



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

MAY 2017 | VOLUME 34, NUMBER 5 | VOCATIONS ISSUE

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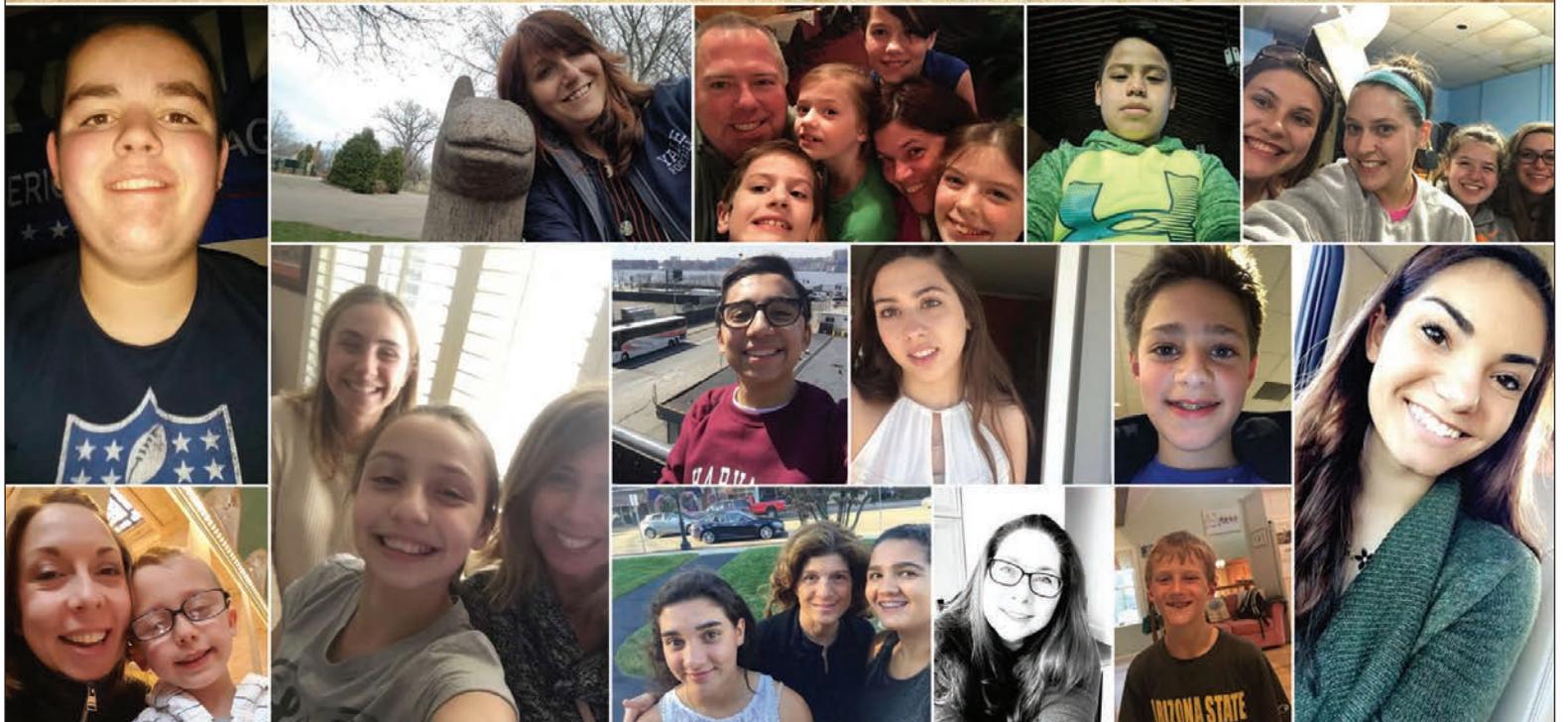
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Final Post-Synod Session

Celebrating change and renewal

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

Delegates expressed a sense of gratitude, personal transformation and ongoing commitment to the renewal of the diocese at the final post-synod session held in the Family Center of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. More than 100 delegates to Synod 2014 returned to the Family Center to receive an update on synod initiatives and share personal reflections on their synod journey.

"We are at a moment of grace after three years of walking together, and the fun is just beginning," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano to start the conversation. "I am grateful for your journeying with each other and with me for the last three years. I hope and pray that you are different because you have walked this journey, and that the Lord has touched you in a way you did not expect."

In a candid and relaxed conversation with Bishop Caggiano, delegates said that what has impressed them most about the synod isn't simply the many new programs and initiatives it has launched, but the spirit of renewal and change underway throughout the diocese.

"We lit a fire and that fire is continuing to grow," said one woman delegate. "We're on the right track."

"Over the years as a diocese we have talked about many things that never went anywhere," said another, "but look at all we have accomplished over the past three years."

In reflecting on the fruits of the synod, many delegates took the opportunity to personally thank the bishop for his leadership and praise the spirit of change he has brought to the diocese.

"Your energy and commitment have blessed us in this diocese," said a delegate. "For me, the high point of the synod is the fact that you are our bishop," said another. "You are a man of vision and are not afraid to walk among us. It's such an honor to have been part of this movement."

The bishop was quick to return the compliment, praising delegates who have given almost three years to the planning, discerning and review process.

"You've helped to teach me how to be a shepherd," the bishop said. "One of my great faults is that I am an impatient man, and I like to get things done as quickly as I can. During the synod, I've come to learn that it's in God's time, not Frank's time. The Lord has taught me that it's his Church, not my Church, and that has rekindled a sense of trust in me. We must surrender ourselves and allow him to lead. If we dedicate ourselves to our Lord and to our lady, we will find a way forward."

Many delegates pointed to the Synod Closing Mass, which drew 8,000 people to the Webster Bank Arena at harbor Yard in September 2015, as the high point of the synod process.

"The vision of you coming down to the arena with all those young people following you was a moment of great joy for me. That moment told me that young people are ready to come back and ready for us to reach out to them," said a delegate.

"Seeing all that energy and people coming together for the Lord and dedicating the diocese to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary was amazing," said another.

Other delegates agreed that the



WE LIT A FIRE—Synod 2014 delegates convened recently for the final post-synod session to reflect on the challenges, opportunities and achievements in the diocese. "We lit a fire and that fire continues to grow," said one delegate of the ongoing programs and initiatives for renewal of the diocese.

listening sessions held throughout the spring of 2014 were a memorable and moving moment that set the tone of honest searching and open dialogue that characterized the synod.

"So many people spoke so honestly and from the heart, and they had so much hope," said a delegate. "Sometimes I wonder if the people who came out to those sessions are aware of all that has happened. Do they know that we have addressed things and made connections with many of their concerns?"

During the three-hour morning session that culminated in an 11 am Mass in St. Catherine Church, Patrick Turner, the former synod director who now serves the diocese as director of strategic and pastoral planning, updated delegates on the implementation synod recommendations including the development of the Leadership Institute, the Catholic Service Corp., ongoing pastoral and parish planning, and the recent reorganization into a new deanery structure.

"We prayed together, ate

together, and shared our faith journeys. Out of that, we put forward a mission statement and a series of principles that have underpinned our work and established priorities for our parishes," said Turner, who thanked delegates for their commitment.

"This does not mean that our work is done and we can sit back and bask in the glow of a job well done. In fact, as we have seen, our work is just beginning. In the words of the Romero Prayer written by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, we are planting the seeds that one day will grow and we water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise."

Bishop Caggiano praised Turner's leadership during the synod and the follow-up sessions. The delegates also recognized his effort by giving him a standing ovation at the end of the meeting.

During the morning, delegates also heard from Patrick Donovan, director of the diocesan Leadership Institute, which was one of the major recommendations of synod delegates.

Donovan shared a printed report of the Catechetical Task Force Findings and Recommendations. He said that the diocese is working to totally renew how young people are introduced to the faith and how to accompany people of all ages on their faith journey across a lifetime.

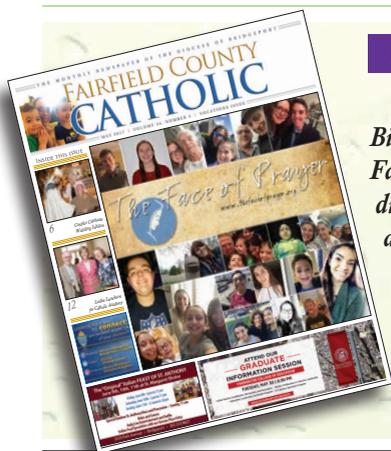
"These are proven best practices," he said of the report summary that included recommendations for improving catechesis. Donovan said that 48 parishes prioritized catechesis and religious education in their pastoral planning process.

"The goal is that every parish takes the challenge for lifelong formation," Donovan said. "There are people watching from all over the country, just like they watched the synod. They want to see how it's done, how to re-imagine faith formation."

Patrick Turner officially closed the meeting by thanking delegates and remembering three who have passed away.

"Your participation, your enthusiasm, your discernment and your prayers have started something here that will leave a lasting legacy. You have been an incredible support to me. Some of our delegates have started college, graduated college, and moved to new opportunities. In a special way, I want to remember three women who began this journey with us and who unfortunately have passed away. Linda DeMarkey, Madelyn Ghilardi, and Jackie Reck."

After the meeting, the delegates and Bishop Caggiano joined Father Joseph Marcello, St. Catherine's pastor, and St. Catherine parishioners for a Mass celebrating the Solemnity of Saint Catherine of Siena.



ON THE COVER

THE FACE OF PRAYER— Bishop Caggiano launched the new Face of Prayer campaign in the diocese on Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Augustine Cathedral. The bishop is encouraging all Catholics, particularly young people, to deepen their prayer life. For more information, visit www.thefaceofprayer.com

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Latest News

Three new priests to be ordained

BRIDGEPORT—On Saturday, June 24, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will ordain three men as priests for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Because two of the men are of Hispanic background, both born in Bogotá, Colombia, readings at the ordination will be in Spanish and English. Harry Prieto and José Vásquez came to this diocese from Colombia; Timothy Iannacone was born in Stamford.

During the Mass the mothers of all three men will bring up the offertory gifts. Sandra Riano, cousin of Father Vásquez will deliver a reading in Spanish; Elizabeth Nichols, godmother of Father Iannacone, will read in English.

“The day of priestly ordinations is one of the most beautiful days for the diocese, because it is a day of great hope, says Father John Connaughton, director of vocations for the Diocese of Bridgeport. “We’re very proud of the men who are being ordained. They will be great members of



TIMOTHY A. IANNAZONE

the presbyterate of this diocese, and we pray that their witness will inspire many other young men to respond to God’s offer of the priestly vocation. We pray that they may be good, holy happy priests of Jesus Christ.”

Timothy A. Iannacone

Timothy Albert Iannacone, 27, was born in Stamford and baptized in St. Mary Church there. He now lives in Norwalk, where



HARRY ALFREDO PRIETO

his home parish is another St. Mary’s, the proud mother church of Norwalk. His parents, Timothy and Patricia Zygmunt Iannacone, and his brother Christopher are members of St. Thomas the Apostle in Norwalk. He attended Wolfpit Elementary School and All Saints Catholic School, and graduated from Norwalk High School in 2008.

Father Iannacone graduated



JOSÉ ABELARDO VÁSQUEZ

from Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass., in 2012, where he was inducted into Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Honor society for Religious and Theological Studies.

He was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in 2016 and completed his seminary studies at the Theological College of the Catholic University of America

this spring.

Father Iannacone will celebrate his first Mass at St. Mary’s in Norwalk at 9:30 am on Sunday, June 25. Father Edward J. Enright, OSA, associate professor of religious and theological studies at Merrimack College, will give the homily.

“I heard it once said that one should not become a priest if one does not love people. Indeed, it is my love for God’s people that has brought me here,” Father Iannacone says. “The Church needs strong and intelligent priests who will be defenders of the truth in the face of every obstacle that confronts them. This is why I want to become a priest; not for myself, but for the service of God’s Church and his people.”

Harry A. Prieto

Harry Alfredo Prieto, 30, was born in Bogotá, Colombia, and grew up in a family of three boys and one girl. His parents, Alfredo Prieto and Luz Jaramillo are parishioners at Santiago Apóstol

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Bishop names nine territorial deans for leadership

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano presided over the installation of nine new Deans at the Chrism Mass held during Holy Week.

The new Deanery model replaces the former Vicariate structure related to the territorial organization of the diocese. The deaneries are designed to assist the bishop and priests in regional planning and decision-making, and improve collaboration between parishes.

During the service, the bishop also presided over the installation of the new deans. Msgr. Thomas Powers, vicar general of the diocese, called the new deans forward for a brief oath installation ceremony.

“May you become another sign of unity and fraternity in the diocese,” the bishop said as the new deans gathered around the altar for the installation oath.

The new deans include **Deanery A:** Father Peter Lynch; **Deanery B:** Father Thomas Lynch; **Deanery C:** Father Brian

Gannon; **Deanery D:** Father Nicholas Cirillo; **Deanery E:** Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz; **Deanery F:** Father Thomas Thorne; **Deanery G:** Msgr. Walter Orłowski; **Deanery H:** Msgr. Kevin Royal; and **Deanery I:** Msgr. Alan Detscher.

Deanery A includes the 11 parishes and St. Margaret Shrine in Bridgeport; Deanery B, the eight parishes in Stratford and Shelton; Deanery C, the six parishes in Trumbull, Monroe, and Newtown; Deanery D, the 11 parishes in Danbury, Bethel, Brookfield, New Fairfield and Sherman; Deanery E, the seven parishes in Wilton, Redding, Georgetown, Easton, Weston and Ridgefield; Deanery F, the nine parishes in Fairfield and Westport; Deanery G, the 10 parishes in New Canaan, Darien, Norwalk; Deanery H, the 12 parishes in Stamford; and Deanery I, the seven parishes in Greenwich and Riverside.

The bishop said the new deanery structure better corresponds



ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGES—At this year’s Chrism Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral, the bishop appointed nine priests as deans who will lead the newly formed territorial areas of the diocese, now organized into deaneries. The news structure replaces the former vicariate model.

to the territorial areas of the diocese and should foster “greater collaboration between parishes and renewed fraternity among clergy.”

The priests themselves had requested the reorganization. At the General Meeting of the Presbyterate on April 21, 2016,

the priests in attendance voted overwhelmingly in favor of establishing a committee to study the possibility of moving from a Vicariate structure to a Deanery structure. The Deanery structure is designed to allow for greater regional planning and accountability.

Msgr. Powers said each Deanery takes into account the diversity of pastoral situations in a given region, improves the efficiency and collaboration of organized pastoral initiatives and better provides for the needs of a particular area of the diocese.

On February 2, 2017, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the bishop signed the decree that replaced the six Vicariates with nine Deaneries, reconstituted the membership of the Presbyteral Council and replaced the Assignment Board with the Council of Deans. The new structure came into effect on April 11, the day before the Chrism Mass.

The membership of the Presbyteral Council will now also include the episcopal vicars for the African American, Haitian, Brazilian, Hispanic and Vietnamese communities. The Council of Deans will serve as a consultative body to the Bishop of Bridgeport regarding clergy assignments.

Annual Catholic Appeal

Now is the time to drive the Appeal over goal!

BRIDGEPORT—The Annual Catholic Appeal has reached 72 percent of goal with over more than 14,700 donors participating in the campaign, which was launched in January. The theme of the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal is Sharing God's Gifts, Transforming Lives.

To date the campaign has raised over \$8 million of the \$11 million goal needed to fund the major ministries and programs of the Diocese of

Bridgeport. "We're very pleased with the response," said William McLean, chief development officer for the Diocese of Bridgeport, but we have more work to do to finish the campaign and hopefully come in over goal."

McLean said more than ten parishes have already met or exceeded their goals, and he expects others will join the ranks when proceeds are tabulated from the April 29 in-pew weekend. A second in-pew weekend is set for

June 4.

McLean said the average gift is \$548, making it the largest in the country, but he would also like to see a broader base of giving with more people participating in the campaign at whatever level they can.

"Our message to men and women in our parishes is that now is the time to give," said McLean. "Making your gift now helps the diocese in the budgeting process for next year and sends a strong



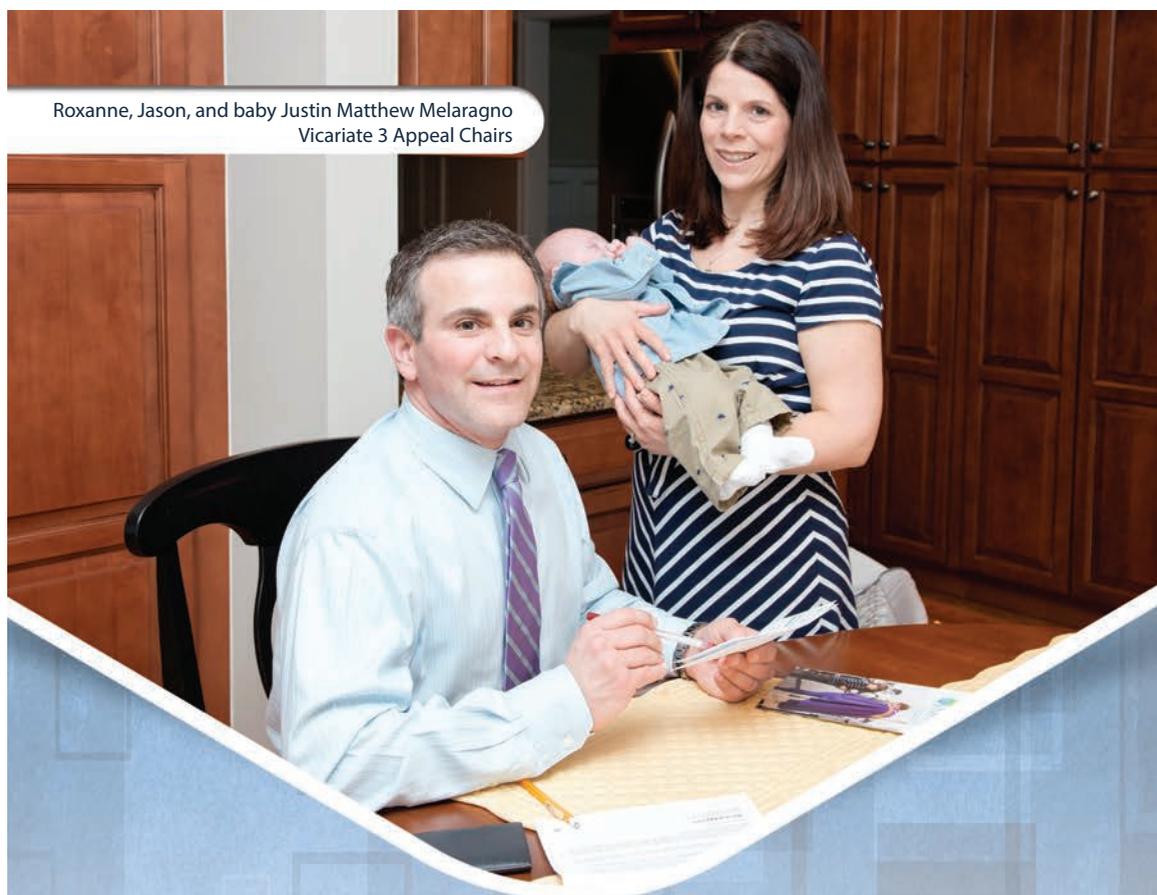
message of support for the bishop and his efforts in renewal."

Pam Rittman, director of the Annual Catholic Appeal, attended the final post-synod session held recently at St. Catherine Parish in Trumbull and said she was inspired by the faith of the

delegates and the progress that the diocese has made in the three years since Synod 2014 was formally launched.

"So many good things have come out of the synod, including the Diocesan Youth Choir,

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



**"When we think about all the organizations that request donations, it's easy to decide where to place our support:
THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

We treasure our Catholic faith. We want to see the future of the Church continue with great ministries and help to those in need. And now, as a new family ourselves, passing our faith on to our child is so important. Growing up, our pastors and the parish community helped form us in our Catholic faith through their example. Our parents supported their parish and the diocese, and we want to continue the tradition."



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.2017ACABRIDGEPORT.COM OR CALL 203-416-1479

June is 'Text to Donate' month

BRIDGEPORT—Donors to this year's Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) now have another giving option: "Text to Donate!"

"We have just added this exciting new way to donate from smart phones and devices. It is simple, safe and secure and can be made from anywhere," said Pam Rittman, director of the appeal.

Rittman is hoping that during the month of June, parishioners will make their appeal gift by texting the word, SHARING, to 50555.

She said the idea for the use of "Text to Donate" came from the growing use of digital communications in retail, marketing, and philanthropy across the country. "People are on their smart phones and other devices all day, and many prefer to transact with the world in this way. The digital marketplace is where people get their information, and to purchase, donate and interact with each other."

A quick text can also have a major impact on the appeal and the services it provides throughout the year, she said.

"It is fast, easy and secure and supports diocesan programs on a larger scale, including the formation of priests and deacons; pastoral care of the sick and elderly; nutrition, housing and counseling programs; evangelization and catechesis and much more."

Rittman said the ACA office is providing communications materials for the parishes and social media outreach to inform parishioners.

The new "Text to Donate" campaign works with Androids and iPhones and any device that has text messaging capabilities. Donors simply type the keyword SHARING to the number: 50555 (it is not case sensitive). They are then prompted to make their donation and confirm their gift before they finalize the transaction.

Rittman said the diocese will receive the donations generally in two to three days and can take up to five business days. "If your gift is made using your credit or debit card, it will show up on your credit or debit card bill. Standard text messaging and data rates may apply on your phone bill. Donors can feel confident in making a text gift; their credit and debit card information is secure and the card's numbers or information is not stored," she explained.

"If a donor chooses to join in the mobile community they will be asked if they would like to opt-in to receive up to four texts

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Diocesan News

Harnessing social media to the power of prayer

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

The Diocese of Bridgeport has launched “The Face of Prayer,” a social media and web-based campaign that brings together social media, text alerts, and the power of prayer.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano formally announced the effort on Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Augustine Cathedral. The campaign is among the many new initiatives being sponsored by the Diocesan Leadership Institute.

“Over the next four months, we will invite participants, especially youth and young adults, to encounter more deeply the mystery of prayer, to encourage prayer every day and to deepen our personal knowledge and relationship with the Lord Jesus,” the bishop said.

Bishop Caggiano will be spending the next few weeks explaining this historic outreach in greater detail as he encourages young people to meditate on the beauty, mystery, nature and invitation of prayer.

Young people are being asked to text a selfie, a prayer intention, or the word “pray” to 55778 and join in the faith journey to learn more about the power of prayer. Participants will receive a daily prayer intention from the bishop that ends



with a call to prayer.

“The goal of the campaign is to have thousands of people, especially our young Church, praying each day alongside the bishop as we grow together in

holiness. Our message is, ‘Be the face of prayer and join today,’” said Patrick Donovan, director of the Leadership Institute.

Once people join the campaign, they can choose to receive

a text alert from the bishop either every day or three times a week. These alerts will include prayer intentions and reflections. Each will end with a call to prayer.

“This new effort uses social media to ask young people and all the faithful in our diocese to learn about the power of prayer, to pray with each other, and to recognize that each of us is, indeed, the face of prayer,” said Donovan.

Donovan said the new online prayer initiative is particularly close to the bishop’s heart because of his commitment to engaging youth in the Church and evangelizing through social media. The campaign will be dedicated to the Blessed Mother.

It is hoped that the online prayer effort will pave the way for a diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on September 23.

More than 1,600 young people have responded to the bishop’s invitation to share their thoughts about faith, prayer and their relationship with Jesus Christ via the recent online survey: www.tellbishopfrank.org.

Donovan said that, in all aspects of the campaign, parents can be assured the diocese is following all Child Protection guidelines to ensure a safe environment, and acquiring parental consent where necessary.

(For more information, visit the website: www.thefaceofprayer.org.) ■

Gillespie named IT leader of diocese

BRIDGEPORT—Christopher Gillespie of Ridgefield has been named senior director of Information Technology and Process Improvement for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

He began working for the diocese on May 1. The appointment was made by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

Gillespie will be responsible for developing and executing a global information technology strategy that supports the overall mission of the diocese by integrating technology used in its parishes, schools and other institutions.

“In his various positions as chief information officer and business leader, Chris has led business transformation through

entrepreneurial use of technology. As we work to unify the diocese into a contemporary communications network, we welcome his leadership, vision and experience,” said Bishop Caggiano.

“As an active parishioner of St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield, Chris also understands the challenges and opportunities ahead as our diocese and parishes move into a new era of communications,” the bishop said.

Gillespie will report directly to Msgr. Thomas Powers, vicar general and chief operating officer of the diocese. He will direct the day-to-day operations of the IT staff and manage all technology assets in the diocese including infrastructure, support



CHRISTOPHER GILLESPIE, senior director of information technology

and applications.

He comes to the diocese from Sustainable Waste Power Systems (SWP), where he served as chief executive officer and president. In partnership with his son, Gillespie created the startup business, which invented, patented and commercialized the world’s only Wet Gasification waste-to-energy system.

His extensive IT background includes serving as chief information officer (CIO) of Prestige Brands, a consumer packaging goods company; CIO of National Retail Services, a nationwide in-store merchandising company; and executive consultant for Adaptive Business Consulting, involved in creating

worldwide pc managements systems for corporations including UBS Warburg.

In the past, he also served as director of network service for Dime Savings Bank of New York. He began his career as a communications engineer at General Motors in 1984.

Gillespie earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, La., in 1983. He has also undertaken extensive continuing education in business leadership. He is a member of the Society for Information Management.

He and his wife and family are parishioners of St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield. ■

Family Formation

Wedding Jubilees

TRUMBULL—"We give thanks for graciously blessing the family life of these gathered here," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, celebrating the Mass of Wedding Jubilees held on April 30 at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull.

Of the 147 couples gathered for the celebration, representing 47 different parishes, an amazing 75 have been married 50 years or more. Recognition as the longest-married couple went to Lawrence and Ruth Schmidt of St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Stamford, who have been married for 71 years.

"This Wedding Jubilee Mass is a sign of joy and hope not only in our diocese, but in a culture where marriage is under attack," said Kim Quatella, coordinator of family formation for the Diocese of Bridgeport. "As a young wife myself, celebrating five years married, it is affirming and encouraging for me to see the lived witness of these married couples, their faith, commitment, sacrifice, and joy."

At the close of the Mass, Bishop Caggiano gave a blessing to the assembled couples and their families. "Look with kindness upon them today, and



as you have sustained their communion amid joys and struggles, renew their marriage covenant each day, increase their charity and strengthen them in the bond of peace so that, together with the circle of their family that surrounds them, they may forever enjoy your blessing." ■



(PHOTOS
BY
MICHELLE
BABYAK)

Wedding Jubilarians

Scott & Sandra Miller
Jeffrey & Kathleen Agonito
Christopher & Roxanne Amiot
Martin & Miriam Campos
Michael & Lori Candela
Mario & Patricia Ciufo
James & Maureen Forno
Rosendo & Maria Franco
Antonio & Karen Gil
David & Catherine Gosselin
Arthur & Dorothy Jordan
Lew & Coleen Lerman
Michael & Karen Marcinko
Mario & Balvina Martinez
William & Marguerite Morrison
John & Laura Moulder
Gordon & Sheila Oppenheimer
William & Mary Beth Rauser
Scott & Mary Jo Runkle
Gregory & Mary-Beth Salinsky
Timothy & Holly Shea
Dave & Lisa Sheehan
Jorge & Digna Suscal
Mark & Marianne Williams
William & Suzanne Wright
Edmond & Rosemarie Yalda
Timothy & Eileen Brennan
Mark & Debra Bresnan
Manuel & Sarita Cadena-Alvarez
Juan & Jenny Coba
Hugo & Elsa Condori
Richard & Christine Earls
Dwight & Lynne Everlith
Thomas & Tracy Fascio

Frank & Barbara Gagliardi
Richard & Mary Harrington
Brian & Theresa Hellauer
Carlos & Samara Hernandez
Roberto & Katia Huertas
Brian & Maureen Hunter
Peter & Eva Karpel
Joseph & Ileana Kotulich
Richard & Catherine Malek
John & Nora Marciniak
Paul & Lorraine Mazzo
James & Sharon Palumberi
Mark & Dawn Ringes
Anton & Mary Ellen Yarshevit
Jorge & Ana Guzman
James & Cheryl Csizmar
George & Anne Marie De Stefano
John & Rosemarie Egan
Russell & Theresa Geibel
Alessio & Angela Giannitti
Egbert & Elra Harris
Luis & Rose Jimenez
Steven & Mary Ellen Kother
Dominic & Robin Lisi
Michael & Diane McNamara
Jose & Sandra Rivera
Michael & Kathy Ronan
James & Jane Patricia Sherry
Steve & Anne van Geldern
Orlando & Luz Perez
Kevin & Mary Ann Barney
Thomas & Christine Berte
Thomas & Regina Campfield
Charles & Ruth Chiusano

Anselmo & Mercedes Espinal
William & Judy Gerth
Robert & Sharon Leidy
Luis & Victoria Moreno
Michael & Patricia Novajosky
Hector B. & Maria E. Ortiz
Danny & Eileen Pannese
Robert & Maria Panza
Aleksander & Kazimiera Rdzak
Daniel & Deborah Terenzio
Lester & Gail Young
Alexandre & Celeste Albuquerque
Robert & Kathleen Coppola
Harold & Christine Davis
Francis & Mary Fedanick
John & Linda Fracassini
Bill & Peggy Fry
Steve & Patricia Hira
Nelson & Carol Ladue
William & Susan Lenahan
Edward & June Machia
Claudio & Alicia Nieves
Joseph & Barbara Bennett Oligino
Peter & Carol Pavone
John & Barbara Pezzullo
Frank & Rita Phillips
Herminio & Ana Planas
Richard & Cynthia Stone
Charles & Nancy Tomlinson
John & Susan Tschirhart
Alfred & Joyce Baran
Peter & Elaine Bartkus
Joseph & Kathleen Bender
Dennis & Kathleen Bonetti

Ron & Syndi Buckley
Paul & Armida Budd
George & Eileen Cassidy
Raimundo & Ramona deCastro
John & Loretta Donovan
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Robert & Katherine Geckle
Robert J. & Deborah Grosso
Robert & Margaret Haborak
J. Gerald & Susan V. Hricik
Ralph & Carol Iassogna
Brian & Mary Jane Jones
Robert & Catherine Koritko
Ronald & Dolores Kosarko
Mark & Sandra Lefler
Robert & Mary Legnard
Carmine & Lucille Limone
Jerry & Agnes Macisco
Ettore & Giovanna Mancini
Thomas & Dorothy Mangone
Martin & Gloria Nissly
Thomas & Mary Ann O' Grady
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George & Patricia Ross
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Robert & Sandra Smith
Martin & Judith Tristine

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Rocco & Maria Veltri
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Henry & Ruth Monachelli
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WORLD WAR I

BEYOND THE FRONT LINES

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
MUSEUM

April 6, 2017-
Dec. 30, 2018

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Local News

Couple receives SHU Leadership Award

FAIRFIELD—Ruben and Grace Rodriguez are the recipients of the Horizons at Sacred Heart University program's first-ever Horizons Leadership

as Grace noted, Ruben was certainly with them in spirit. She shared with the students, their families and those gathered that she and Ruben had come to the United

Susan, and her extended family.

"We chose to honor Grace and Ruben because of the wonderful example their life provides for our students and their families," said Jeffery Rumpf, executive director of the Horizons at SHU program.

Approximately 200 attended the gala, and a record amount of money was raised that will directly support the Horizons at SHU program. Horizons at SHU is a tuition-free, academic summer enrichment program serving students who reside in the City of Bridgeport. Together, Horizons National and Sacred Heart University are helping Bridgeport students close the urban-suburban achievement gap.

Now in its sixth year, the program began in 2012 with 32 rising first- and second-grade students. Each year since then, a new class of rising first-graders has been added. The students remain with the program, which includes six weeks in the summer and 10 Saturdays during the school year, through their senior year in high school. This summer, the program will include students from K-6.

The Horizons program addresses summer learning loss, a phenomenon in which students from low-income district schools

fall academically behind their peers attending school in middle and high-income areas. The most significant gap emerges in reading and math skills. This contributes to an achievement gap, leaving some low-income kids as much as three years behind by fifth

grade. The program not only helps participants improve in math and reading, but also teaches them life skills—in particular, swimming.

The gala featured musical performances by the Horizons students and three-time Grammy Award winner Tom Chapin. ■



A LIFELONG EXAMPLE of hard work and deep faith earned Grace Rodriguez and her late husband Ruben the first-ever Horizons Leadership Award. (l-r) Grace's daughter Susan, her husband Tony Deahl, Grace, and grandsons Evan and Cameron Deahl.

Award. The award was bestowed at the program's second annual gala on April 22 at the Frank and Marisa Martire Business and Communications Center at SHU.

In accepting the award, Grace Rodriguez said she and Ruben had fallen in love with the program and its students during a visit to Sacred Heart more than a year ago. Ruben passed away on May 5, 2016 but,

States from Cuba in the 1960s to escape the Fidel Castro regime and became American citizens. The couple found success—he as CEO and chairman of Bacardi and she as manager of Westport Bank & Trust—through hard work in their studies and their careers and through their faith, she told the students. She was joined at the gala by her two daughters, Grace and

Inner-City luncheon to feature best-selling author

BRIDGEPORT—Internationally acclaimed spiritual author, lecturer and #1 New York Times best-selling author Marianne Williamson will speak in Greenwich on Thursday, June 1, at a benefit held by Fairfield County's Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education. The benefit Ladies Luncheon at the Belle Haven Club will also feature speakers who have been affected by the charity's work. Comedienne, story-teller and Greenwich resident Bonnie Levison will serve as master of ceremonies for the event.

Marianne Williamson is a New York Times best-selling author several times over. Seven of her books have been New

York Times best sellers. Four of these have been #1, including her wildly popular first book, *A Return to Love*. A quote from the book which reads, in part, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure..." is considered an anthem for a contemporary generation of seekers.

A native of Houston, Williamson founded Project Angel Food in 1989, a meals-on-wheels program that serves homebound people with AIDS in the Los Angeles area. To date, Project Angel Food has served more than 10 million meals. She also co-founded the Peace Alliance, and serves on the board of directors of the RESULTS organization, working to end the

worst ravages of hunger and poverty throughout the world.

Bonnie Levison is a lead storytelling instructor with The Moth, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. Levison has performed stories on The Moth Mainstage and Story Slams and has appeared on the Podcast and The Moth Radio Hour on NPR. A co-founder of the Nantucket Comedy Festival, Levison produces comedy and storytelling shows and created and hosts Greenwich Historical Society's long-running "Story Barn."

Proceeds from the June 1 benefit will provide critical funding for the Inner-City Foundation's support of

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 21, 2017

John 14:15-21

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A: Promises from the risen Lord. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

LOVE ME	KEEP	ASK
FATHER	ANOTHER	ADVOCATE
TO BE WITH YOU	THE SPIRIT	OF TRUTH
BECAUSE	NEITHER SEE	BE IN YOU
ORPHANS	A LITTLE	WHILE
SEE ME	I LIVE	THAT DAY
BE LOVED	REVEAL	MYSELF

NOT ORPHANS

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H O C A N A N O T H E R
A F B E I N Y O U E E D
T T E E L L A M M O P K
D R C D W T L E V I L I
A U A A L I T T L E O O
Y T U S F A T H E R V R
G H S K C O W H I L E P
O I E O F L E S Y M M H
R E V E A L F G H O E A
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Vocations

James Bates to be ordained transitional deacon

On Saturday, June 17, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will ordain James K. Bates as a transitional deacon for the Diocese of Bridgeport. The Ordination Mass will be celebrated at 11 am in St. Augustine Cathedral. Traditionally, ordination as a transitional deacon is the last step before ordination to the priesthood.

Deacon Bates will complete his theological studies at Pope St. John XXVIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass., during the coming year.

"Certainly, Jim's path to ordination has been unconventional. And I think that's the reason why he is so sincerely grateful," says Father John Connaughton, director of vocations for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

"The Lord has done such great things for him in his life and he knows it. That sense of God's

goodness and his own unworthiness is one of the reasons he's going to serve the Lord so well as a deacon and eventually a priest. His witness always inspires me to be more grateful for my own



JAMES K. BATES

priestly vocation."

James Kenneth Bates, 55, was born in California but grew up in Brookfield, attending Huckleberry Hill Elementary School and Brookfield High School, and graduated from Western Connecticut State University (WestCONN) in 1974. The son of Westbrook and the late Daryll Bates, he grew up with two sisters. His sister Jill Citron is deceased; Jennifer Marazzo lives with her family in New Jersey.

A convert to Catholicism, he holds an MS and an MBA from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven and was studying

for an MA in theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell before entering into priestly formation at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary.

He worked as an engineer for Executone Information Systems, Inc., in Milford and Pitney Bows, Inc., in Danbury before discerning a call to the priesthood.

"As a convert and an older vocation approaching ordination, I find myself ever more keenly aware of the working of Divine Providence in my life. It is profoundly humbling to contemplate that, even in my waywardness, God has led me here; even in my

unworthiness he has called me by name and set me on the path to be a servant of his people. It is with a sense of awe and inexpressible joy that I give thanks to God for so great a gift."

Deacon Bates will assist at his first Mass in his home parish, St. Joseph in Danbury, on Sunday, June 18 at 12 noon. Father Samuel Scott, St. Joseph's pastor, will be the celebrant. Deacon Bates will give the homily.

(The beautiful ordination ceremonies are open to all. Deacon Bates' ordination will be held in St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, June 17, at 11 am.)

NEW PRIESTS FROM PAGE 3

Parish in Bogotá.

He attended Annunciation Elementary school and graduated from Neruda High School in Bogotá in 2003. Discerning a religious vocation, he went to the Seminario Mayor de Bogotá and then earned a bachelor of science degree from the Universidad Javeriana in that city in 2009. Coming to this country, he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fordham University. Always interested in intellectual challenges, he was elected a member of Phi Sigma Tau National Honor Society in philosophy in 2013. After graduating from Fordham in 2014, he entered the Theological College of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he completed his S.T.B. degree in 2017.

Father Prieto will celebrate his first Mass in his home parish of St. Joseph in Danbury on June 25 at 12 noon. Father Samuel Scott, St. Joseph's pastor, will deliver the homily.

"The priesthood is a call to serve and to grow as a leader in the Christian community, striving to be not only 'alter Christus' but also 'alter Jesus,' in preparation for the mission to 'go out and make disciples of all nations,'" Father Prieto says. "In view of that, God has blessed me with a time of grace and discipleship. In carrying out the mission, God's love and grace move me with hope and confidence to serve the faithful with Christ, the Good Sheppard, as inspiration and model."

José A. Vásquez

José Abelardo Vásquez Romero, 33, was also born in Bogotá, where his parents, Bernardo and Elsy Campos Vásquez, are members of Santiago Apostol Parish. His brother, Rodrigo, also lives in Bogotá.

A complex young man, he likes to play soccer and enjoys being out in nature. At the same time, he has a love of theology and likes to reflect, meditate and study the word of God. He attended Antonio Noriño Elementary School and Politécnico Mayor High School, graduating in 2005. He entered the Seminario Mayor de Bogotá, and earned a bachelor's degree from the Universidad Javeriana in 2010.

Responding to a call for priests in this diocese, he entered St. John Fisher Seminary and studied at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. His home parish is

the Church of the Assumption in Westport. He completed his deacon internship at Assumption this past year. Father Vásquez graduated from St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., this year.

Father Vásquez will celebrate his first Mass at Assumption Parish on June 25 at 12 noon. Father Thomas Thorne, Assumption's pastor, will give the homily.

"One of the things I most enjoy is to work with parish groups and be present at their activities," he says, mentioning in particular the religious education students, Bible studies, and men's and women's groups he had the chance to work with this past year. "As the young are the present and future of the Church, I believe in supporting and encouraging their activities. I also believe in the importance of the new evangelization for the future of the Church."



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Vocations

Retired clergy honored

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

“We come to celebrate retirements, but no one retires from offering their life to Christ,” Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said at the First Annual Clergy Retirement Celebration Mass in St. Matthew Church in Norwalk.

Gesturing to the retired priests and deacons who surrounded him on the altar, the bishop said, “They may be free from assignments, but they are still giving profoundly and generously. This is a remarkable, diverse and talented group of men who

have shown a willingness to say ‘yes’ to Christ thousands of times each day. Their life is all about Christ.”

More than 300 turned out for the Mass and reception to honor priests and deacons. The bishop was also joined around the altar by many active pastors and priests. Diocesan seminarians assisted as altar servers during the liturgy.

Three times during the Mass the family, friends and faithful rose to their feet to offer prolonged and appreciative applause.

The evening began with a pro-

cession of the priests and deacons into the Church, some of them recently retired, others visibly advanced in age after a lifetime of service.

In his homily the bishop said that each priest and deacon brought different gifts and talents to their ministry and represented a collective 2,000 years of service in the diocese.

“It’s amazing to think of all the lives touched and blessed by these men in their ministry. In the sacraments celebrated and in their breaking open the word of God they have brought many individuals and families to faith, not simply because of what they’ve done, but because of who they are,” he said.

In brief remarks following Mass, the bishop recognized in particular 95-year-old Deacon Joseph Melita, who fought in



MASS FOR RETIRED PRIESTS AND DEACONS—More than 300 turned out recently at St. Matthew Church for the First Annual Clergy Retirement Celebration Mass. People stood and applauded three different times during the Mass in an affectionate show of appreciation and gratitude for those who have dedicated their lives as priests and deacons. (PHOTO BY MICHELLE BABYAK)

the Battle of Normandy and flew 55 sorties in dangerous combat that took the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. The deacon just celebrated his 72nd wedding anniversary.

“Every single one of these men is remarkable,” the bishop said in praise. “The Eucharist

means ‘to give thanks,’ and we have so much to be grateful for in their lives of service.”

The Mass honored all priests and deacons who have retired from active ministry since 2013, when the Bishop Caggiano was installed as Bishop of Bridgeport.

After Bishop Caggiano’s homily at the First Annual Clergy Retirement Celebration Mass, Msgr. Thomas Powers, vicar general of the diocese, read the names of the deacons and priests honored at the Mass:

Honored Priest Retirees

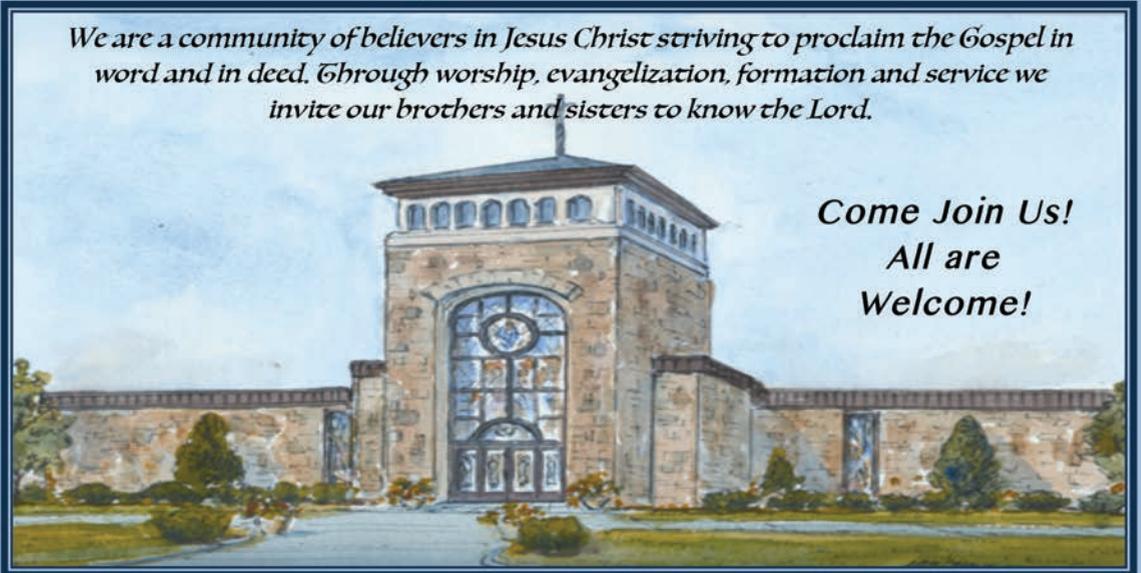
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Rev. Msgr. Matthew Bernelli
Rev. Lawrence Carew
Rev. William Carey
Rev. Msgr. J. Peter Cullen
Rev. Msgr. J. James Cuneo
Rev. Msgr. Peter Dora
Rev. Msgr. Jerald Doyle
Rev. Msgr. Thomas Driscoll
Rev. Gilbert D’Souza
Rev. Stephen Gleeson
Rev. Roger McDonough
Rev. Guido Montanaro
Rev. Martin Nikodem
Rev. Michael Palmer
Rev. Joseph Parampath
Rev. Raymond Petrucci
Rev. Robert Post
Rev. David Riley
Rev. Msgr. John Sabia
Rev. George Sankoorikal
Rev. Msgr. William Scheyd
Rev. Msgr. Richard Shea
Rev. John Smolko
Rev. Msgr. Edward Surwilo
Rev. William Verrilli
Rev. Msgr. Aniceto Villamide
Rev. Frank Winn

Honored Deacon Retirees

Deacon Renato Berzolla,
Deacon William Bissenden
Deacon Robert Blankschen
Deacon James Brown
Deacon Donald Brunetto
Deacon Loreto Buzzeo
Deacon José Cabral
Deacon Salvatore Clarizio
Deacon Anthony Detje
Deacon Francis Foyt
Deacon Lance Fredricks
Deacon Joseph Gagne
Deacon Robert Henry
Deacon Daniel Ianniello
Deacon Brian Kelly
Deacon John Linsenmeyer
Deacon Frank Masso
Deacon Joseph Melita
Deacon William D. Murphy
Deacon William O. Murphy
Deacon Emmet Murray
Deacon Daniel Myott
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Vocations

St. John Fisher candidacy

By PAT HENNESSY

"To build up the person of Christ in each man who comes here is the mission of this house; to clarify in his mind and in the mind of the Church whether the Lord is calling him to be a priest," says Father Paul Check, rector of St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford.

"Above all, this is a house of prayer, of interior and constant conversation with the Christ, which each man will take with him wherever he goes."

This May, five men have achieved Candidacy for the Diocese of Bridgeport. At this point, they know where their conversation with the Lord is leading them. The five will be confirmed as Candidates for the priesthood in a ceremony at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, May 20, at 5:30 pm.

"At this ceremony, the men become official candidates for preparation for the sacrament of Holy Orders," explains Father John Connaughton, director of vocations for the Diocese of Bridgeport. "It's a confirmation by the diocese that their discernment has proved them ready to begin formal studies for the priesthood."

Four of the men, Juan Colon and Guy Dormevil from St. Joseph Parish in Norwalk, André Escalera from St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport, and Guillermo Jimenez from St. Mary Parish in Stamford have completed their pre-seminary formation at St. John Fisher.

David Klein, former star forward with Trumbull High School's Golden Eagles basketball team and a member of St. Margaret's Shrine in Bridgeport, finished his formation at Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Stamford, which operates under the auspices of the Neocatechumenal Way.

"Our family was very active in the Church, being members of the Neocatechumenal Way," David says, explaining his choice. "This community opened my eyes to the universality of Catholicism, showing me that the barriers placed in our society between race, class, and cultures disintegrate with the Catholic Church."

All five men will be going on to major seminaries this fall.

The discernment process was different for every man, as was the way they heard God's call to the priesthood and the amount of time they spent in formation.

They range in age from 54 to 21, and their backgrounds include a widower with grown children, a young man breaking off a long-term romance and a casual Catholic unexpectedly finding himself called to serve the Lord.

For each man the call came from a personal encounter, whether it was the Franciscan priests working with the poor that Guillermo knew during his childhood in El Salvador or the direct suggestion of a parish priest.

"When I was little my grandparents babysat for me and took me to Mass every morning," recalls Juan, describing how as a small child he would practice celebrating Mass for them. The thought of a priestly vocation stayed with him for several years. "Then high school hit. Our culture doesn't really promote that." A star baseball player at Norwalk High, he went on to college and began a serious, long-term relationship with a girl in his class.

A visit to his grandparents and a bolt-from-the-blue experience changed his trajectory. "I had to take my grandmother to early morning Mass," he recalls. Only half awake at that early hour, he was astounded when the sacristan beckoned him to help serve at Mass.



A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY shows in the faces of the seminarians at St. John Fisher. Sometimes when they're out for pizza or for a game at Harbor Yard, their shared enthusiasm is so contagious that people stop them to ask where they're from. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

"Something happened at that Mass," Juan says with a shake of his head, unable to put the astonishing, stunning experience of faith into words. He came home, attended a discernment retreat at St. John Fisher, and faced the difficult prospect of explaining God's call to his girlfriend.

Once entering formation, whether coming straight out of high school or bringing decades of life experience, the men begin a community life rooted in prayer and study. Some will pursue an undergraduate degree; others will complete studies of theology and philosophy in preparation for major seminary. Their rule of life includes daily Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, regular conferences with the rector and spiritual director and days of recollection, as well as time for study, jobs around the house and recreation.

"To move into this house requires courage and humility," says Father Check. "The men give up a measure of freedom, other good plans and perhaps even some friends. As they gain a sense of the rhythm of priestly life, what they discover warms their hearts, challenges their intellects, deepens their appreciation

for the richness of the Gospel and fosters charity and zeal. Yes, they close a chapter when they arrive, but they begin a new adventure in faith."

"With our pastoral work in parishes and on mission trips, we have a chance to see Christ in other people," says André. "It's a way to take the classroom, what we're learning, and apply that in real time."

Their sense of community strengthens as they go out for pizza together or head for a game at Harbor Yard. Sometimes their shared enthusiasm is so contagious that people stop and ask where they're from.

"One of the charms of Fisher is that we're from this diocese and we'll be working in this diocese after we're ordained," says André. The friendships begun at Fisher may last a lifetime.

"I pray that their time at Fisher has been a gift of grace," says Father Check. "Above all, I hope that they know and love Christ with greater trust and confidence and greater intensity than when they came."

(St. John Fisher is located at 894 Newfield Ave., Stamford. To make an appointment for a visit, call 203.322.5331.)

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Admission to Candidacy

Because of the number of men who will be going on to major seminary this fall, the formal liturgy of Admission to Candidacy will take place on Saturday, May 20, at 5:30 in St. Augustine Cathedral. All are invited to attend the beautiful ceremony.

"This is normally held at St. John Fisher," explains Father John Connaughton, director of vocations. "We needed a larger venue this year, and what better location than our own cathedral?"

The five men have completed formation and are now being sent forth as Candidates for Preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Orders. "The Church is confirming that they have reached this level in their discernment process," explains Father Connaughton.

Vocations

Serra Club encourages vocations

By ANNA JONES

There have always been priests for every major moment in religious life, from baptisms to weddings to funerals. But that's a luxury we soon won't be able to take for granted, said Deacon David Flynn, who serves at St. Jude Parish in Monroe.

"We have to be aware of our role in encouraging vocations," Deacon Flynn said. "It's not someone else's role. Our fellow Catholics need to be aware of the need for priests."

Deacon Flynn is the founder of the Serra Club in Bridgeport, a chapter of the USA Council of Serra International. The first Serra Club was founded in 1935 to encourage vocations. Serrans are lay Catholics, men and women of all ages and from all walks of life. They take their name from Father Junípero Serra, a Franciscan missionary who

founded the first Spanish missions in California. Father Serra was canonized by Pope Francis in 2015.

Serra International has worked closely with every pope since Pope Pius XII. Their international convention will take place in Rome in June, including a private audience with Pope Francis.

Deacon Flynn founded the local Serra Club chapter in 2015 as a project for his own ordination as a deacon that year. It celebrated its second anniversary with a Mass and dinner at the St. John Fisher Seminary on April 19, and is looking to grow its membership.

There are three Serra Clubs in Connecticut: in Bridgeport, Hartford, and Norwich. The goal of the Serra Club is to promote vocations to the priesthood and other forms of consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church.

Father John Connaughton,



ENCOURAGING VOCATIONS, the Serra Club in Bridgeport celebrated its second anniversary with a Mass and dinner at the St. John Fisher Seminary on April 19, and is looking to grow its membership. "We have to be aware of our role in encouraging vocations," said Deacon David Flynn. "Catholics need to be aware of the need for priests."

director of vocations for the Diocese of Bridgeport and chaplain for the Serra Club chapter in this diocese, echoed Deacon Flynn's sentiments of the need for vocations. "Like everywhere else, the need for priests here is great," he said. "We want to help

people who God is calling. The priesthood is a life in which they will be happy."

He said the Serra Club is all about "cultivating a culture of vocations" because too often when a young man announces his intentions to become a priest,

the community is surprised.

"That shouldn't be something that surprises us," Father Connaughton said. "It should be seen as a normal thing."

Support from the Serra Club for those considering the priesthood comes in the form of prayer, meetings for coffee, community meals, attending ordination Masses, and being involved with seminary events, said Thom Field, the current president of the Serra Club chapter in Bridgeport.

Field said the club has hosted picnics for seminarians and their families, members have attended ordination Masses for new priests, and each member has a calendar with names of priests and seminarians who each get their own day of prayer throughout the year.

"We are rooting for them as they go through this," Field said.

A prayer calendar for

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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Ladies Luncheon

Catholic Academy of Bridgeport raises \$225,000

DARIEN—The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport held its Seventh Annual Ladies Luncheon at Woodway Country Club in Darien on April 5. More than 200 guests attended the event, which honored New Canaan resident and St. Aloysius parishioner Anne-Marie Queally, and which raised more than \$225,000 for financial assistance, technology and professional development needs of the Catholic Academy's four campuses.

Queally was recognized for her love of the mission of the Catholic Academy as well as her eagerness to pass on to youth her strong faith and generosity. She and her husband, Paul, have supported the academy for years, most notably

through the Queally Scholars program, which sponsors approximately 70 students each year. They also underwrite the Jump Start summer enrichment program on the campus of St. Augustine, which offers a stimulating, educational, fun and safe vacation alternative for current students.

Guest speaker for the luncheon was Annette Ross, author of *Where Fairy Tales Go* and mother of five, who recounted her valiant efforts after a life-altering medical error during the birth of her second child left her unable to walk. Guests were visibly moved as Ross shared her many personal challenges and struggles, as well as what it takes to keep relationships strong in the midst



RECOGNIZED FOR HER LOVE of the mission of Catholic education for inner-city children, Anne-Marie Queally (r) received congratulations from Sister Joan Magnetti, rscj, executive director of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport at the Annual Ladies Luncheon. It raised more than \$225,000 for financial assistance, technology and professional development needs of the Catholic Academy's four campuses. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

each attendee.

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport has four campuses in Bridgeport: St. Andrew, St. Ann, St. Augustine, and St. Raphael. Because more than 80 percent of its students cannot afford the average tuition of \$4,800, the Catholic Academy must raise more than \$2 million each year for financial assistance, and receives no Federal or State money save limited Title II funds.

(To learn more about the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, visit www.catholicacademybridgeport.org or call 203.362.2990.)

INNER-CITY
FROM PAGE 7

programs serving the neediest families in Fairfield County, and this year's event is particularly important as a cornerstone for the charity's 25th Year Appeal. The foundation hopes to raise \$2.5 million with their appeal this year, more than twice what they typically raise in a year.

"We felt it was the right time to set the bar high," says Richard Stone, executive director of the Inner-City Foundation. "Need is up, but funding is down. State budget cuts last year had a devastating impact on the most vulnerable members of our community."

Last April more than \$70 million was cut from Connecticut's state budget. Cuts have hit local education and area "safety net" services hard, with \$31 million cut from education funding for municipalities and \$40 million cut from programs providing food, shelter and medical aid. Needy children and families have been especially affected.

The luncheon is chaired by Audrey Dornier, Helen FitzPatrick, Janie Gestal, Missy O'Shaughnessy, Pam Pagnani and Geri Roper, all of Greenwich. The event is generously sponsored by Chuda, PHACE BIOACTIVE, and Richards and the Mitchell Stores. Media sponsors include Fairfield County Look, Greenwich Magazine/Moffly Media, and The Greenwich Sentinel.

(For more info on the Inner-City Foundation or for tables and tickets to the Ladies Luncheon, visit www.innecityfoundation.org, email communications@innecityfoundation.org or call 203.416.1363.)

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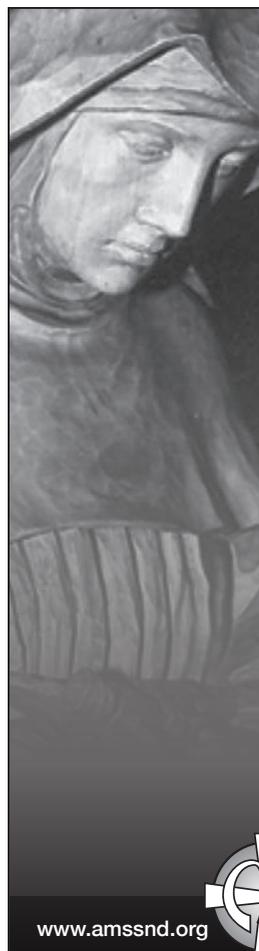
of suffering.

"The event was a huge success" said Sister Joan Magnetti, rscj, executive director of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport. "We drew the largest number of new attendees in our history and we were able to surpass our fundraising goal."

The tagline for the academy is "Something More" and this motto came to life in the lun-

cheon's butterfly theme. "Just as a butterfly can overcome hardship, setback and the confines of a cocoon to break forth into new life and vision, so too can our students and our school," Sister Magnetti explained.

Academy board member Dan Henson and his wife, Lauren, generously underwrote the luncheon, and Queally underwrote signed copies of Ross' book for



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Transforming the world through education

Christ the King Parish

Father Walsh installed

TRUMBULL—“Father Terrence Walsh is a man with a great, generous and priestly heart,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at the installation of Father Walsh as pastor of Christ the King Parish in Trumbull. “He is a man who fixes his eyes on the Word of God, a man who deeply loves the Lord.”

The people of Christ the King needed no encouragement to welcome their new pastor. Father Walsh came to the parish as parochial vicar on September 1, 2015.

A late vocation, Father Walsh worked for a dozen years as a

sales representative for a company that took him to Florida, the Carolinas, the Midwest and New York. While working in New York, he lived in Fairfield County and became a member of St. Mary Parish in Greenwich. Discerning a call to the priesthood that had always been on his heart, he entered St. John Fisher Seminary and was ordained by Bishop William E. Lori in 2004.

Father Walsh served at St. Luke Parish in Westport and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Stamford before coming to Christ the King. In a tribute to his kind-



hearted service, parishioners and priests from St. John's traveled to Trumbull for his installation.

“I'm grateful to the bishop for giving me this opportunity to come and serve the parish of Christ the King,” said Father Walsh, gaining enthusiastic applause from parishioners.

Deacon's gather at Fairfield U for Convocation

“A convocation is an opportunity to bring permanent deacons and their wives together to pray, share experiences, gain pastoral enrichment from talks and small group sharing and build a greater sense of fraternity,” said Deacon Anthony Cassaneto, director of deacons for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

“A deacon is ordained for the whole diocese, not just for his home parish, and this gave us time to grow in solidarity and a sense of unity,” he added.

The Deacon Convocation was held at Fairfield University on April 22. Father Gerry Blaszcak, SJ, director of the Center for



PRAYING TOGETHER—Bishop Caggiano joined the permanent deacons and their wives for a convocation held at Fairfield University. Convocations give deacons a chance to pray, share experiences and build a greater sense of fraternity. (PHOTO BY MICHELLE BABYAK)

also provided for a special group gathering for deacons' wives.

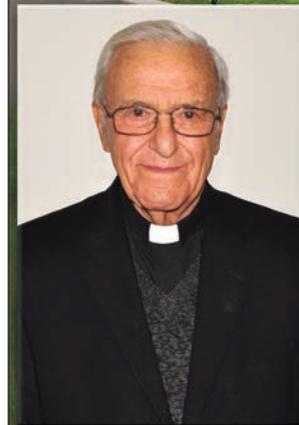
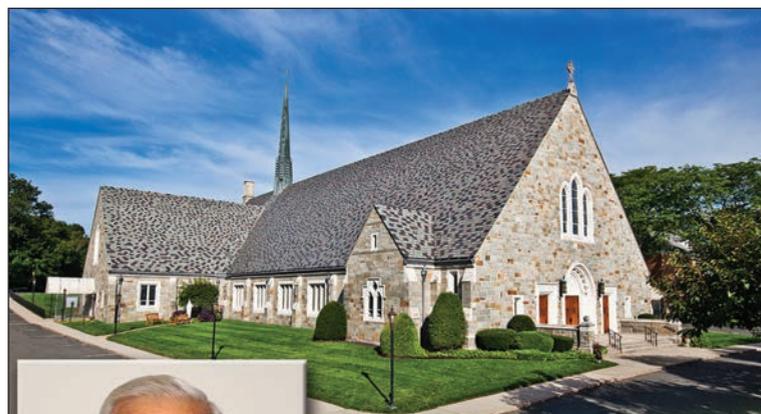
“The choice to join formation for the permanent diaconate is a cooperative decision by a man with his wife and family,” Deacon Cassaneto stresses. “By offering them time to reflect as a couple, the spiritual orientation of the day was applied to both husband and wife.”

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano joined the men and their wives

for a closing address, evening prayer and Mass, which included a Renewal of Commitment to Diaconal Service.

The day concluded with dinner in the university's Kelly Center.

“I especially want to thank Fairfield University for their extremely helpful hospitality,” said Deacon Cassaneto. “They provided the perfect venue for the convocation.”



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Ignatian Spirituality at Fairfield presented the inspirational talks, focusing on Jesus' parables of the Kingdom.

“He took his talk from a different perspective than you would normally hear,” says Deacon Cassaneto. “He gave it a diaconal viewpoint, looking at the ways we serve the Church.”

“We need to contemplate Jesus' way of acting, and to lead our parishes and our people, so often overburdened by the stress of everyday life, to the refreshment and ease of the Lord's yoke,” Father Blaszcak said, emphasizing the purpose of the day.

Following each presentation, deacons and their wives took time for personal prayer and reflection, then joined in small group sharing before coming together in a large group. The day

EDITORIAL

All of us

People have a natural tendency to create categories. It's the way our brains make sense out of the world. Sometimes, though, that useful tendency is mistaken.

Take an easy question: Who does the Lord call to carry his word into the world? The first answer is all of us, of course. But to break it down into more comfortable categories—who does he call specifically to serve him in the priesthood and religious life?

As you read the vocations articles in this issue, one thing stands out—aside from the call of the Lord, there is no common thread. They were sports stars and engineers; straight out of high school or married with children; from devout families or families with no faith at all. While this issue is devoted to priestly vocations, women and men in religious orders come from equally diverse backgrounds. A Sister may have been a sales rep, a biologist or a journalist. Religious Brothers have been tailors and teachers. Their talents are as varied as their backgrounds, and each has an unexpected story to tell.

Next time your brain tries to tuck a priest or women religious into a neat category, take time to look beyond the collar or the habit. Talk to them—and more importantly, listen. You'll discover that they were called by the Lord because they are exactly like all of us.

On Silence

At a time when we live with the constant background noise of the culture and many people feel unrestrained in the comments they make on social media and other forums, Bishop Caggiano offers us some thoughts on silence and acceptance. His reflections were occasioned by his recent trip to Ireland, where he was invited to lead a day of prayer and reflection for young people from schools throughout County Cork. While in Ireland, he stayed with the monks of Mount Melleray Abbey.

"The monks of Mount Melleray Abbey have been very gracious to welcome me into their monastery while I am visiting Ireland. To share in their daily life is a great privilege because it has reminded me of many important spiritual lessons. Chief among them is the great blessing of silence.

"The monks maintain silence during their normal activities, including during meals. As I sat in the refectory this morning sharing breakfast with two other monks, we all sat in quiet. It was a beautiful and peaceful time when I felt very much connected with them without the use of any words. After they left to attend to other chores, I stayed behind enjoying the quiet as I reviewed the remarks that I plan to share with the students who will attend today's retreat. Afterwards, I continued to sit at the table in silence with the Lord.

"In my ordinary life, I often experience great trouble silencing my mouth, mind and heart. I allow myself to become preoccupied with so many worries, questions and even fears. This morning, while sitting in silence for nearly two hours, the Lord gently reminded me that I have nothing to fear or worry about. He is in charge, not me. When I need words, he will grant them. When I worry, he will take the lead. When I am afraid, he will guide me to do what he wills. The only thing I need to do is remain in the silence.

"It is only in silence that you and I can hear the Lord speaking clearly and directly to our hearts, minds and spirits. This morning I was reminded that silence is my old, lost friend. It is good to meet him again."

Mary's Month

May, Mary's month, the month of vocations, commencements, First Communion, and weddings! The Easter uprising of the land into new blossoms accompanies the transitions in our own lives and in the sacramental life of the Church. May is also the month for us to be grateful for the women in our Church, whether lay or religious, who bring so much life, creativity and leadership to the diocese. Perhaps the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins said it best in his poem, "The May Magnificat:"

*Ask of her, the mighty mother:
Her reply puts this other
Question: What is Spring?
Growth in every thing.*

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Students 'traveled the world'

NORWALK—All Saints Catholic School celebrated its Fifth Annual International Night on April 26.

"This event provided a first-hand look at the diversity of our school population, and is designed to promote the importance of multiculturalism and tolerance in our school and in our children's education," explained foreign language teacher Margaret Perez.

More than 30 countries from every continent were represented. Families of All Saints students prepared their own tables, featuring food and artifacts from each country, and were proud to showcase and share their heritage.

The event included food, music and entertainment, including traditional dances and a fashion show. The students worked hard and were involved in all preparations for the event, including the fun parts like decorations and dance recitals but also the hard work of set-ups and clean up.

They truly enjoy participating



in the event, from the excitement of planning until the last dish was cleared away.

On International Night, the "young world travelers" visited

the different countries and found out facts about each one. Then they returned to the "Passport Station" to have their passport stamped with the country's flag. ■



CLERGY APPOINTMENT

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

RESIDENCE

REVEREND GRAZIOSO ARTUSO, Retired, Italy to Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford. Effective date was April 1.

OTHER

REVEREND DONALD ANYAGWA, Chaplain to Stamford Hospital to home Archdiocese of Owerri, Nigeria. Effective date was April 24.

REVEREND CHARLES IKWUEGBU, Chaplain to Saint Vincent's Medical Center to home Archdiocese of Owerri, Nigeria. Effective date was April 30.

Monsignor Thomas W. Powers, Vicar General, May, 2017

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

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Publisher

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Circulation

Every registered Catholic household in Fairfield County is entitled to a subscription. To cancel, change or add an address, please email: fcc@diobpt.org

Annual Subscription Price

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

Postmaster

send address changes to:
Fairfield County Catholic
238 Jewett Avenue
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Editorial



On discernment and humility

A WOMAN'S VOICE

BY CARLENE JOAN DEMIANY

Carlene Demiany is an assistant chaplain at St. Thomas More, the Catholic chapel at Yale University.

The internal line on my office phone beeps—Father Bob's name flashes across my phone screen. I drop my pencil. Three days on the job, and the boss is already calling. The anxious part of me wonders if I have done something wrong.

The phone beeps again. I grab it and hold it firmly against my ear.

"Hi, Father Bob," I say, trying to sound normal.

"Hi, Carlene," he replies. "Will you come see me in my office?"

"Okay."

I hang up the phone, crack my knuckles, swirl around in my chair. Why does Father Bob want to see me? I have been the

Pastoral Programs Manager at St. Thomas More, the Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University, for three days. Why is he calling me into his office?

As I walk towards his office, I walk with doubt in my mind. I hear the voices of those questioning my decision to take this job. You have two degrees equipping you for professional ministry, why take a job more administrative than pastoral? Why take a job for which you are overqualified? My answer—I have a sense God wants me in this job.

Two of my knuckles knock weakly on Father Bob's open office door. The anxious part of me,

always thinking the worst, wonders if my first job in the Catholic Church is coming to an abrupt end.

"Come in," says Father Bob, spinning around in his chair. He faces me with a smile and brown eyes twinkling. "And, please shut the door."

I shut the door and hover in the corner of his office. He doesn't look upset, I think. But then, why am I here?

"Take a seat," he encourages, "And, would you like some water?"

"All right," I respond, trying to be polite. But, my throat feels so dry, I don't know if I can swallow anything. I take a seat in one of his office chairs.

He sets the water glasses on the table. I stare at their "Lux et Veritas" Yale insignia. Father Bob sits down, folds his hands, and eyes me closely.

I smile weakly.

"I just spent the last few hours in prayer," he begins, "And, I want to know—do you have any interest in being an assistant chaplain, here at St. Thomas More?"

"What?" I gape, leaning forward in my chair.

"Well, you have degrees and

experience in ministry," he continues. "Do you have any interest in campus ministry?"

"You mean as an assistant chaplain, here?" I ask, slowly putting it together.

"Yes."

I sit in stunned silence. I had never even considered applying for the assistant chaplain job. It was a job everyone seemed to want, a job that received so many applications, a job I considered beyond my reach.

"Do you have any interest in campus ministry?" Father Bob repeats, lifting his Yale glass and taking a sip of water.

"Yes, yes," I answer, nodding fast.

"All right," he responds, looking at me and smiling. "How about we each take some time to pray about this?"

"That sounds good," I reply, still somewhat shocked by this unexpected turn of events.

I pick up my nearly full water glass, open the door, and return to my office. I try to focus on my work—editing our small church community journal for the fall semester.

I turn the page. The next scrip-

ture I encounter is Luke 14:11—"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

I close my eyes and remember once questioning this. Really, Jesus? Then why do we live in a society where those who exalt themselves seem to gain all the power?

But, suddenly in that moment, something shifts. That scriptural promise of old becomes real. Peace flows within, the kind of peace that only results when someone you love has kept a promise. In my humility, Jesus has worked through Father Bob to exalt me.

"Thank you, Jesus," I say, with eyes closed and head bowed over my desk. "Thank you for granting Father Bob the grace to see me. Please grant this gift to all priests and Church leaders, so that through them your promise of exalting the humble might find fulfillment."

And, now I offer this prayer for myself, as I continue in my leadership position as an assistant chaplain at St. Thomas More, blessed to learn from the prayerful guidance of Father Bob. ■



Not if you have to force it

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

Poor Lilly Grace. She was only trying to enjoy a Saturday afternoon in her own backyard.

It was the day of her first Holy Communion, a blessing that comes but once in a lifetime. And it wasn't the only blessing.

The sun was shining, kids like her were being left to their own devices, and no one was guarding the cake. How often does that happen?

On such an occasion, nine-year-old Lilly deserved every blessing that the Lord had bestowed upon her. She didn't deserve to have old Mr.

Hennessey trying to ask her questions for his newspaper column.

"I'm going to try to interview Lilly. Is that okay with you?" I asked her mother, Maura. She is the kind of Yonkers-Irish hostess who makes you feel like you are the only person at the party who matters. She also knows a few Wolfe Tones songs, which earns her a double shamrock in Hennessey's book.

"Okay with me," she replied. "If she'll talk."

"What do you mean, 'if'?" I said. "She knows me. I'm not scary, am I?"

I looked to baby Billy, bounc-

ing in my arms. He has only a month for every one of Lilly's years. I wanted him to sleep so I could do the interview.

"I'm just saying," Maura shrugged. "It's a free country is all."

My plan wasn't to corner Lilly with a bunch of questions about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This child comes from a superb Catholic family, as well catechized and as exemplary of the living faith as any I've met. I was going to start with a few casual inquiries about the party and then sidle on to more pious things.

"Do you think she'll talk to me?" I quizzed her father, Eddie, a man whose unflappable good humor is legendary in the parish. Though surrounded by strong women, he bears up manfully. In addition to Lilly and Maura are the 12 year-old twins, Anna and Noelle, die-hard Giants fans who possess a remarkable inner light in the way that twins, who are never alone, often do.

"I don't know," Eddie said. "She might. Give it a shot." I was starting to think I should have

planned a backup column.

Funny how this racket works. So much of what ends up in the newspaper under Hennessey's name actually belongs to someone else. The columnist can't help taking and using what he sees and hears. Sometimes he does it without permission.

It's a wonder he hasn't been punched in the nose. The day may yet come.

The problem is that while newspapers are published on a deadline, the best ideas pop up out of nowhere, like rabbits vamoosing from their holes. When a nine-year old makes an offhand philosophical comment at a backyard party, you know you've got the makings of a column. When you're running around trying to manufacture philosophy, well, the magic just isn't there.

As expected, Lilly played it close to the vest. We go way back, having met when she was two. I'd hoped our long history of high-fives in the narthex meant she'd open right up to me about the quiet grace that came over

her as she received the Blessed Sacrament for the first time.

We may have gotten to that, but I made a rookie mistake. I started with a "yes" or "no" question.

"Were you excited when you got up this morning knowing that you were going to have such a special day?"

"Yup," answered Lilly. And then—Zoom! Swoosh!—interview over. Off she flew, a vision, all wild-haired and barefoot. Somewhere a tray of watermelon slices was waiting. A frog had reportedly been discovered down by the brook. It's a free country is all.

I went back to bouncing baby Billy on my lap, and wondering what I was going to write about. The whole thing served me right.

I don't know what I was thinking, poking around, trying to make rabbits jump up out of holes. It was Lilly's day, not mine, and some things are so beautiful and so right that they can't be put into words. Or, maybe they can, but not if you have to force it. ■

St. Paul Parish

Matthew Kelly speaks on 'Living with Passion'

By **RON KUZLIK**

St. Paul Parish in Greenwich hosted internationally acclaimed Catholic speaker and author Matthew Kelly April 8. Kelly's work has appeared in the New York Times, USA Today and The Wall Street Journal, and he speaks at events across the United States and Canada each year. He has been in the Diocese of Bridgeport before, but this is the first time he brought his "Living Every Day With Passion and Purpose" message to St. Paul's.

Several hundred people filled the parish center to hear Kelly's message.

"God wants us to be a phenomenal decision maker," said Kelly. "We learn to make great decisions by getting clear about who we are, what we're here for, and what matters most and what matters least. The world doesn't give us the answers to these questions. We have to have a daily habit of taking a few minutes for prayer and reflection so we can become a great decision maker."

Kelly founded the Dynamic Catholic Institute in 2009, with a mission to re-energize the Catholic Church in America by developing world-class resources that inspire people to rediscover the genius of Catholicism.

Anne Farb is on the St. Paul's parish council. "About two years ago, we started researching events that we can host during Lent," she said. "We contacted Dynamic Catholic to see if Matthew was available to come to St. Paul's. Matthew is wonderful, he is amazing."

According to St. Paul's pastor, Father Leszek Szymaszek, "Matthew Kelly is a layman, and people don't hear from a layman what you hear from the pulpit on Sundays. This is what makes him so popular."

According to Kelly, the primary audience for his talks is folks 35 to 55 years of age. "This tends to be the time in people's lives when they are trying to work out life. They've made most major life decisions and they're struggling to live with them, especially if they didn't give that much

attention when those decisions were made."

The next group he expects to see is the older than 55 set. "These people are thinking about what comes next. They're more aware that they are actually pilgrims passing through this place."

He's always surprised when, as frequently happens, "I look out there and see kids 10 or 12-years old. After talking with them, I learn that they've read a couple of the books, or listen to the CDs on the way to school. They just get the message. And I love that!"

Chloe Banino is a seventh grader from Immaculate Conception Parish in Irvington, N.Y. She became aware of Kelly while her mother listened to his CDs. "It was really interesting. The way he speaks is very engaging. So I wanted to come and hear him in person."

"I first read his book, *Resisting Happiness*, when our pastor was passing it out in our parish," Lanh Tran said. She and her husband, Hieu Nguyen, travelled from St. Faustina Parish in



LIVE EVERY DAY WITH PASSION—Several hundred men and women turned out at St. Paul's in Greenwich recently to hear author and inspirational speaker Matthew Kelly reflect on living with faith and passion. Kelly is the founder of Dynamic Catholic Institute. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

Fulshear, Tex., about 40 miles west of Houston, to hear Kelly's message. "It's all part of the transformation. Matthew is just so practical and I've learned so much more about my faith and how to live it."

As Kelly said, "We need a game changer. We need to be engaged—pray about it and see what God wants us to do."

(More information on Dynamic Catholic Institute can be found at <http://dynamiccatholic.com>.)

ChristLife Evangelization Training

BRIDGEPORT—A two-day training conference offered by ChristLife Catholic Ministry for Evangelization will be offered on June 9-10, and is open to all parishes.

Patrick Turner, director of Strategic and Pastoral Planning, said the site for the workshop will be determined based on the number and location of participating parishes.

"We are very excited to bring this resource to Fairfield County and encourage you to participate to help fulfill the goals identified in the pastoral planning process," he said, adding that representatives from ChristLife had been in the diocese in February for several information sessions. "Based on those sessions, at least eight parishes have expressed interest in utilizing the ChristLife series for parish evangelization and small group faith sharing.

ChristLife.org, based in Baltimore, Md., equips Catholics for the essential work of evangelization, helping individuals personally encounter Jesus Christ and be transformed into his missionary disciples. The ministry partners with parishes, priests, deacons, religious and lay leaders who are seeking to answer the Church's call for the new evangelization through a proven method of parish evangelization and outreach.

"They have developed the ChristLife Series to help all people discover, follow, and share Jesus Christ as members of the Catholic Church," Turner said.

The approximate cost per parish for the training conference and the materials needed to participate in the seven-week Fall 2017 Discovering Christ series will be \$1,500. The cost will be less as more parishes participate.

(Anyone interested in learning more about ChristLife will find a brief introduction video at <https://christlife.org>. Those interested in participating in the ChristLife Evangelization training conference can contact Patrick Turner: pturner@diobpt.org or 203.416.1633, or Father Peter Towsley: firtowsley@diobpt.org or 203.748.9029.)

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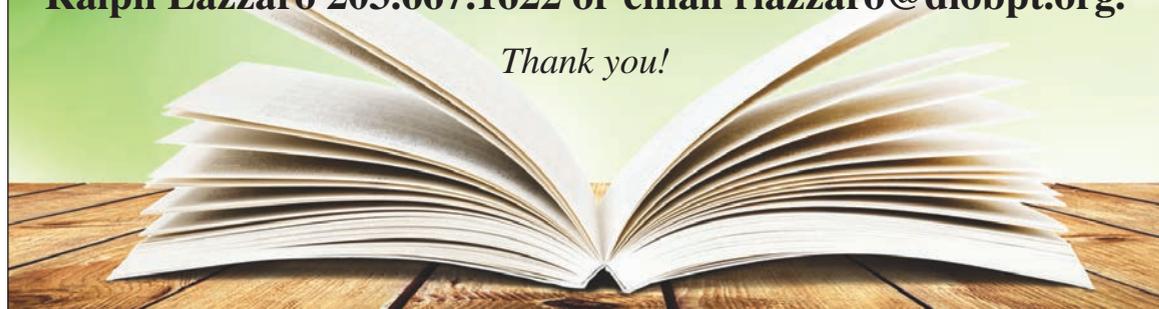
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Immaculate High School, Danbury

Gala honors Casey, Rosenblum

At its Annual Spring Gala on April 1, Immaculate High School (IHS) in Danbury honored Kathleen Casey and Jennifer Rosenblum for their support and commitment to Immaculate, Catholic education and their communities.

With 320 guests and numerous sponsors and donors, "A Night of Magic and Intrigue" raised \$140,000 in total to support the school's continued efforts to afford an opportunity for students to experience an excellent college-preparatory program.

The event was held at the Amber Room Colonnade in Danbury and featured a professional magic performance by IHS alumnus Tom Pesce '99 as well as dancing and silent and live auctions. Lucky guests "won" trips to Napa Valley and Disney, lobster bakes, gourmet barbecues, wine tastings, baskets full of prizes, signed sports memorabilia and more.

The winner of the \$10,000 cash raffle prize was Terry Tortora of Newtown; raffle ticket proceeds benefit programs for IHS students.

"On behalf of Immaculate High School, I would like to thank the many people and organizations that continuously support us and help us remain rated as one of the top Catholic high schools in Connecticut and in the top 50 percent nationally," said Mary Maloney, Immaculate's president. "Additionally, our alumni have become increasingly involved with Immaculate's

per month on ongoing activities," she said. However, the donor's phone number is used only to make donating as easy as possible. It will never be sold, traded, or shared.

"The diocese has made great strides in engaging parishioners in digital communications and is providing the Gospel to people in ways that is transformative," Rittman added. "Text to



KATHLEEN AND CHRIS CASEY

efforts to raise monies needed for scholarships and capital projects; they epitomize our slogan, Once a Mustang, Always a Mustang."

Kathleen Casey was the first female leader in education to receive the Nancy K. Dolan Leadership Award. Nancy Dolan was the first chair of the Immaculate High School Advisory Board and a strong community leader committed to Catholic education and community service. Casey's leadership roles included service as president of Immaculate from 2008 to 2014, and then as associate superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport. Prior to joining IHS, she began her career in Catholic education at Holy Redeemer Catholic School in Alpharetta, Georgia, and then at St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School in Fairfield.

Jennifer Rosenblum received the Immaculate High School Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes individuals who aid and support IHS and its young men and women.

Donate is one more way we can encourage people to make their gift to the appeal to expand and continue to meet the needs of our parishioners and the Church. Thank you for supporting the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal."

(For more information or to donate to the Annual Catholic Appeal, contact Pam Rittman: prittman@diobpt.org or 203.416.1479.) ■

Recipients have served the school community and have directly aided IHS students in striving to be the best they can be both in and out of school. Rosenblum has made vast volunteer contributions to Immaculate High School, including serving as president of the Immaculate High School Parent Association and as a member of the Hospitality Committee, the Mustang All

APPEAL FROM PAGE 4

the Leadership Institute, the Parish Planning Process, and the Catholic Service Corps," she said.

"Donors should be proud to know that their gifts support this important work and positive change in our diocese. I can't imagine where the diocese would be without these programs. They have brought hope and renewal.

Rittman credits the positive response to this year's campaign to chair couple Elena and Steve Schlegel of New Canaan and vice chair couple Carol and Conrad Calandra of Shelton.

"They've been all over the diocese working tirelessly to shine a light on the good work of the appeal and to encourage others to give."

Rittman also praised the vicariate (now deanery) chairs, a new addition to this year's campaign, who have helped to get the word out across the diocese. This year's team includes: Jennifer and Kevin Keating of Darien; Sue and John Steitz of Wilton; Roxanne and Jason



JENNIFER AND SAM ROSENBLUM

Sports Club and of the IHS Enrollment Committee, and also launched the annual IHS Grandparents and Special Persons Day event. She is the proud mother of Immaculate High School alumni Samantha '14 and Andrew '15.

"Without the help of our generous sponsors and the volunteer committee led by chair Bonnie Zuccala, Immaculate's Spring

Gala would not have been the great success that it was," said Debbie Basile, director of advancement. "Together, our sponsors, donors, committee and other volunteers ensured that the gala was not only a fun, magical evening, but helped raise over \$140,000 to support Immaculate High School's academic and extracurricular programs that provide students with an excellent education." ■

Melaragno of Fairfield; Carol and Conrad Calandra of Shelton; Anne LeClercq of Danbury; and Angelo Cocco of Bridgeport. She said they have done a tremendous job explaining the appeal at the parish level and encouraging others to give.

Rittman said the vicariate chairs give witness to the larger scale of the diocesan programs and encourage the faithful to look beyond the parish boundaries and see the needs assisted by the Church throughout Fairfield County.

"Many people say that 'I give to my parish so I don't need to give to the appeal,' but they don't realize the appeal gives the diocese the ability to reach out beyond the means of any given parish and provide programs of outreach and charity, while also fulfilling its major mission in education, vocations, catechesis and social and pastoral services.

"The parish alone cannot support all these programs effectively, but together, when you

give a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal, we continue the Gospel message and make a difference in the lives of those around us," Rittman said.

The Pastors' Advisory Committee (PAC) for the Appeal is led by Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz, chair, and Father Reginald Norman, vice chair. The committee meets throughout the year to discuss strategy.

Rittman said there are many ways to give to the appeal that include online giving and the new "Text to Give" program. If parishioners work for a company with a matching gifts program she encourages them to inquire about it, particularly if their appeal gifts are designed toward supporting Catholic Charities and education.

"We are grateful for support, no matter what level you give," she added.

(For more information on programs and ways to give, go to www.2017ACAbidgeport.com or call 203.416.1470.) ■

Health and Social Service

Bringing Pro-Life Healthcare to Stamford

STAMFORD—Plans for establishing a Comprehensive Women's Healthcare Center that upholds the dignity of women and promotes the Culture of Life were unveiled in an informational meeting at Basilica of St John the Evangelist in Stamford on April 27.

The organizers of this project, Noelle Gross of the Basilica parish and Tom Amann of St. Gabriel's parish made the case for a Catholic approach to Women's Healthcare as a much needed alternative to the destructive and dismissive approach that is currently on offer in most medical practices and at Planned Parenthood, under the guise of "healthcare." With the blessing and support of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, the team outlined a vision of cutting edge Catholic healthcare:

Provide care that affirms the dignity of life at every stage;

Empower women to appreciate their fertility as a unique gift, rather than a disease state;

Offer education in scientific-

ly based fertility management that is totally natural and enhances health;

Place women's reproductive healthcare in the proper context of the total person's physical, psychological and spiritual health.

The team explained that this need for a Catholic Women's healthcare center became apparent in assessing women's needs during hundreds of hours of sidewalk counseling outside Planned Parenthood. "Many women would like a better option, and would be empowered to choose life and choose a different path for themselves, but do not know where to turn for real help, nor do they receive life-affirming support from their healthcare providers," observed Noelle. "To truly help the women that we are able to reach through sidewalk counseling, the resources to meet their needs must be in place."

Moments of discouragement and frustration about not having a life-affirming healthcare substitute for the women entering



TO OFFER A MUCH-NEEDED alternative to women's health care, plans for a Comprehensive Women's Healthcare Center were unveiled in an informational meeting at Basilica of St John the Evangelist in Stamford on April 27.

Planned Parenthood gave way to the realization that the Holy Spirit was calling for action.

With prayer and extensive due diligence, Noelle studied and visited existing Catholic Healthcare clinics around the country to find a model that would best suit the needs of Fairfield County. Based on decades of clinical experience

with pro-life, pro-woman methods developed by the Paul VI Institute as well as more recent clinical delivery models like the Bella Clinic in Denver and Guiding Star in Tampa, the clinic would offer primary and gynecologic care, emergency/crisis pregnancy care with availability of abortion pill reversal, and onsite

ultrasound, as well as social services and a small chapel within the clinic.

"The presence of the Holy Eucharist changes everything. Women coming into the Bella clinic sense that there is something different about the place, a sense of hope and love," Noelle said of her visit there.

"Open to all women, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, this life-affirming approach to healthcare will be a true gift to our diocese," Noelle said. "A community effort, the beauty of a shared work, can make this vision a reality."

The founding team is actively seeking help in finding medical staffing, people with counseling expertise, community clinic management and billing, assistance in establishing a donor base and interested donors, in order to build the medical clinic.

(For more information or to offer assistance in forming the Women's Healthcare Center, contact Noelle Gross: 857.345.0808 or noelle.gross@gmail.com.)

NCC's Celebrity Breakfast a smashing success

By ELLEN MCGINNESS

New Covenant Center's 13th Annual Celebrity Breakfast was one of the most successful ones yet! A sold-out crowd of nearly 300 people turned out at Woodway Country Club in Darien on April 19 to show support for New Covenant Center's mission of feeding the hungry and helping those in need. With an almost 50 percent increase in sponsors and a 25 percent increase in donations from last year, the event was an amazing success.

"We raised \$115,000—a record for that event," said Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities.

Celebrity Breakfast co-chair and New Covenant Center Advisory Board chair, Ed Kearns, opened the event by thanking everyone in the room and acknowledging John Lodato, the recipient of the Founder's Award, as well as

Dr. Donna Shalala, the keynote speaker. Kearns then turned over the microphone to Walter McNulty, Sr., the youngest living veteran of World War II, who led the audience in singing the National Anthem.

During a highlight of the

morning, John Gutman, executive director of New Covenant Center, presented John Lodato with the Founder's Award for his twenty years of volunteerism at the center. Lodato, now 91 years old, regularly picks up groceries at the Food Bank, then delivers

and stocks them on the NCC food pantry shelves.

"Johnny is a dedicated, passionate and selfless individual who helps us without reservation and for that we are grateful," Gutman said.

The program brought political star power too. Stamford Mayor David Martin took the podium to announce that April 19 had been officially proclaimed "John Lodato Day" in the city of Stamford, and United States Senator Richard Blumenthal awarded a Certificate of Special Recognition to Lodato for his "extraordinary service to the state of Connecticut."

In his acceptance speech, Lodato recounted how, while cleaning up a church property years ago, he came across a statue of Jesus that was missing both arms. Repeatedly, he asked himself, "What is anyone going to do with a statute of Jesus with no arms?" Then suddenly he heard a voice in his head which said, "John, don't

you know that YOU are my arms?"

Lodato looked at the crowd and said, "That's what we volunteers are...his arms."

Keynote speaker Dr. Donna Shalala, president of the Clinton Foundation, engaged the audience with stories from her experiences in the fields of education and human services. In a one-on-one interview on the stage, Al Barber asked Shalala who she thought was most responsible for looking out for the marginalized in society. Without hesitation, Shalala replied that "The social safety net depends on us, the people. The Judeo-Christian heritage is all about giving back to the community, which is a responsibility for all of us."

(For more information on how to get involved with New Covenant Center, visit www.NewCovenantCenter.org or contact John Gutman: 203.964.8228, ext. 401, or jgutman@ccfc-ct.org.)



RECIPIENT OF THE FOUNDER'S AWARD—Long-time New Covenant Center volunteer, ninety-one year old John Lodato was presented the Founder's Award at the 13th Annual Celebrity Breakfast held at Woodway Country Club in Darien. Stamford Mayor David Martin also proclaimed April 19 at "John Lodato Day."

Divine Mercy Mass

A 'blessing' for the diocese

BRIDGEPORT—A diverse gathering of almost 800 people filled St. Augustine Cathedral on a beautiful Spring afternoon for the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

"I had the privilege of celebrating our annual Diocesan Mass in honor of Divine Mercy with a cathedral filled to capacity with people of every age, culture and background, from every corner of the diocese. It was a true blessing," said Bishop Caggiano.

"We came together to give thanks to the Lord for his merciful, forgiving love in our own

lives and to ask his grace to become his missionary disciples of mercy in the world."

In his homily, the bishop reflected on Jesus' invitation to Thomas to touch his hands and side in contrast to his telling Mary Magdalene to go and announce his Resurrection to the Apostles. He said the Lord gave each different commands because he offers each of us "what we individually need to accept him in faith and love him more deeply."

"His gifts are not equal but tailored to our personal needs. Our attention must not be drawn



to emphasize the differences between what I and someone else may receive. Rather, we must all keep our eyes fixed



upon Christ, who will give each of us whatever we need to one day share in his Resurrected Life," he said. "The differences between us are not important if we remember that the destination is the same for all who believe and

remain faithful to Christ."

After Mass the bishop processed outside the cathedral and led the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at an outdoor shrine donated by the Vietnamese community. A reception followed in the Kolbe Cathedral gymnasium.

Fatima children to be canonized

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis will declare the sainthood of Blessed Jacinta Marto and Blessed Francisco Marto, two of the shepherd children who saw Our Lady in Fatima, Portugal, during his visit to the site of the

apparitions May 13.

The date was announced on April 20 during an "ordinary public consistory," a meeting of the pope, cardinals and promoters of sainthood causes that formally ends the sainthood process.

Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, addressing the assembly noted that, "In our time, when young people often become objects of exploitation and commerce, these young people excel as witnesses of truth and freedom, messengers of peace and of a new humanity reconciled in love."

Pope Francis will preside over the canonization ceremony of the Fatima visionaries during his visit to Fatima on May 12-13. His pilgrimage will mark the 100th

anniversary of the Marian apparitions, which began on May 13, 1917, when 9-year-old Francisco and 7-year-old Jacinta, along with their cousin Lucia dos Santos, reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until October 13, 1917.

A year after the apparitions, both of the Marto children became ill during an influenza epidemic that plagued Europe. Francisco

died April 4, 1919, at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to her illness February 20, 1920, at the age of nine. Pope John Paul II declared them venerable in 1989 and beatified them in 2000.

The children's cousin, Lucia, entered the Carmelites. Sister Lucia died in 2005 at the age of 97. The diocesan phase of her sainthood cause has concluded and now is under study at the Vatican.



PORTUGUESE SHEPHERD CHILDREN Lucia dos Santos, center, and her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, are seen in a file photo taken around the time of the 1917 apparitions of Mary at Fatima. (CNS photo/EPA)



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Reflection on Pentecost

'They are filled with the Holy Spirit'

By DR. FRANCIS DE STEFANO

Reading I: Acts 2: 1-11
Reading II: 1 Corinthians
12: 3b-7, 12-13
Gospel: John 20: 19-23.
(Receive the Holy Spirit)

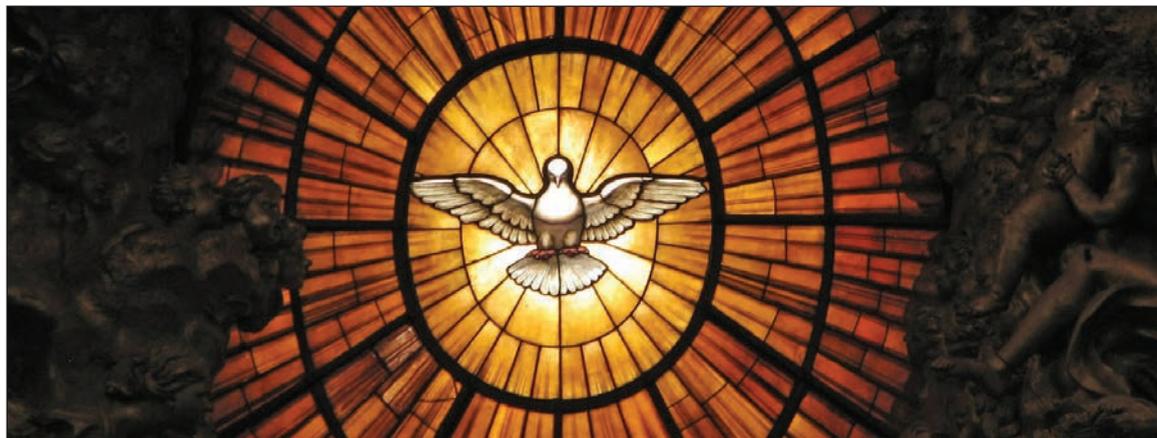
In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke gives us the well-known account of the extraordinary appearance of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles in the upper room. The Apostles had gathered together for the Jewish feast of Pentecost, a feast which commemorated the giving of the law to Moses on Mount Sinai.

The week after Pentecost, June 11 this year, we will celebrate the feast of the Holy Trinity. But Pentecost is about the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Let's start out by clearing up a few misconceptions that some of us may have about the Holy Spirit.

First of all, the Spirit is not

a bird. I know that the traditional image of a dove given us by Christian artists is probably ingrained in all of us. It is hard to portray a purely spiritual being in art, for a spirit has no body to paint or sculpt. In one Gospel passage the movement of the Holy Spirit is likened to the fluttering flight of a dove and so I guess the early artists used the dove as a kind of artistic shorthand.

Speaking about images, I have to confess that as a child I thought that the "tongues as of fire" that rested on the Apostles at Pentecost were actually human tongues on fire. It took me years before I realized that the "tongues" were actually similar to the darting flames that we would see in our own fireplaces. Also back then it was more common to refer to the Holy Spirit as the Holy Ghost, which only conjured up images from Abbott and Costello movies.



But in today's readings we see that although we cannot see or feel or hear the Spirit of God, he dwells in us and works through us. St. Luke says of the Apostles "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

So who or what is the Holy Spirit? First, let's think about the word "spirit." In my bedroom there is a picture of me as an infant. Next to it is a picture of me as a young man taken a short while after my wedding day. Next to that I can look into the mirror and behold a senior citizen. Which of these three pictures is me? I guess that even though I look different, they all are me. In other words, my "spirit" is in all of them. My spirit is the real me. Another word for spirit is "soul," a word that is somewhat out of fashion today.

So when Jesus, on the evening of that Easter Sunday after he rose from the dead, breathed on the Apostles, and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit," he was giving them his own self or spirit. He also makes it clear that he is sending them to continue the work that his Father had sent him to do. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." His Spirit will give them the strength and courage to continue the work.

Fifty days later he comes to them again in the roaring wind and in tongues of fire.

If we can't see or feel or hear the Spirit, how do we know that he dwells in us? As Christians we have to learn to read the signs. Just as the shipwrecked Robinson Crusoe knew that there was another man on his lonely island when he beheld his footprints, we will know the Spirit by his signs. St. Paul says in the letter to the Corinthians "there are different

kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

Then, talking to us as well as to the Corinthians, Paul says that to "each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." In other words, we all have a role to play in bringing the Spirit of God to each other.

What are the signs that the Spirit dwells in us? In years past we used to speak of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. If you pick a fruit from a tree and it tastes and smells and feels like an apple, then you can conclude that it's an apple tree. The same goes for a peach or pear tree. In his letter to the Galatians, St. Paul lists the fruits or signs of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, faith, gentleness and chastity.

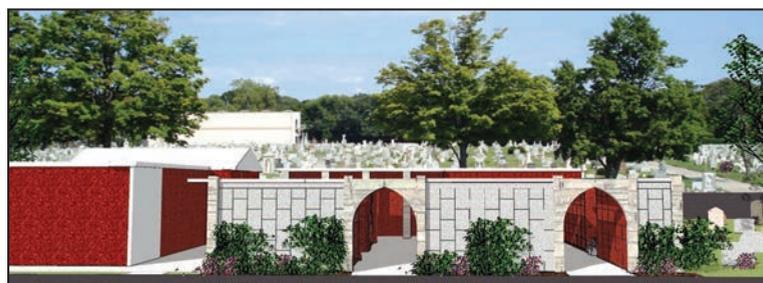
Some of these words might sound outdated to us today but we surely get the general idea. Who would not want to receive the Holy Spirit? Would we want to be uncharitable, miserable, quarrelsome, impatient, mali-

cious, bad, mean-spirited, offensive, unfaithful, immodest, wasteful, or promiscuous?

We don't need miraculous, mystical, or ghostly experiences to encounter the Spirit today. After all, we have all received the Spirit at Confirmation. Right after Pentecost, the Apostles saw that it was necessary not only to preach the Word but also to lay their hands on all the baptized in order that the Spirit might dwell in them. Generation after generation have continued this practice. Every Confirmation is a kind of Pentecost.

Even though the Apostles had walked with the Lord and had seen his risen body, they still needed to receive his Spirit before they could leave the upper room and go out and face the world. St. Paul says the same for us.

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, Abba, Father!" (Romans 8:14-15) ■



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===== SERRA CLUB FROM PAGE 11 =====

seminarians and priests can be found on the Serra Club of Bridgeport website or on their Facebook and Twitter pages.

Field has big dreams for the group's future. "It's my goal as president to increase the size of the club by 50 percent this year," he said. The group began with about 30 members. Field would also like to continue to reach out to youth groups and altar servers to talk to them about vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

For someone whose own voca-

tion came later in life, Deacon Flynn feels he can be empathetic with those discerning religious life and the priesthood. Being a member of the Serra Club is just being willing to walk with someone on their journey, he said.

"It's as simple as mentoring to a young man or woman as they think about the priesthood or religious life," he said. "We've been working hard to make an impact on creating an understanding of the need for vocations in the Church." ■

Nuestra Voz

Dos colombianos entre tres ordenados sacerdotes

BRIDGEPORT—El sábado 24 de junio a las 11 am, el Obispo Frank J. Caggiano ordenará a tres nuevos sacerdotes para la diócesis de Bridgeport en la Catedral de St. Agustín. Dos de los futuros ordenados sacerdotes son de origen hispano nacidos en Bogotá, Colombia, por lo que las lecturas en la ceremonia serán en español e inglés. Harry Prieto y José Vásquez llegaron a esta diócesis desde el país cafetero; mientras que Timothy Iannacone nació en Stamford.

Durante la Misa, las madres de los tres futuros sacerdotes entregarán las ofrendas del ofertorio, mientras que Sandra Riano, prima del Padre Vásquez, ofrecerá la lectura en español y Elizabeth Nichols, madrina del padre Iannacone, leerá en inglés.

“El día de las ordenaciones sacerdotales es uno de los días más hermosos para la diócesis, porque es un día de gran esperanza. Estamos muy orgullosos de que estos tres muchachos estén siendo ordenados. Serán grandes miembros del presbiterio de esta diócesis, y pedimos que su testimonio inspire a muchos otros jóvenes a responder a la oferta de la vocación sacerdotal de Dios. Oramos para que sean buenos, santos y felices sacerdotes de Jesucristo”, señala el Padre John Connaughton, director de vocaciones.

Harry A. Prieto

Harry Alfredo Prieto, de 30 años, nació en Bogotá, Colombia, y creció en una familia de tres niños y una niña. Sus padres, Alfredo y Luz Jaramillo Prieto son feligreses de la parroquia Santiago Apóstol en Bogotá.

Harry asistió a la escuela primaria Anunciación y se graduó de la escuela secundaria Neruda en Bogotá en el 2003. Discerniendo una vocación religiosa fue al Seminario Mayor de Bogotá y luego obtuvo una licenciatura en Ciencias de la Universidad Javeriana en esa ciudad en el 2009. Llegando a este país, completó una licenciatura en Artes en la Universidad de Fordham.

Siempre interesado en desafíos intelectuales, fue elegido miembro de la Sociedad Honorífica Nacional Phi Sigma Tau en donde estudió filosofía en el 2013. Después de graduarse en Fordham en el 2014 entró en el Colegio Teológico de la Universidad Católica de América, donde com-



SACERDOTES: (i-d) Timothy Iannacone, José Vásquez, Harry Prieto. (Article in English on page 3)

pletó su maestría en el 2017.

El Padre Prieto celebrará su primera Misa en la parroquia de St. Joseph en Danbury, en donde empezó en este país su vida religiosa, el 25 de junio a las 12 del mediodía. El Padre Samuel Scott, pastor de San José, precederá la homilía.

“El sacerdocio es un llamado a servir y crecer como un líder en la comunidad cristiana, tratando de ser no sólo ‘alter Christus’, sino también ‘alter Jesús’, en preparación para la misión de salir y hacer discípulos de todas las naciones. En vista de esto, Dios me ha bendecido con un tiempo de gracia y disciplina. En el cumplimiento de la misión, el amor y la gracia de Dios que me inspiran

esperanza y confianza para servir a los fieles en Cristo, el Buen Pastor, como inspiración y modelo”, expresa el Padre Prieto.

José A. Vásquez

José Abelardo Vásquez Romero, de 33 años de edad, nació en Bogotá. Sus padres, Bernardo y Elsy Campos Vásquez son miembros de la Parroquia Santiago Apóstol en su país natal. Tiene un hermano de nombre Rodrigo, que también vive en la capital colombiana.

Es un hombre joven que le gusta jugar fútbol y le gusta estar con la naturaleza. Al mismo tiempo, le encanta la teología y le gusta reflexionar, meditar y estudiar la palabra de Dios.

Asistió a la Escuela Primaria Antonio Nariño y al colegio Politécnico Mayor graduándose en el 2005. Entró en el Seminario Mayor de Bogotá y obtuvo una licenciatura en la Universidad Javeriana en el 2010.

Respondiendo a una llamada de los sacerdotes de esta diócesis, entró en el Seminario St. John Fisher y estudió en Sacred Heart University en Fairfield. Su parroquia es la Iglesia de la Asunción (Assumption) en Westport, en donde completó su diaconado el año pasado; además se graduó en el Seminario St. Joseph de Yonkers, N.Y. este año.

El Padre Vásquez celebrará su primera Misa en la Iglesia de la Asunción el 25 de junio a las 12 del mediodía. El Padre Thomas Thorne, pastor, precederá la homilía.

“Una de las cosas que más me gusta es trabajar con grupos parroquiales y estar presente en sus actividades”, dijo, mencionando en particular a los estudiantes de educación religiosa, estudios bíblicos y grupos de hombres y mujeres con los que tuvo la oportunidad de trabajar el año pasado. “Como los jóvenes son el presente y el futuro de la Iglesia, creo que hay que apoyar y alentar sus actividades. También creo en la importancia de la nueva evan-

gelización para el futuro de la Iglesia”.

Timothy A. Iannacone

El tercer sacerdote, Timothy Albert Iannacone, tiene 27 años de edad. Hoy vive en Norwalk y es miembro de St. Mary.

Sus padres, Timothy y Patricia Iannacone son miembros de Santo Tomás Apóstol en Norwalk. Asistió a la escuela primaria Wolfpit y All Saints Catholic School, y se graduó de Norwalk High School en el 2008.

El Padre Iannacone se graduó en el Colegio Merrimack en North Andover, Mass., en el 2012. Fue ordenado al diaconado de transición en el 2016 por el Obispo Frank J. Caggiano; en ese mismo año, completó sus estudios de seminario en el Colegio de Teología de la Universidad Católica de América.

“Oí decir una vez que uno no debería ser un sacerdote si uno no ama a la gente. De hecho, es mi amor por el pueblo de Dios lo que me ha traído aquí. La Iglesia necesita sacerdotes fuertes e inteligentes que sean defensores de la verdad frente a cada obstáculo que se les presente. Por eso quiero ser sacerdote; no para mí, sino para el servicio de la Iglesia de Dios y su pueblo”, dice el Padre Iannacone. ■

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Obituaries

Lawrence Arszyla

Lawrence Arszyla, Sr., age 76 of Bridgeport, beloved husband of 53 years to Janice Fazekas Arszyla, passed away suddenly at home on April 21. Born in Bridgeport on September 23, 1940, to the late Joseph and Margaret York Arszyla, Larry served in the Marine Corp during Vietnam.

He began his career in banking, managing both the South End and Trumbull branches of CT National Bank. He moved on to a long and loyal career with the Diocese of Bridgeport, starting in the finance department then becoming the director of cemeteries. After 30 plus years of service, Larry retired as the Bishop Curtis Homes director.

Larry spent a few years driving a school bus with Durham Bus Co., where he enjoyed being with kids every day.



LAWRENCE ARSZYLA, SR.

A kind, patient and fair man, Larry leaves his wife Janice, his children Michelle Steinfeld of Monroe, Larry Jr. of Bridgeport and Kristin and her husband Steve Balazsi of Black Rock, his brother Joseph Arszyla, Jr., several grandchildren and a great grandchild.

In abiding with Larry's wishes, his memorial service was private. ■

Sister Sophia

On March 31, Sister Sophia Michalenko of the Community of the Mother of God of Tenderness passed to eternal life at the Regional Hospice of Western Connecticut Center for Comfort Care and Healing, Danbury, having served our Lord for 70 years as a religious in consecrated life.

Born in Adams, MA on July 11, 1928, Sophia was the fifth child of immigrant parents from Eastern Europe. Her father was a Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic from what is now Slovakia and her mother a Roman Catholic from what is now Poland. She graduated from Adams High School as salutatori-

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Sister Carmel, 100

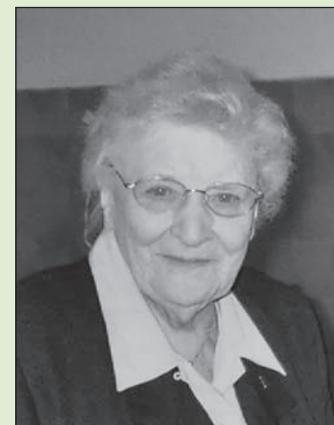
Sister Mary Carmel Ruth, OSU, died March 13, 2017 at Maria Regina Residence. She was 100 years old. Twenty-five of her family members from Ireland joined her to celebrate her 100th birthday in January.

Kathleen Ruth was born on January 18, 1917 in Waterford, Ireland. She entered the Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk on September 8, 1940, and professed her final vows six years later.

Sister Carmel ministered for many years as a teacher. Her ministry was extensive and included teaching in Queens, N.Y., and in Connecticut, and at Our Lady Star of the Sea School in Stamford from 1969-73.

In 2003, after many years of active service, Sister Carmel retired to Blue Point, N.Y., where she continued a ministry of prayer and visiting the sick.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Carmel on March 17 at the St. Ursula Center Chapel in Blue Point. Burial followed at the cemetery of the Ursuline Sisters in Blue Point. ■



SISTER MARY CARMEL RUTH

Father Clifford Grisé

The obituary for Father Grisé ran in the April issue of *Fairfield County Catholic*. The family has requested that donations in Father Grisé's memory be made to the Expansion Fund of Queen of Clergy, 274 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford, CT 06902.

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DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT MAY 14—JUNE 17

MAY

17	Rev. Miroslav L. Sultus.....	1992
18	Msgr. Charles B. Ratajczak, O.F.M.....	1957
19	Rev. William H. Sullivan.....	1980
23	Rev. Thomas M. Garrick.....	1955
	Deacon Hans Jakob Gram.....	2010
24	Rev. Mark Grimes.....	2008
25	Rev. Joseph A. Ganley.....	1957
26	Msgr. William Loughlin.....	2014
27	Rev. Joseph F. Sohovich.....	1957
28	Rev. John P. McNerney.....	1969
29	Msgr. John J. Barney.....	1973
	Rev. Harry Holbrook.....	2005
30	Rev. Adelard A. Jalbert.....	1960
31	Rev. Dennis A. Szocs, O.F.M.....	1985

JUNE

1	Rev. Msgr. Jean C. Tetreault.....	2003
2	Rev. Thomas M. Ford.....	1992
3	Rev. Michael F. Blanchard.....	1982
	Rev. Richard J. Grady.....	1993
	Deacon Kenneth Stroud.....	2016
5	Msgr. John Hayes.....	1964
6	Rev. Thomas J. Hanley.....	1954
	Msgr. Edward J. Howley.....	2012
7	Rev. James J. Dennis.....	2003
8	Msgr. Bernard S. Scanlon.....	2004
9	Msgr. James G. Lengen.....	1999
	Rev. James J. O'Malley.....	1996
13	Deacon Anthony LaBua.....	1988
14	Msgr. William F. Kearney.....	1974
15	Msgr. John H. Landry.....	1967

St. Joseph High School

Matakevich, Hayes inducted into Hall of Fame

By **DON HARRISON**

Among the nine people inducted into St. Joseph High School's Athletics Hall of Fame last month were two men who are poles apart and yet connected: Tyler Matakevich, Class of 2011, and Christy Hayes, who coached championship teams in three sports and will admit to recently turning 70 years young.

"He was one of my ball boys," Hayes recalled with a chuckle.

Matakevich's progression from St. Joe's football team ball boy to the National Football League took few detours:

- Two-time Walter Camp All-State selection in football and a star on the Cadets' back-to-back state championship teams (2009, '10).
- Consensus All-American linebacker at Temple University and the recipient of the Chuck Bednarik and Bronko Nagurski awards as the nation's top defensive player.
- Most recently, selected by the Pittsburgh Steelers on the seventh round of the 2016 NFL draft and then became the first St. Joe's alumnus to play in the NFL.

During his acceptance speech, Matakevich informed the gathering at the April 22 dinner of the impact St. Joseph had on his life. "He spoke about Betsy Sorrentino, his English teacher, and the prayer card she gave him," Hayes related. "He still carries it in his wallet."

Excelling on both sides of the ball at St. Joe's, Matakevich scored 61 career touchdowns, rushed for nearly 2,500 yards and gained 1,400 yards receiving—all school records at the time. On defense, he made big play after big play and recorded a school-record 400 tackles.

"I told UConn to take him," Hayes said, "but they didn't listen."

Hayes' lengthy coaching career at St. Joe's embraces football, girls' basketball and baseball, and he was successful in all three sports. His teams captured CIAC state titles (1983, '84) in his first two seasons as head football coach, and then they won three more state championships (1988, '89, '90). Across 15 seasons, his Cadet squads won 101 games, lost just 53 and tied four times.

"We had a 30-game winning streak, which began under my predecessor, Eddie McCarthy,



TYLER MATAKEVICH, left, in all probability the greatest football player in St. Joseph High School history and the first St. Joe's graduate to play in the National Football League, and retired multi-sport coach Christy Hayes share a moment at the school's AthleticS Hall of Fame dinner on April 22. They were among the nine Hall-of-Fame inductees honored that evening. (PHOTO BY MATTHEW FITZGERALD)

and it ended against Fairfield Prep, 13-12. We went for the two-point conversion, but didn't make it." Hayes said.

Hayes served as an assistant coach under McCarthy, including three straight state title years (1980, '81, '82), before the latter resigned and moved on to West Haven High.

"Eddie was a fantastic mentor to me, and he still holds the state record for most wins in football

(332)," Hayes noted.

The New Haven born and bred Hayes played football at Hillhouse High, Cheshire Academy and Southern Connecticut State, earning B.S. and master's degrees from Southern. He arrived at St. Joe's as an assistant football coach in 1972 and began teaching English the following fall.

He coached the St. Joe's girls' basketball team for eight seasons,

winning the Class M state title in 1979. Kelley Gray, who became an outstanding rebounder at Sacred Heart University, was among his protégées. Later, he coached Cadets baseball for eight seasons, winning the school's first FCIAC championship in any sport. Hayes capped his 30-year career at St. Joseph by serving as director of athletics his final two years.

The Hayes-St. Joe's connection continues to this day. His wife, Patricia, is in her 44th year as a teacher at the school and formerly served as dean of students. All three of their sons played sports there: Brendan '97 as an All-State nose guard in football; Christy Jr. '02, indoor track; and Jack '04, football running back and team captain.

Others inducted into the St. Joseph Athletics Hall of Fame on April 22 were:

Liz Barker Balanis '90, tennis; Brian Barker '83, tennis; Joe Della Vecchia '11, football and baseball; Dave Donnelly '78, baseball, football and swimming; Dick Shea '74, basketball and baseball; Manny Torres, Jr., '95, baseball; and Alexandra Uscilla '08, soccer, indoor track and lacrosse. ■

SISTER SOPHIA FROM PAGE 22

an in 1946. In July of that year, she entered the Congregation of Felician Sisters in Enfield, Conn. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from St. John's University in N.Y. with a BA in education and earned a master's degree in English, also from St. John's. For 25 years, she taught in schools in MA, CT, NY, and RI.

In 1974, she moved from the Felician Sisters to the newly-founded Community of the Mother of God of Tenderness, founded by Archbishop Joseph Tawil of the Melkite Greek Catholic Eparchy of Newton, Mass.

Throughout the years, Sister Sophia ministered in various capacities including teaching, acting as dean of Longview College in Enfield, serving at St. Joseph Melkite Church in Scranton,

Penn., and working as secretary of the Waterbury Evangelization Center and as pool typist at John Paul II Center for Health Care in Danbury. She was the author of *The Life of St. Faustina Kowalska: The Authorized Biography*.

The Community of the Mother of God of Tenderness resettled in Danbury in 1987. The Sisters are affiliated with St. Ann Melkite Greek Catholic

Parish in this city and minister in other parishes in the area. Sister Sophia always served with an infectious smile and touched the lives of many people in whatever capacity she ministered. Her love knew neither barriers nor boundaries.

The Divine Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Sophia on April 5 in St. Ann Church. Interment followed in St. Peter Cemetery, Danbury. ■



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Column: Thomas Hicks



God took one of the man's ribs

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

“So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man...then he took one of the man's ribs and made it into a woman and brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:21-22).

The image of the rib taken

from Adam is clearly symbolic. Symbolically the story is saying that woman is the equal of man; she is of the same nature. It is further saying that man cannot fully understand himself except in relation to a woman and vice versa. Woman and man are incomplete

without each other, something is lacking.

The tale goes on to say “therefore a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). The bond which is created between a man and woman in the marriage relationship is superior to every other interpersonal bond, even the one between parent and child. A spouse is essentially different from and more than anyone else in the world.

The account in Genesis concludes by teaching that marriage is monogamous and cannot be dissolved, as one flesh cannot be divided. Husband and wife are blended, as it were, into one being.

This is the ideal, this is the

way it is meant to be, this is what God wants. Yet we know from experience that this is not the way things usually are.

We come to learn that love and commitment are not certainties upon which one can rely. Research indicates that few marriages turn out well. Commonly, promises are violated and love betrayed. Everywhere marriages blow up, and marriage counselors, child psychiatrists, lawyers, and real-estate agents prosper in the ruins.

So many children have no real sacred model of marriage to emulate. They grow up without models of faithfulness and maturity, without examples of self-discipline and dedication.

The children of these marriages grow up and find other troubled children to marry, and so through the generations there is deep trouble.

Marriage often is no cure for loneliness. People find that they can be just as alone in marriage as before, and often more so. Indeed, someone said that no one who is not married understands the true meaning of loneliness. There is nothing lonelier than being with the wrong person.

The main cause of unhappy marriages is that people choose their mates poorly. The basis of a good marriage is that you marry the right person. The real problem is that people are mismatched. Julia Alvarez, in her book *Homecoming*, has the following:

She: Statistics say most couples get divorced.

He: Better to love and lose than not at all.

She: Better to read the writing on the wall.

The question is not: where did it all go wrong? But: when was it ever right?

“Forsaking all others, and keeping only unto thee...” Adultery makes a true union between spouses almost impossible. If there is no trust, couples will never unite. John Updike has

the following scene in his novel *Couples*:

She: Adultery—it is so much trouble.

He: It's a way of giving yourself and a way of getting out in the world and seeking knowledge.

She: What do we know now?

He: We know God is not mocked.

In the first century AD., the Jewish philosopher Philo wrote: “A wife is best honored when she sees that her husband is faithful to her, and has no preference for another woman, but loves and trusts her and holds her as his own.”

In the Old Testament book of Malachi God rebukes the man who, as he grows older, “deals

treacherously with the wife of his youth”—that is, he divorces her, and marries someone younger (Mal.2:14-16).

A friend, a psychotherapist, tells me that he takes only one

or two couples for counseling a year. “My reason is that marriage counseling rarely works, and most of those who do benefit usually relapse. I've come to believe that most couples could not be helped, so I don't want to take their money or waste their time.”

A stable marriage, much less a happy one, even less a joyful one, is a rarity, the exception, not the rule. However, there are couples who do find their own true loves, and achieve a state where they are “two hearts that beat as one.” One can sense their happy involvement in each other. They live in mutual confidence of each other, become truly loving and lovely. The water becomes wine. They make the words wife and husband the dearest appellations of human life.

What greater thing is there for two human beings than to feel that they are joined for life—to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, to minister to each other in all pain, and to be with each other with silent memories at the last parting? Each spouse knows

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Column: Joe Pisani



Talk less, listen more

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

Once worked for a boss who had a listening problem. He didn't have a hearing problem. He just didn't pay attention when someone else was talking. Whenever you went into his office to tell him something, he'd be shuffling papers, talking to his assistant or scrolling through email.

He'd accuse the staff of not keeping him informed, even though we could cite the month, the day and the minute when he'd been told important information.

Some people like to talk more than listen. Some are too lazy to listen. Some think they're too busy or too important to listen. Here's a secret: Listening is more important than talking.

THOMAS HICKS
FROM PAGE 24

as surely as he or she knows anything that this is who and where they were meant to be. At a wake recently, the widow said to me: "We were married for 55 years, how I loved it all, every instant."

The Book of Proverbs (18:22) says that this melding of lives and selves "is a favor one receives from the Lord."

Let me end with some words from the Old Testament Book of Tobit. Sarah and Tobias have recently married. Edna, Sarah's mother, says to Tobias, "See, I am entrusting my daughter to you; never make her unhappy as long as you live." Tobias promises. Raguel, Sarah's father, prays for Sarah and Tobias: "Blessed are you, Lord, because you have had compassion on these two children. Show them mercy, O Lord, and bring their lives to fulfillment in health and happiness and mercy" (Tobit 8:17). Tobias says to Edna and Raguel, his new in-laws: "May it be my happiness to honor you all the days of my life." ■

I also knew a priest, a beloved priest who was committed to his vocation 110 percent, but whenever I tried to tell him something, I got the feeling he was in a hurry to get to his next appointment and not really listening to what I had to say, even though he'd nod his head in agreement.

So I talked to my wife instead and it went like this:

Me (on mobile phone): "Hello, Honey, how are you?"

Her: "Busy."

Me: "Oh."

Her: "What do you want?"

Me: "I just thought I'd call to say hi and ..."

Her: "I have to go because Julie is bringing the baby over and I have to blah, blah, blah." You get the idea.

The other day, a former classmate text-messed me four times in two minutes. I didn't have time to read them or respond because I had too many other issues to deal with. He wanted to tell me about the sermon at Mass, about a prayer group he joined, and about something else I can't remember, but I never got back to him, and he didn't text again.

A week later, I attended a talk by a man who is known nationwide for his accomplishments in the media business. He's run some of the most successful publications in America and is considered a visionary.

While I was at the event, a woman I know began to tell me about her frail elderly mother, whom she cares for. I listened for a minute or so and then found myself looking over her shoulder to see who else was in the audience. A noted writer or a political leader perhaps? Quite honestly, I wasn't paying attention and I certainly wasn't listening with compassion.

Several years ago, a friend kept calling my cell phone and leaving messages. He said he had to talk to me, but I didn't really want to talk to him because I

knew I'd never get off the phone and he'd take an hour to tell me something that should take only ten minutes.

He left one message, he left two messages, and then he left a third message that said, "I need to talk to you. You're the only one I could think of calling. My wife left me and I don't know what to do."

I was so ashamed of myself. The first thing I did was beg Jesus for forgiveness, the second thing I did was call him, the third thing I did was vow I'd never again ignore someone who needed to talk ... and that I would listen compassionately.

I wish I could say I've always kept that promise, but I haven't. Some people annoy me, and others want to talk when I have too many things to do. But you know what? There are no excuses. I'm convinced that on Judgment Day, I'll see the times I dropped the ball when someone needed a sympathetic ear. It's called a sin of omission.

Every single day of our lives, Jesus will put people in our path who need our help, our sympathy and our love—and we have an obligation to deliver. We have an obligation to listen compassionately and not be concerned about our To Do lists or our next adventure. Compassionate listening is like a spiritual work of

mercy. It's not always easy, but it's always necessary.

The next time you find yourself zoning out when someone is talking to you, ask Jesus immediately to come into the conversation and lead you where he wants you to go because he led that person to you for a reason. Ask him to help you say what he wants that person to hear ... because he has a plan that involves you. His formula is simple: stop, look and ... listen.

Listen hard and show compassion. ■

"Quite honestly, I wasn't paying attention and I certainly wasn't listening with compassion."



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Bits and Pieces

2017 MASS OF HOPE AND HEALING: Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, together with a planning committee of Survivors of Sexual Abuse as Minors by Priests, will hold a very special Mass for anyone who has been sexually abused as a minor and for others who have been impacted on **Oct. 29**, at 2 pm at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 149 South Pine Creek Rd, Fairfield. Light refreshments will be served immediately following the Mass. If you are an adult survivor of abuse as a minor and would like to learn more about this Mass, upcoming gatherings, and resources that are available in our diocese, please contact one of our Victim Assistance Coordinators, Erin Neil, LCSW: 203.650.3265 or Michael Tintrup, LCSW: 203.241.0987.

MASSES OF HEALING AND HOPE: the Charismatic Renewal Services announces a Mass of Healing and Hope on **Mon., May 15**, at 7:30 pm at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, with Fr. Larry Carew; and **Mon., June 19**, at Assumption Church, Fairfield, with Fr. Carew. For more info, call the Charismatic Renewal Office: 203.456.5610.
"ARTS IN THE PARK" at Immaculate High: **Thurs., May**

18, from 6-8 pm the school's gym will be transformed into a park-like environment, with 1,000 pieces of student-created artwork, live music, food and a student-designed mini-golf course. For more info, contact Janine Azzi: jazzi@myimmaculatehs.org or 203.744.1510, ext. 164, Mon.-Fri. 8 am-1 pm.

MOMs+DADs prayer/support group for those with Down syndrome, their family and friends meets the third **Thurs.** of every month (**May 18**), at 7:30 pm at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk. For more info, contact strapostolate@optimum.net.

DINNER WITH A CAUSE sponsored by the St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside, Social Justice Committee features Building 1 Community (formerly Neighbor's Link Stamford) on **Thurs., May 18**. Catalina Horak, executive director, will explain its mission to bring people together to help immigrants and their families. 6:30 pm light supper; 7:15-8:30 presentation. Free will offering. For more info or to RSVP, call 203.637.3661, ext 310, and leave your name, phone number and number in your party.

DIVORCED AND SEPARATED Catholics are invited to join "Hearts Renewed," a support group for divorced or separated men and women. Meetings are held in Fairfield on the first and third **Fri.** of every month (**May 19; June 1**) at 7:30

pm. For more info and for directions, call Bette: 203.338.0503 or Peggy: 203.834.1287.

JENNINGS BEACH CARNIVAL, South Benson Road, Fairfield, sponsored by Holy Family Parish, will be held **Fri.-Sun., May 19-21**, with rides and games, food, a free concert by School of Rock, and a chance to win over \$30,000 in prizes! **Fri.**, 6-10 pm; **Sat.**, 1-10 pm; **Sun.**, 1-5 pm. Ride wristbands available each day. For more info, visit www.facebook.com/jennings-beachcarnival or email jennings-beachcarnival@gmail.com.

50th REUNIONS for Notre Dame High School classes of 1966 and 1967: Class of 1966 (Boys and Girls) the weekend of **May 19-21**; Class of 1967 (Boys and Girls), the weekend of **Oct. 27-29**. For more info, contact Notre Dame's Alumni Office: tmarzik@notredame.org.

PAPER SHREDDING will take place at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull, on **Sat., May 20**, from 9 am-12 noon. Papers and documents will be shredded while you wait by a professional shredding truck. No need to remove staples or paperclips. Cost: \$10 for one box; \$25 for three boxes. For info, contact the parish: 203.377.3133 or office@stcatherinetrumbull.com.

LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, Mae King Division # 65, will hold a meet and greet meeting on **Sat., May 20**, at 10 am at the Gaelic American Club, Fairfield. Any woman of Irish decent or married to an Irishman is welcome to join. For more info and for reservations, call 203.261.6182.

ANGEL-ADE volunteers needed. Al's Angels needs volunteers to help host lemonade stands at locations throughout Fairfield County on **Sat., May 20**. For more info, email Al DiGuido: adiguideo@yahoo.com ASAP.
WORLD WAR I Lecture Series at the Knights of Columbus Museum will present "Trench Warfare and its Evolution" by Nicholas Murray, D.Phil., U.S. Naval War College, Newport, R.I. on **Sat., May 20**, at 2 pm. The exhibition on World War I: Beyond the Front Lines, continues through **Dec. 30, 2018**. For more info, call 203.865.0400 or visit kofcmuseum.org
"COME AND SEE" if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Secular Franciscan Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Anthony of Padua Church, Fairfield, on **Sat., May 20**, at 9:30 am to celebrate Mass with Fr. Norm Guilbert and **Sat., June 17**, at 9:30 am with Fr. Gene Szantyr. There will be a social and meeting after each Mass. For more info, call Pat Heile, OFS: 203.255.8801 or pheile5713@aol.com.

INFORMATION SESSION for Fairfield U. Residential College Mentoring Program will be hosted on **Mon., May 22**, at 7 pm in the Alumni House. Mentors guide and encourage small groups of 6-8 students with the support of university staff. For more info, contact Marianne O'Connell Neville coordinator: 203.254.2404 or mneville@fairfield.edu. To register for the reception, go to <https://orgsync.com/116068/forms/256410>.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE award/scholarship event for Kolbe Cathedral High School will be held on **Sun., May 21**. Mass of remembrance for Msgr Frank C. Wissel in St. Mary Church, Greenwich, followed by dinner at Gabriele's Italian Steakhouse. Honorees are Brian O'Connor and John Torres. Tickets: \$250/person. For more info, contact Principal Jo-Anne Jakab: jjakab@kolbecaths.org or 203.335.2554.

THE ASCENSION: Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury, (ages 18-35), will gather on **Thurs., May 25**, at 6:45 pm to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension Holy Day of Obligation with Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, Danbury, followed by ice cream at Double Twister. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com.

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING will be the

topic of the lecture sponsored by the Council of Religious of the Diocese of Bridgeport on **Sat., June 3**, from 1-3 pm at the Catholic Center, Bridgeport. No charge; light refreshments offered. RSVP by **Fri., May 26**, to Sr. Nancy Strillacci: srstrillacci@diobpt.org or 203.416.1511.

MEMORIAL DAY MASS sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Cabrini Assembly #136 will be celebrated at St. Andrew Parish, Bridgeport on **Sun., May 28**, at 11:30 am. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be the main celebrant. A special presentation will follow the Mass, with speeches from state and local dignitaries. A coffee social follows. All are welcome. For more info, contact Ray Berry: ray_29@att.net or 860.919.5762.

BONNIE TIEGEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP program is available for high school seniors (at least 17 years of age), graduates, or undergraduates who plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study and pursue a degree in journalism. The student will receive a \$2,500 award. The application deadline is **Wed., May 31**. For more info, go to Bonnie Tiegel Memorial Scholarship Program (<http://usascholarships.com/bonnie-tiegel-memorial-scholarship-program/>)

ADULT SURVIVORS of abuse as a minor are invited to two upcoming gatherings at the Bridgeport Public Library at their North Branch, 3455 Madison Ave, Bridgeport, on **Thurs., June 1**, from 6-7 pm. This is an opportunity to meet with fellow adult survivors of abuse, together with the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator. For more info, contact Erin Neil, LCSW: 203.650.3265 or Michael Tintrup,

POSITION AVAILABLE

Organist - Part Time

Saint Joseph Parish, Brookfield - Diocese of Bridgeport

Purpose

To support congregational singing, to accompany the church choirs, cantor, and to support the worship service with musical offerings.

Responsibilities

To coordinate with the Director of Music preparing, and playing of music appropriate to each service of worship. To prepare appropriate music for annual special services including Easter, Christmas, and all holy days of obligation. To prepare sufficiently for optimum performance on the organ or piano for both rehearsals and worship. To accompany scheduled rehearsals with the Choirs. To provide special music as needed, especially for Summer outdoor services, but also throughout the year.

To play for funerals or weddings as available. To provide for appropriate substitutes for worship services or special events when not available.

Evaluation

30 day trial period. Performance reviews will be conducted annually by the Administrator as the head of staff, with the assistance of the Director of Music. Possibility to split this job for flexibility

Please send resume to: dchristopher868@gmail.com

POSITION AVAILABLE

Musician to lead the contemporary liturgical music group

Saint Jerome Parish, Norwalk - Diocese of Bridgeport

Purpose

We are looking for a person with good key board skills who can continue to foster the deep sense of community in this group.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities would include one evening rehearsal and the 9:15am Mass on Sunday mornings, with a possibility of playing at the 6pm as well.

Remuneration is commensurate with experience.

For an interview, contact Fr. David Blanchfield at: 203.847.5349

Bits and Pieces

LCSW: 203.241.0987.

FAIRFIELD PREP ALUMNI are invited for Reunion Weekend on **June 2-3**. Golf Outing, Fri., **June 2**, followed by Prep's first Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner in the quad. On **June 2**, for classes ending in 2s and 7s, alumni are invited to reunion breakfast, alumni sports games, Mass, and dinner on campus. To register, go to www.fairfieldprep.org/reunion.

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS is celebrated at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, the first Sun. of each month (**June 4**) at 4 pm. For more info, call the parish: 203.775.5117.

WOMEN'S GROUP at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, will hold their closing luncheon Tues., **June 6**, at 12 noon at Nostrano Italian Eatery, Monroe. For more info, call 203.261.8020.

JOIN IN PRAYING the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary for Persecuted Christians from your home/car/office the first Tues. of every month (**June 6**) at 7 pm. How? Before 7 pm, call 877.216.5269 and type in the pin number 96869.

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS of Greater Danbury will gather on Tues., **June 6**, from 7-9 pm for a Praise and Worship Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Parish, Danbury, followed by a social. This event is open to all ages. For more info, go to catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com. Join us on Facebook: "Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury" for updates.

GOSPEL OF LIFE SOCIETY meets at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, the second Sat. of each month (**June 10**) from 10 am-12 noon, after the 9 am pro-life Mass. For more info, contact

Eileen Bianchini: 203.847.5727 or stmarygols@aol.com.

BACON AND BREW FEST (a 21 and over event) at Notre Dame High School, Fairfield, will provide an afternoon of beer sampling, live music, food and fun on Sat., **June 10**. Calling all local firehouses, police stations, church groups, civic organizations, restaurants, etc., for a Bacon Cookoff. For more info, contact Theresa Marzik: tmarzik@notredame.org. Tickets can be purchased on line at <https://ndbaconandbrew.eventbrite.com>.

ST. ANTHONY FEAST will be held at St. Margaret Shrine, Bridgeport, the weekend of **June 9-11**. Fri., **June 9**, from 6-11 pm, Sat., **June 10**, from 2-11 pm and Sun., **June 11**, from 12 noon-10 pm. Delicious Italian food, family-friendly fun, daily entertainment, rides and a raffle. An outdoor Mass will be celebrated on Sun., **June 11**, at 11 am, followed by a procession in honor of St. Anthony. For more info, call the shrine: 203.333.9627.

SAINT SCHOLASTICA'S SHAKESPEAREAN PLAYERS (a group of children ranging in age from 6-18) and Father Shawn W. Cutler will be performing *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at 11 am on Sat., **June 10**, at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, followed by English Low Tea (salads, sandwiches and dessert). Tickets: Adults \$20; seniors \$15; children \$12 ages 6-12; children 5 & under free! \$60 Maximum per family. For tickets, go to stmarguerite.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/MerryWivesofWindsor.pdf or call 203.521.2390. Tickets must be purchased in advance; they will not be sold at the door.

FLEEING FAMINE

Lecture Series at the Knights of Columbus Museum will present *Finding Molly Johnson: Canada and the Orphans of the Great Irish Famine* by Mark McGowan, Ph.D., of the University of Toronto on Thurs., **June 15**, at 5 pm. The exhibition on *Fleeing Famine: Irish Immigration to North America* continues through Sun., **Sept. 17**. For more info, call 203.865.0400 or visit kofcmuseum.org.

FAMILY SUMMER

RETREAT, a vacation to grow closer as a family will be held the week of **July 2-7**, at the Miramar Retreat Center, Duxbury, Mass. For more info, contact Deacon John or Peggy: 845.621.7000 or StarofSeaRetreat@gmail.com, or visit www.catholic-familyretreats.com.

PILGRIMAGE to the major shrines of Portugal, Spain and France, an 11-day journey, will depart from New York on Sun., **Sept. 24**, returning Wed., **Oct. 4**. Price: \$3,175/person includes airfare, taxes, hotels, breakfast

and dinner daily, sightseeing, transportation to JFK, and gratuity. For more info, contact Fr. Marcel Saint Jean: 203.434.7208 or 203.268.8695, email marcel-saintjean@gmail.com.

PILGRIMAGE to Fatima, Lourdes and Barcelona, Sun., **Oct. 1-Tues., Oct. 10**. Price: \$3,548/person double occupancy includes airfare, taxes, hotels, breakfasts, one lunch, and dinner. For more info, contact Fr. Cyrus Bartolome: 203.652.1155.

ENCOURAGE apostolate for

friends and family of loved ones with same sex attractions or gender ID confusion holds confidential meetings monthly. For more info email EnCourageNorwalk@gmail.com.

COURAGE apostolate provides pastoral care and support for men and women who experience same-sex attractions and want to live chaste lives. Confidential meetings are held weekly. For more info call 203.8031564 or email Courage@diobpt.org.



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2017 CATHOLIC CHARITIES/AETNA GOLF CLASSIC AN EVENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

THE PATTERSON CLUB

1118 CROSS HIGHWAY | FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

JUNE 5, 2017 | CHECK-IN 11:00 AM | LUNCH 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | 12:30 SHOTGUN START

EVENT CO-CHAIRS: BILL TOMMINS AND JON VACCARELLA

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS: BISHOP CAGGIANO AND MSGR. POWERS

HONORING OUR FRIEND, THE LATE ED MCGETTIGAN

ENJOY A COMPLETE PROGRAM OF SPECIAL EVENTS

- 18 holes of golf, including cart, format (best ball)
- One caddie per foursome
- Lunch, cocktail hour, open bar with top shelf liquor, pasta and carving stations, hot and cold New England lobster rolls and an exciting awards banquet
- Hand-rolled cigars
- Putting competition on the practice green
- On course contests include: Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, & Hole-in-One

All for just
\$2,500/foursome or
\$150/attend awards banquet

For more information or sponsorship details contact:

Amy Zajac: **(203) 416-1336**

azajac@ccfc-ct.org

Visit us at www.ccfairfield.org





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KIDNEY NEEDED

My name is Peggy Karbovanec and I desperately need a kidney transplant.

To learn more about my situation, please contact me at:
203.666.6993

Email: maggielaire5@gmail.com

Or visit my website:
www.kidneyforpeggy.com

Or call:
1.866.925.3897 – Yale
1.212.746.3723 – NY Presbyterian



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