy Triduum this year. "It was obvious to me that he understood the Cross in its fullness and did not hesitate to embrace it."

prayers in preparation for the liturgical celebration.

Before I knew it, we were processing up the nave of St. Peter's Basilica. The people in the Basilica were very quiet, even

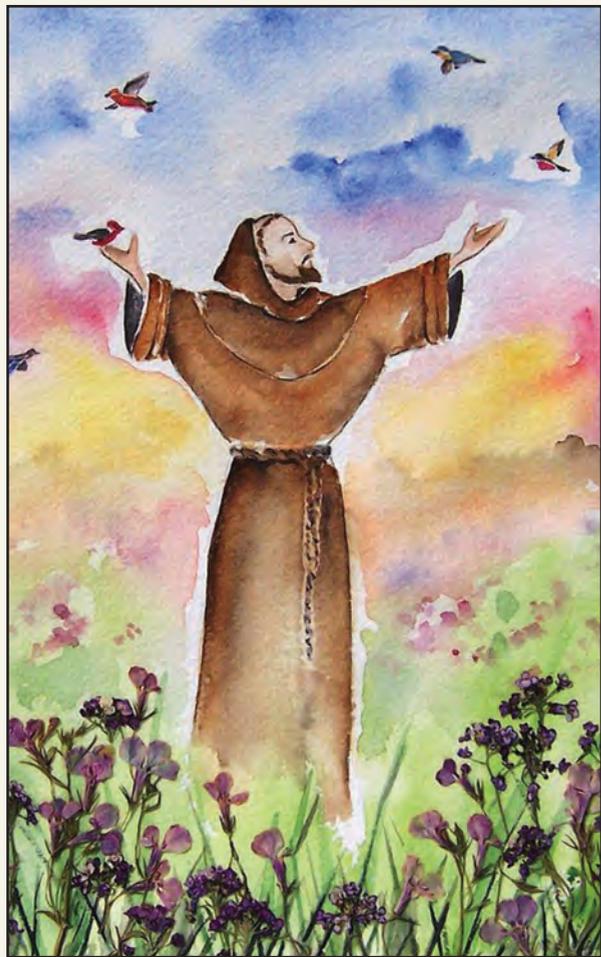
with all of the flashes of their cameras going before us. There I was, in St. Peter's Basilica, serving for Pope Francis during the Holy Triduum. We reached the main altar, took our respective seats, and began to pray.

As the celebration progressed, we came to the veneration of the Cross. I somehow was picked (because I was the tallest) to be one of the seminarians holding the candles next to the Cross during the procession. As Pope Francis came to venerate the Cross, I could clearly see tears fill his eyes. It was obvious to me then, in that moment, that he understood the Cross in its fullness and did not hesitate to embrace it. As he clung to the corpus on the Cross,

I was reminded of a child looking up to his father or mother, overwhelmed with emotion coursing throughout their mind, heart, and soul. I can honestly say that this moment, witnessing the devotion of the Pope for his Lord, is one that has changed my life. It is a moment that I still pray with to this very day, and I know I will continue to return to in years to come.

Our Pope is a man of truth and compassion; a pontiff of charity and prayerfulness. The depth of his love for Christ, his understanding of the Cross, and the untiring joyfulness of his hope in the Resurrection are the faithful witness of which this world is so in need. ■

Feast of St. Francis promotes care of creation



The Feast of St. Francis, October 4, honors the patron saint of those who promote ecology. Now, echoing the choice of the pope to quote from the St. Francis's "Canticle of the Sun" to begin his encyclical *Laudato Si'* (Praise Be), the Catholic Climate Covenant has prepared a festival program that promotes better care of creation by sounding the call to solve climate change. The program, available for parishes, schools or other groups, features a 15-minute video on Pope Francis's encyclical and climate change, hands-on activity guides, and resources to take this work forward.

Pope Francis is expected to speak about his encyclical in his public addresses during his Apostolic Visit. Given the proximity of the pope's visit (September 22-27) to the Feast of St. Francis, the event is designed to be held at any time in September or October.

Each event is a sign of progress in the midst of the urgent challenges we face. Each helps people understand climate change and commit to real solutions, together with our Pope, all people of faith and the whole world—which as Pope Francis said, is "Our Common Home."

(For more info or to register, go to www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/act/feast_of_stfrancis.) ■

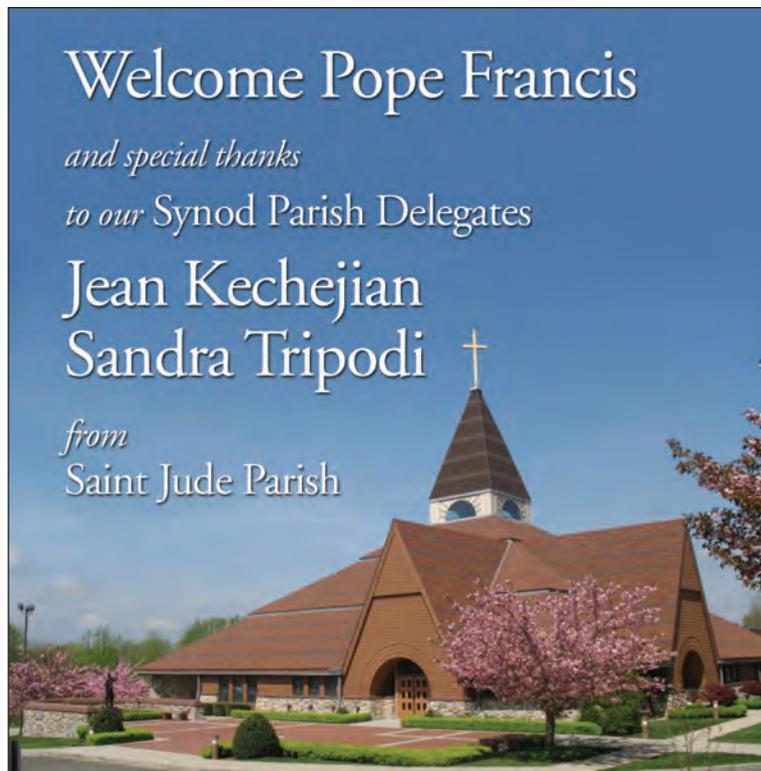
Welcome Pope Francis

and special thanks

to our Synod Parish Delegates

Jean Kechejian
Sandra Tripodi

from
Saint Jude Parish





The Catholic Parishes of Vicariate 2

New Canaan, Norwalk, Weston, Westport & Wilton

...extend a joyful and prayerful welcome to our Holy Father Francis
as he visits the Church in the United States

Especially as our Diocese of Bridgeport reaches a turning point
in our Synodal process this month, we are most grateful to Pope Francis
for his example in stretching us to new horizons in evangelization and service to the poor.
May God bless him with many happy years in leadership to the Church Universal!!

Thank you to our Vicariate Synod Delegates!

Saint Aloysius, New Canaan—Chris Hussey, Chris Ayoub

Saint Jerome, Norwalk—Nicole Tobin and Stephen Grozinger

Saint Joseph, Norwalk—Guy Dormevil and Carmen Davila

Saint Ladislaus, Norwalk—Emily Wilson and Steve Haywood

Saint Mary, Norwalk—Marc Baker and Ana Osorio

Saint Matthew, Norwalk—Al DiGuido and BethAnn Mazzotta-Murray

Saint Philip, Norwalk—Dr. John Fitzpatrick, Susan Phillips and Youth delegate, Michael Falbo

Saint Thomas the Apostle, Norwalk—Catherine Mulvehill

Saint Francis of Assisi, Weston—Chris Eidt and Jane LaCorte

Assumption, Westport—Marilyn Moran and Cathy Romano

Saint Luke, Westport—Judy Torska and John Krubski

Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton—Kathy Rooney and Vivian Wruck

Welcome Pope Francis from Fairfield Prep!



Fairfield Prep, the Jesuit college preparatory school of Connecticut, is honored to welcome our Holy Father, Pope Francis, the first successor to Saint Peter chosen from the Jesuit order.



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Special Synod Mass Preview

Novena to the Holy Spirit Week

In preparation for the Synod Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has urged Catholics throughout the diocese to join in a novena calling down the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on the Mass and the implementation of the synod. The novena services, each including prayer, readings, and music, will begin nine days before the Synod Celebration Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport and will be led by pastors and priests throughout the diocese. The final novena will be led by Bishop Caggiano on the morning of the Celebration Mass from 7-9 am. All other novenas will be held in the evening at the Cathedral from 7-9 pm.

Novena Schedule: Time: 7-9 pm

Friday September 11:

Fear of the Lord

Saturday September 12: Piety

Sunday September 13: Fortitude

Monday September 14:

Knowledge

Tuesday September 15:

Understanding

Wednesday September 16:

Counsel

Thursday September 17: Wisdom

Friday September 18:

The Spirit and Fire

Saturday September 19:

The Spirit and Fire led by Bishop Caggiano on the morning of the Celebration Mass from 7-9 am

Novena Program:

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Incensation
- Opening Hymn
- Psalms for evening prayer from the day
- Readings
- Reading from the Old or New Testament corresponding on the Gift of the Holy Spirit
- Reading from the Fathers of the Church
- Mediation Song (Sequence of the Holy Spirit)

- Magnificat
- Intercessions
- Our Father
- Novena Prayer General
- Novena Prayer proper of the day
- Benediction
- Reposition
- Closing Hymn and Procession

The novena is open to all who wish to attend and prayerfully prepare for the Synod Celebration Mass. ■



Major Initiatives approved by Synod Delegates

The Synod Celebration Mass in Webster Bank Arena on September 19 does not merely celebrate the work of the Diocesan Synod; it also recognizes the initiatives that have been approved after months of deliberation. These initiatives will begin to bear fruit over the coming months:

Establish a Diocesan Strategic Planning Commission by October 2015 whose competency will include: (1) the ongoing reform of the Diocesan Curia and (2) oversight of the pastoral planning process.

Begin a Comprehensive Pastoral Planning Process by November 2015 to engage every parish to create a road-map for its future.

Establish a Catholic Service Corps (CSC) by November 2015 that will focus on fostering and guiding parish and diocesan-wide opportunities to realize justice, peace and charity within our diocese.

Establish a Leadership Institute by January 1, 2016. Create a six-month consultative process, beginning in September 2015, leading to a Presbyteral Assembly on February 25, 2016, to draft concrete measures to realize the call of the Synod for priests to embrace "holy and healthy living."

Reestablish the Diocesan Liturgical Commission by



INTENSE DISCUSSION and exploration of issues during the general sessions of the Diocesan Synod led to the approval of Major Diocesan Initiatives by the close of the last session. Implementation of the initiatives will begin in the months following the Synod Celebration Mass.

December 1, 2015. The objectives of the Liturgical Commission would include but not be limited to: Create a Task Force to draft: (1) a comprehensive revision of the Diocesan Sacramental Guidelines and (2) the Diocesan Pastoral Handbook, for approval by the bishop by June 1, 2016.

Create a diocesan pastoral initiative that will 1) seek to support and strengthen couples in their marriage and, 2) reach out to divorced and separated Catholics within the diocese. Such an initiative would also study the work of the Tribunal toward a plan to strengthen its work.

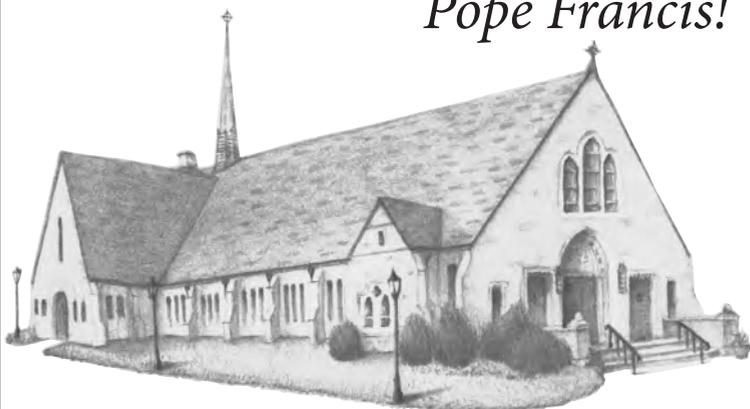
Establish family life centers (both virtual and physical) in collaboration with Catholic Charities, parishes and other

entities. The goal is to provide resources and support to families to help strengthen the bonds of unity among its members, and also to support families that are confronting particular stressors.

Create a strategic plan for priestly vocations by February 25, 2016. In addition, concrete measures must be enacted towards the fostering of vocations to the diaconate and religious life.

Create a Diocesan Task Force by October 1, 2015 whose competency is to identify concrete ways to reform our catechetical methods and programs. The Task Force will report back to the bishop in eight months. ■

*Welcome to the United States,
Pope Francis!*



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*Welcome Pope Francis
God Bless you*



*Our Lady of Fatima Parish
Wilton, CT*

Special Synod Mass Preview

‘Conversations of Faith’ set for arena scoreboard

BRIDGEPORT—
“Conversations of Faith,” a new video produced for the Synod

gets underway at 9 am, will prepare the thousands who enter the arena that morning for Mass. The

8,500-seat arena.

Produced in association with the Media Center of Fairfield University, the video features the personal testimony of synod delegates and other faithful who reflect on their own faith journey, the joy of evangelizing, and their hopes for the diocese as the synod begins implementing new programs and initiatives.

“It was an honor to be involved in the interviews and production of the synod video,” said Patrick Turner, deputy synod director. “Everyone we interviewed spoke from the heart and from the deep well of faith that animates their lives. I think all

those who view these testimonies will be moved by their love for the Church, their deep faith, and their concern for others.”

Turner added, “We’re also grateful to Fairfield University for making their studio available and producing the video.”

The video was filmed by Joe Adams, a 2010 graduate

of St. Joseph High School in Trumbull who studied film at the University of New Haven. Marisa Forziati, a Fairfield University graduate, served as video editor.

In addition to be shown on the jumbotron screen at the arena, the video will be available online on the diocesan website at www.bridgeportdiocese.com.



SEMINARIAN Dan Tome is among the men and women throughout the diocese who reflect on their personal faith journey and hopes for the diocese in the “Conversations of Faith” video, which will be shown on the jumbotron of Webster Bank Arena before the Synod Mass.

Closing Celebration, will be among the many offerings provided during the “Praise and Worship” ceremony before the Mass officially begins at 11 am at Webster Bank Arena on September 19.

Praise and Worship, which

program includes music, prayer, and the video that celebrates the life of faith and the work of the synod.

The video, along with other live activities, will be shown on the giant digital scoreboard in the

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— Pope Francis



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Special Synod Mass Preview

Youth Choir to debut at Synod Mass

By JOHN GROSSO

There will be much to celebrate on September 19 in Webster Bank Arena. Not only will thousands of people join together in celebration of the closing of the synod, the Diocesan Youth Choir, established in April, will make its debut after more than 12 weeks of rehearsals.

Choir director Mary Bozzuti Higgins has been hard at work preparing 78 young men and

women spread across five different rehearsals each week for their debut at the Synod Closing Mass. "I am thrilled with their progress so far," said Higgins, "I am amazed at their dedication and spirit, and I am very impressed with how quickly they have grown."

The choir had their first real preview on August 19, when 22 of the choir members journeyed up to the Office of Radio and Television (ORTV) studios of the Archdiocese of Hartford to sing for the recorded Mass, which broadcasted on August 23. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the celebrant for the Mass.

"The choir was phenomenal," said the bishop shortly after the Mass, "and this is only the beginning!"

The TV Mass served as a small teaser for the two major upcoming performances of the Youth Choir, the first being



YOUTH CHOIR PREVIEW—Members of the Diocesan Youth Choir ventured out to ORTV studios in Prospect recently to sing for *The Celebration of the Eucharist*, the daily TV Mass now available on Cablevision 12, Channel 84, every day of the week at 10 am. Bishop Caggiano celebrated the Mass and praised choir members, who will sing at the Synod Celebration Mass.

on September 19 at the Synod Closing Celebration Mass and the next a special Christmas Concert

later this year.

"I am excited to debut the choir at the Synod Closing

Mass," said Higgins, "This will be a beautiful opportunity to not only showcase the hard work of these young people, but to unite the diocese in hopeful and joyful song and prayer."

Though the choir is primarily focused on preparing for the Synod Mass, they are already learning pieces for their Christmas Concert in December. Though Christmas may be four months away, Higgins is preparing them early. "I can't think of a better way to honor the birth of Christ than through music and worship," she said.

For now, though, all eyes are on Webster Bank Arena and the choir.

(Auditions for the Diocesan Youth Choir will re-open September 22-25. Choir auditions will take place at the already established rehearsal times and places. For more information email Mary Higgins MHiggins@diobpt.org.)

May our Lord bless
Bishop Frank J. Caggiano
and the People of God
of the Diocese
of Bridgeport
upon the Closing
of the Synod

As well, our sincerest thanks
to
Steve and Debbie Wortman
who served
as our Synod Parish Delegates

Very Rev. Matthew R. Mauriello
Pastor
and St. Roch Church
Greenwich, Connecticut

Celebration to air on Cablevision

HARTFORD—The Synod Celebration Mass will be broadcast on WCCTV Channel 20, and on Cablevision 12, Channel 84, on Sunday, September 20, from 10:30 am-12:30 pm on both stations.

The Mass will also be streamed live on Saturday, September 19,

beginning at 11 am. It will be available on the diocesan website: www.bridgeportdiocese.com.

Coverage of the closing Mass has been made possible by the Office of Radio and Television (ORTV) of the Archdiocese of Hartford under the leadership of Father John Gatzak, executive director of ORTV. The ORTV team, headquartered in its studios in Prospect, will bring its mobile unit and fully produce the taping and broadcast.

Father Gatzak, a noted TV and radio personality, will anchor the production. He will be joined in the anchor booth by Patrick Turner, deputy director of Synod 2014 and Deacon John DiTaranto, special assistant to Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

"We're very grateful to Father Gatzak and his team for bringing their broadcast experience and excellence to the taping of the Synod Mass. It is a gift to the entire diocese and one that will draw many more thousands in the mission and message of the synod. Through their efforts, we can share our work with people throughout Connecticut and across the U.S.," said Bishop Caggiano.



ORTV TO PRODUCE SYNOD MASS—Father John Gatzak, executive director of the Office of Radio and Television of the Archdiocese of Hartford, will bring his production team to Webster Bank Arena on September 19, to produce the Synod Celebration Mass. It will air the following day on Cablevision and WCCTV Channel 10:30 am to 12:30 on both stations. Father John will also anchor the broadcast and will be joined in the booth by Patrick Turner, deputy director of the synod and Deacon John DiTaranto, special assistant to Bishop Caggiano.

The Office of Radio and Television of the Archdiocese of Hartford is best known in Fairfield County for its production of *The Celebration of the Eucharist* daily television Mass, which has returned to Cablevision Channel 84 and is broadcast every day of the week at 10 am.

The Celebration of the Eucharist is available to those who receive WCCT-TV, channel 20's over the

air signal, with an external antenna, or get WCCT on Dish TV or Direct TV service or from another local cable provider. It can also be viewed live each day at 10 am or on-demand at anytime at their website www.ortv.org.

(The offices and studios of ORTV and WJMJ Radio, a service of the Archdiocese of Hartford, are located at 15 Peach Orchard Road in Bethany.)

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With joy and gratitude
we join with our diocesan community
as we celebrate the Synod Mass of Thanksgiving.
Thank you, Bishop Caggiano
for your tireless and inspirational spiritual
leadership and to all who helped
to make this Synod a reality.

Thank you,
The St. Pius X Parish Family



Special Synod Mass Preview

Synod choirs to lift high their voices

By NINA M. RICCIO

"Top of the line, sopranos! One, two, and... Not bad, tenors. Altos, here we go! Hold those books up! Your lap will not appreciate how well you sing!"

"Should we do it one more time? Say yes!"

Welcome to the Adult Choir rehearsal for the Synod Celebration Mass under the leadership of Thomas J. Marino, director of music ministries and organist at St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan.

His rapid-fire direction is laced with a constant thread of humor as he puts members of the Diocesan Synod Choir through their paces in preparation for the Synod Closing Mass and Celebration set for Saturday, September 19, at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport.

A praise and worship ceremony will begin at 9:15 am, with the Mass scheduled to start at 11 am.

Over 40 parish choirs will be singing during the celebration and have been practicing throughout

summer. Many parish choirs average 25-30 people, with the combined Synod Diocesan Choir comprised of more than 225 voices from all over the diocese.

"The diocese is cognizant of its many ethnic communities, and we want the music to reflect that diversity," said Marino. Spanish, Vietnamese, Haitian, Filipino, Polish, Brazilian Children, and Gospel choirs are currently rehearsing for the event. With some guidance from Marino, each choir chose its own music, and in some cases, the singers will be accompanied by percussion and other instruments common to that country.

The selections will be a mix of contemporary pieces and traditional hymnody, such as the recessional hymn, "O God, Beyond All Praising," based on the hymn tune, "Thaxted" from Gustav Holst's "The Planets."

One selection from the contemporary genre, "All Are Welcome," has lyrics "that lend themselves to the welcoming of each person in one fashion



LIFTING THEIR VOICES in praise, the Diocesan Synod Choir rehearses under the leadership of music director Thomas Marino. The choir combines 225 voices from parishes throughout the diocese and includes the musical traditions of the many ethnic traditions represented in the Church in Fairfield County. (PHOTO BY NINA RICCIO)

or another to participate in this historic day in the life of our diocese," and thus complements the theme of unity, said Marino.

Because this significant event in the life of the diocese is going to be held in a sports arena, "We

need to create a holy place; we are essentially turning it into a cathedral for the day," Marino explained.

To set the tone, he chose "Go Up to the Altar of God" for one of the processions, which uses phrases from Psalms 43, 116, and 100. "The phrase 'Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with songs of praise' is just the feeling we want to convey."

Before coming to St. Aloysius 11 years ago, Marino spent almost 18 years as the music director at St. Mary Parish in Greenwich. A native of The

Bronx, he has a degree in music from Concordia College in Bronxville, N.Y., where he focused on liturgical music. He went on to study music education at New York University and immersed himself in liturgical music at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J.

Marino says the quality of the music for the closing celebration is of particular importance because during the listening sessions held throughout Fairfield County in advance of the synod, Catholics of all ages expressed the need for better, richer music during Mass.

"The mission of the synod is to foster a spiritual and pastoral renewal of our diocesan community and unity is one of the major guiding principles, the unity of all parishes within the diocese," said Marino, who noted that music plays a role in the renewal.

Are there challenges in working with so many groups from so many parishes? Sure, Marino admitted.

"Although rehearsals began at the beginning of August, we've been talking, planning, and organizing for a year. The toughest part of this has been the logistics, gathering information from all the parishes, and connecting with all the music directors. But the choir members themselves have been wonderful. They're enthu-

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

Synod Day at a glance:

Synod Mass of Celebration
Saturday, September 19, Webster Bank Arena, Bridgeport

6:30 am—Volunteers begin arriving at Webster Bank Arena

7:30 am—Doors Open for arriving guests

7:30 am—At St. Augustine Cathedral Bishop Frank J. Caggiano leads Morning Prayer in the final day of the Novena.

7:30-8:45 am—Buses begin arriving at the Arena

9 am—Bishop Caggiano, joined by area youth and members of the Neo-catechumenate Movement, leave St. Augustine Cathedral and begin procession with statue of Our Blessed Mother through downtown Bridgeport to the Arena.

9 am—Festival of Joy including music, prayer and video begins in the arena for guests. Refreshment are available at Arena concessions.

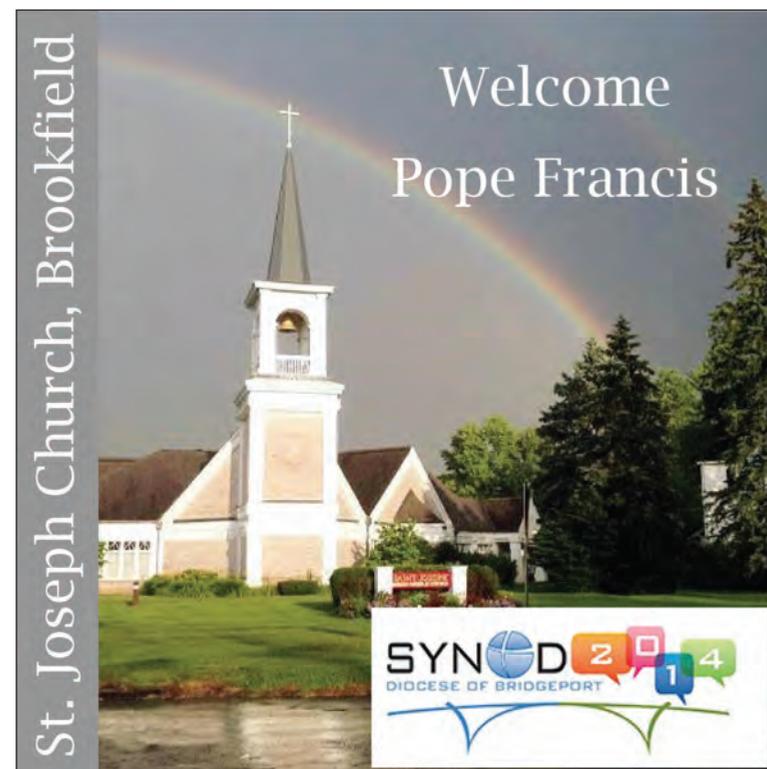
9:45 am—Bishop Caggiano and procession arrive at Webster Bank Arena. Bishop processes to the altar and prays before the statue of Our Lady placed on the main stage.

10:30 am—Liturgical Procession begins with Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, Delegates, Priests, Religious, Lay Leaders, Interfaith Representatives, Bishops and Honored Guests enter the Arena.

11 am—Mass of Thanksgiving begins with more than 8,500 in attendance

1 pm—Mass of Celebration Concludes with Bishop Caggiano formally signing the Synod 2014 document on the main altar and officially re-dedicating the diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Bishop offers brief remarks of gratitude



Special Synod Mass Preview

Youth build Lighthouse of Food for the needy

Four hours of intricate teamwork. An eight-foot tall elaborate structure of non-perishable food, carefully set into an island of vegetables, rice and beans, pasta, and mac & cheese. And behind all this, months of planning, dozens of food drives and uncountable efforts of teens from all over the diocese.

This is the Lighthouse of Food, a showpiece of the Synod Celebration Mass at Webster Bank Arena on September 19.

"The Lighthouse of Food is an opportunity for the high school age youth of the diocese to more fully participate in the Synod Celebration and, at the

same time, to engage in a service project that will help the needy of Fairfield County," explains Patrick Turner, deputy synod director. "The goal of the project is to demonstrate a Church of love, action, mercy and service."

The lighthouse is one of the iconic images of Connecticut, one that draws people home to a safe harbor, a place of security. It represents a beacon of hope for the needy, made a reality by the cans, boxes and bags of food to be donated to area food pantries.

Chris Otis, director of youth and family ministry at St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, has been coordinating the Lighthouse of Food project. In addition to the main lighthouse for the Synod Celebration Mass, she encouraged all parish youth ministers to sponsor their own youth food drives prior to the September 19 celebration.

"This is the perfect way to involve youth at the parish level and be part of this initiative," she says. "Parish food drives can benefit a food pantry or program they already support, a sister parish that might be in need or one of the Catholic Charities programs."

She sent each parish plans for building a "mini" replica of the collaborative lighthouse structure—parish lighthouse replicas

are four feet tall—and suggested they might want to build a food structure representative of their own parish.

Parish youth groups will be sending teams of teens to the Webster Bank Arena on September 18 to help construct the final version of the Lighthouse of food. All attending the Synod Celebration Mass will see this shining beacon of the faith of all the youth of the diocese.

As Otis notes with pride in their work, "This day, and this project, is a perfect way for our teens to witness that they put their faith into action." ■

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Special thanks to all these sponsors, and to those who did not want to be mentioned by name:

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of the Teens of the Diocese



The Parishes of Vicariate III wish to thank our Delegates to the Diocese of Bridgeport's Synod

Notre Dame	Jacqueline Musante Helen "Jackie" Reck
Holy Family	Eleanor Gonzalez Virginia Rabacs
St. Anthony	Chris Ferrara Charlie Miller Kelsey Llewellyn (youth rep)
St. Pius X	Frank and Barbara Duffin
St. Thomas	Jacqueline Herbert Jean Correa
Our Lady of the Assumption	Michael Cooney Lenore Opalak



Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. -1Cor 15:58

SYNOD CHOIR FROM PAGE 37

siastic and very giving of their time, which is significant since rehearsals are held twice a week for a couple of hours at a time."

For those who attend the Synod Closing Celebration Mass, it will be a day filled with music and prayer. The new Diocesan Youth Choir will make its debut under the direction of Mary Bozzuti Higgins of Wilton.

The music-filled day will also begin early in the morning when Bishop Caggiano meets with diocesan youth ministries at St. Augustine Cathedral for prayer and Adoration before processing to the arena. Kevin Donovan, a lay Missionary of Charity at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown, will spearhead a portion of the music for this part of the celebration.

While the number of different

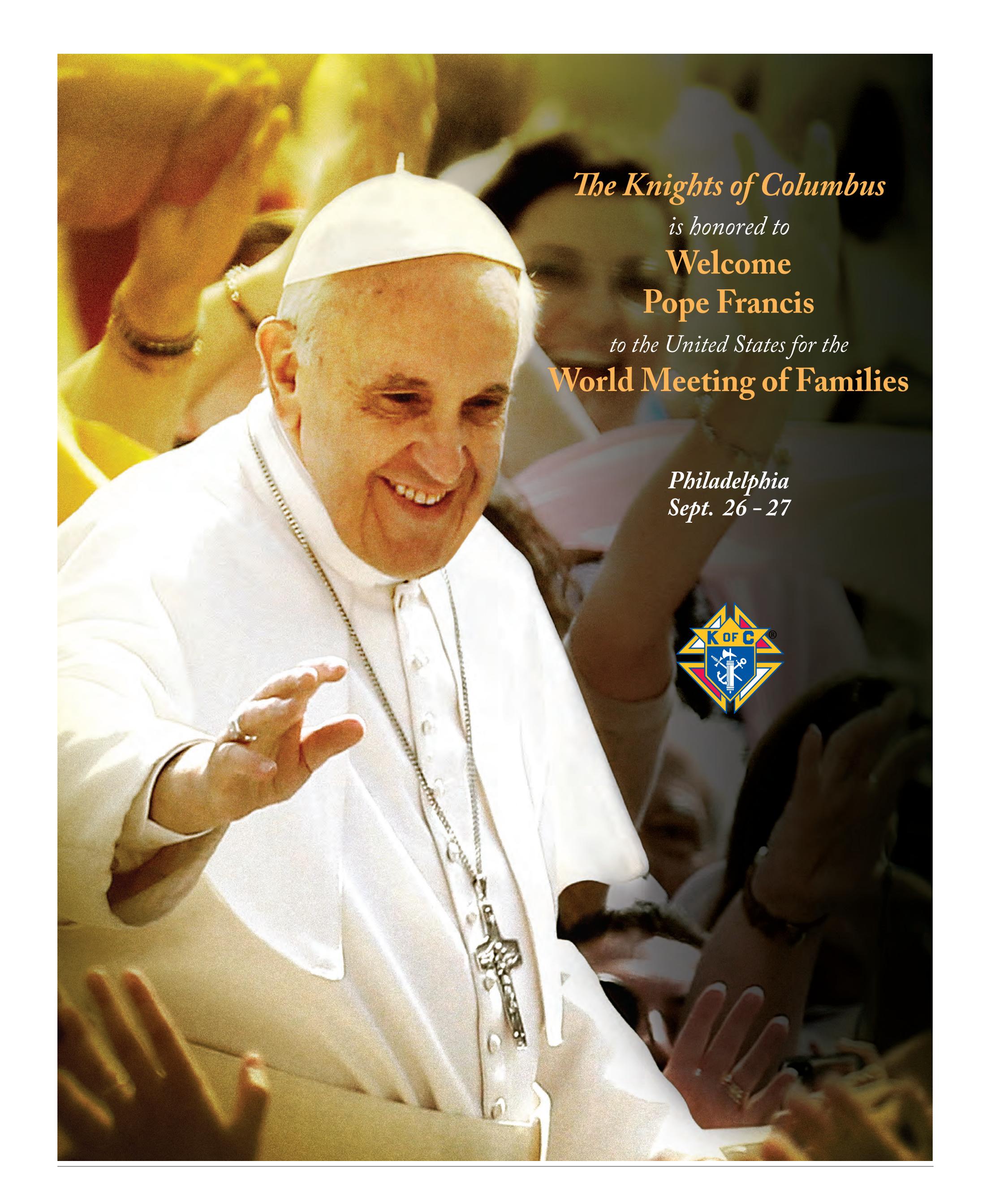
choirs and voices singing during the day would be a daunting challenge for anyone, Marino is more than ready and has worked in the arena setting. In 2003, he was tapped by Bishop William E. Lori's priest-secretary, Msgr. Dariusz Zielonka, to direct the music for the Diocesan Jubilee celebration.

Asked why he has devoted his life to the study and teaching of sacred music, Marino noted a phrase from the hymn "For God Beyond All Praising:"

"For Christ the man from heaven

From death has set us free,
And we through him are given
The final victory."

"For me, it sums up my ministry. Every time I hear that line I'm reminded of why I do what I do," he said. ■

A photograph of Pope Francis, dressed in his white papal attire, smiling warmly and waving his right hand towards a crowd of people. The background is slightly blurred, showing the heads and shoulders of many people, some with their hands raised in a gesture of welcome or prayer. The lighting is bright, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor event.

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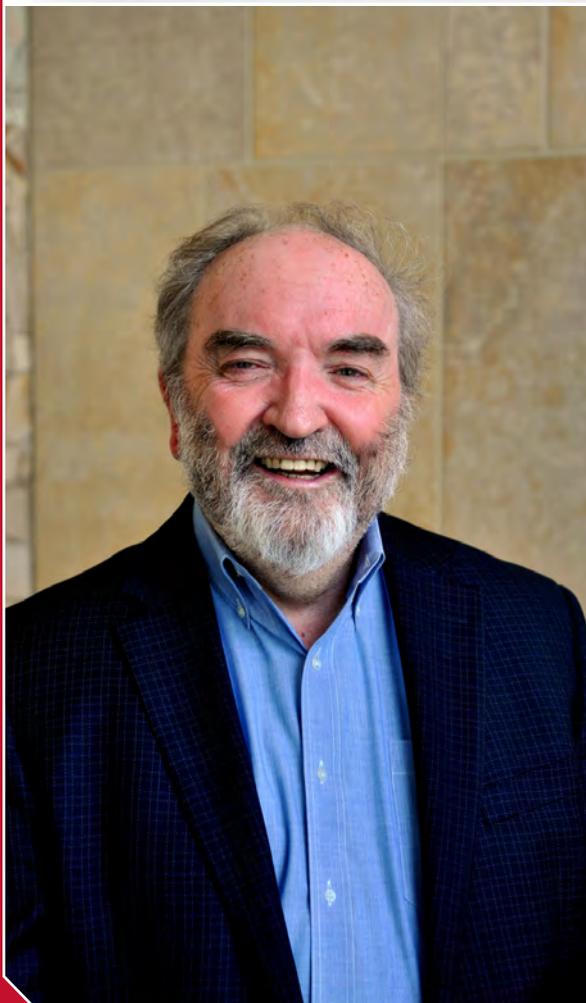


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Dr. Michael W. Higgins, *vice president for
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