



# FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

MARCH 2019 | VOLUME 36, NUMBER 3 | LENTEN ISSUE

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Looking for a way to **connect** with the best aspects of your diocese?

Facebook: **Diocese of Bridgeport Bishop Frank J. Caggiano**

Twitter: **@diobpt @BishopCaggiano**

Instagram: **dioceseofbridgeport bishopfrankcaggiano**



# COMING TO THE CROSS

### Get back to what you enjoy

**St. Vincent's Medical Center Joint Replacement Seminar**  
Tuesday, March 26, 6 p.m.  
Sports Center of Connecticut  
784 River Road  
Shelton, CT 06484

Sign up for a free seminar at [stvincents.org/events](http://stvincents.org/events)



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## Can the Laity Help Save the Church?

A PANEL DISCUSSION

Saturday, March 23  
8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
West Campus Guest House  
3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield

To register, visit [www.sacredheart.edu/savethechurch](http://www.sacredheart.edu/savethechurch).



# Ash Wednesday

## Bishop: True glory is found in Christ

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—"Much of what the world considers to be glory will end up in ashes," Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said in his Ash Wednesday homily on March 6 at St. Augustine Cathedral.

Hundreds filled the Cathedral for the noontime Mass and distribution of ashes, which mark the

Palm Sunday, are placed on the heads of the faithful, along with a short Scriptural exhortation, either "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19), or "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15).

"We've come here in the beginning of this time of penance to be reminded of the same thing.



(Above) THAT'S LITTLE GERARD MANONI at Bridgeport's own Sts. Cyril and Methodius Oratory on Ash Wednesday. (Right) St. Matthew's mobile unit travels to different sites in Norwalk to bring ashes to the people.



place our trust in the glory of mundi but in the glory of Christi and that our dreams, our hopes, our desires and our longings will find their answer in Christ—the one who freely gave his life so that you and I might have eternal life," said the bishop.

The bishop told the gathering that during Lent, it is important find the time in our busy lives "to do less talking and more listening, to allow Jesus to speak to

us, to caress us, to love us and to forgive us. It is to do fasting and abstinence, so that we may go hungry, not for the things of the world but the gifts only Christ."

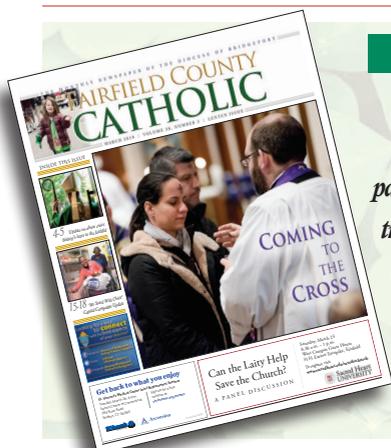
"We begin Lent mindful that we have all at times chosen the glory of this world over the will of God. Let us be resolved to end Lent not being afraid of the words sic transit Gloria mundi, because we will have already left the glories of the world behind to embrace the one who is our glory, our hope and our salvation," he said.



formal beginning of the Lenten observance.

On Ash Wednesday, the ashes, made from palm branches blessed the previous year on

We enter into the desert for forty days and forty nights so that we may come to the cross of Jesus Christ renewed with our minds and hearts clear that we do not



### ON THE COVER

**ASH WEDNESDAY—**  
*Father Michael Novajosky, pastor, and Bishop Caggiano distributed ashes to hundreds gathered at Saint Augustine Cathedral on Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of the Lenten season.*  
*(Photos by Amy Mortensen)*

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# Latest News

## 'Reconciliation Monday' set for April 15

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, for the second year in a row, has designated the Monday of Holy Week, April 15, 2019 as "Reconciliation Monday" throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport.

A total of 25 parishes, from each of the nine deaneries, will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3-9 pm, so that the lay faithful may experience God's mercy as Holy Week begins.

The invitation to participate in Reconciliation Monday was created in the joyful spirit of Pope Francis who said, "Now is the time to be reconciled with God. Staying on the path of evil is only a source of sadness."

"Last year's Reconciliation Monday was a huge success throughout the diocese," said Msgr. Thomas W. Powers, vicar general. "Bishop Caggiano called for participation in Reconciliation Monday to encourage people

to experience the healing and blessing of Confession and 'to be reconciled to the Lord in advance of Easter.'"

"While this is a rather new spiritual practice in our diocese, the observance of Reconciliation Monday has become a tradition in the dioceses adjacent to us for many years. It has grown in popularity in part because every Catholic knows that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is widely available," said the bishop.

The bishop, who will also hear confession on that day, said he is grateful for the pastors and parishes participating in Reconciliation Monday and he hopes that Catholics throughout the diocese will take advantage of the opportunity.

"Many people have misconceptions about what Confession really is. It is not solely a spiritual exercise during which you tell the priest your sins. Rather, it is a profound encounter with the Lord Jesus, who through the words and

actions of the priest, meets us in our sinfulness and forgives, liberates and empowers us with the Holy Spirit so that we can go forth and sin no more," he said.

The names and addresses of the parishes participating in "Reconciliation Monday" this year will be posted on the diocesan website and available in parish bulletins.

### Deanery A (Queen of Peace)

1. *St. Andrew Parish*: 435 Anton Street, Bridgeport
2. *St. Ann Parish*: 481 Brewster Street, Bridgeport
3. *St. Augustine Cathedral*: 399 Washington Avenue, Bridgeport

### Deanery B (Mystical Rose)

1. *St. James Parish*: 2070 Main Street, Stratford
2. *St. Lawrence Parish*: 505 Shelton Avenue, Shelton

### Deanery C (Queen of Martyrs)

1. *St. Catherine of Siena Parish*: 220 Shelton Road, Trumbull
2. *St. Jude Parish*: 707 Monroe

- Turnpike, Monroe
3. *St. Rose of Lima Parish*: 46 Church Hill Road, Newtown

### Deanery D (Our Lady, Queen of Confessors)

1. *Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish*: 46 Stone Street, Danbury
2. *St. Edward the Confessor Parish*: 21 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield
3. *St. Joseph Parish*: 8 Robinson Avenue, Danbury

### Deanery E (Seat of Wisdom)

1. *St. Elizabeth Seton Parish*: 520 Ridgebury Road, Ridgefield
2. *St. Mary Parish*: 55 Catoonah Street, Ridgefield

### Deanery F (Queen Assumed into Heaven)

1. *Church of the Assumption*: 98 Riverside Avenue, Westport
2. *Our Lady of the Assumption Parish*: 545 Stratfield Road, Fairfield
3. *St. Pius X Parish*: 834 Brookside Drive, Fairfield



### Deanery G (Mother of Divine Grace)

1. *St. Aloysius Parish*: 21 Cherry Street, New Canaan
2. *St. John Parish*: 1986 Post Road, Darien
3. *St. Matthew Parish*: 216 Scribner Avenue, Norwalk

### Deanery H (Cause of Our Joy)

1. *St. Cecilia Parish*: 1184 Newfield Avenue, Stamford
2. *Holy Name of Jesus Parish*: 325 Washington Boulevard, Stamford
3. *Sacred Heart Parish*: 37 Schuyler Avenue, Stamford

### Deanery I (Mary, Mother of the Church)

1. *St. Catherine of Siena Parish*: 4 Riverside Avenue, Greenwich
2. *St. Mary Parish*: 178 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich
3. *St. Michael the Archangel Parish*: 469 North Street, Greenwich ■

## White Mass talk to focus on homeless

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

BRIDGEPORT—James J. O'Connell, M.D., president of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, will be the featured speaker at the 26th White Mass honoring Health Care professionals on Sunday, April 7, 9:30 am at St. Augustine Cathedral, 399 Washington Avenue in Bridgeport.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will celebrate the annual Mass, which will be immediately followed by brunch at Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield. The Mass is open to all healthcare workers and the general public.

"Lessons Learned Caring for Boston's Rough Sleepers" will be the focus of the talk by Dr. O'Connell, assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, who has dedicated his medical career to caring for Boston's homeless.

"Our Holy Father has urged us 'to serve Jesus crucified' in every person who is poor, marginalized and suffering, and to

see the Lord in every excluded person who is hungry, thirsty and abandoned," said Bishop Caggiano. "Dr. O'Connell has inspired us all with his urgent and sacrificial witness to those who often remain invisible in our lives, though they live in plain sight."

"Throughout his 30 years at the helm, Dr. O'Connell has continued to serve on the team of doctors that meets patients on the streets, offering food and warm socks, medical treatment and the support of trusted friends. We have much to learn from him and we welcome his presence at the upcoming White Mass," said the bishop.

Under Dr. O'Connell's leadership, the Boston homeless program has become the country's largest and most comprehensive program of its kind, serving more than 12,000 homeless people a year in two hospital-based clinics and more than 60 shelters and outreach sites.

During the White Mass, the bishop will present the Father Rufin Compassionate Care

Award to one area healthcare professional and another to a healthcare volunteer. The recipients are traditionally drawn from the ranks of physicians, nurses, dentists, healthcare workers or healthcare volunteers in Fairfield County.

The Father Rufin Award is presented to those who exemplify compassionate and loving care for the sick. It is named after the late Father Rufin Kuveikis, a Capuchin Franciscan who served as chaplain at Norwalk Hospital for 18 years. He died in 2008 at age 86.

About Dr. James J. O'Connell, M.D.: Dr. O'Connell graduated summa cum laude from the University of Notre Dame in 1970 and received his Master's degree in Theology from Cambridge University in 1972. After graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1982, he completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). In 1985, Dr. O'Connell began full-time clinical work with homeless individuals as the founding phy-



**JAMES J. O'CONNELL M.D.**

sician of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. With his colleagues, Dr. O'Connell established the nation's first medical respite program for homeless persons with 25 beds in the Lemuel Shattuck Shelter. This innovative program now provides acute and sub-acute, pre- and post-operative, and palliative and end-of-life care in the freestanding 104-bed Barbara McInnis House. Dr. O'Connell has been

featured on ABC's Nightline and in the feature-length documentary "Give Me a Shot of Anything." He has received numerous awards, including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award in 2012 and The Trustees' Medal at the bicentennial celebration of MGH in 2011. Dr. O'Connell has collaborated with homeless programs in many cities in the USA and across the globe, including Los Angeles, London, and Sydney. Dr. O'Connell's book, *Stories from the Shadows: Reflections of a Street Doctor* was published in 2015 in celebration of BHCHP's 30th anniversary.

All healthcare workers and their guests are invited to attend the White Mass. The Mass is also open to the general public. Breakfast tickets are \$35 per person. (Table of 8, \$ 250. Sponsor: \$100 includes 2 brunch reservations and name listed in the program.) Register online at: [www.2018whitemass.org](http://www.2018whitemass.org).

(For further information contact Elizabeth Auda at: 203.416.1636 or email at: [2019whitemass@diobpt.org](mailto:2019whitemass@diobpt.org).) ■

# Update on Abuse Crisis

## Letter from Bishop Caggiano

March 22, 2019

*My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:*

I am writing to provide you an update about our ongoing efforts to address the sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the Diocese of Bridgeport. I specifically wish to address the following topics:

1. Provide an update on the work of Judge Robert Holzberg and his comprehensive report on clergy abuse of minors in our Diocese and the diocesan response to this abuse;
2. The reorganization of our list of credibly accused clergy;
3. Additions to our list of credibly accused clergy;
4. The reporting of names of clergy on whose behalf settlements have been paid;
5. The establishment of a hotline for reporting information to Judge Holzberg related to past clergy abuse of minors in the Diocese; and
6. Three upcoming listening sessions for the faithful of the Diocese.

Each of these initiatives, which is explained in more detail below, is intended to continue our healing journey in an open and transparent manner.

### 1. Judge Holzberg Update

As I reported to you in my letter dated October 3, 2018, the Diocese invited retired Superior Court Judge Robert Holzberg to conduct a comprehensive review of all diocesan files related to the sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the Diocese since its inception in 1953, and the diocesan response to such abuse. That work has begun in earnest by the Judge and his team. The task of identifying and reviewing the documents relevant to this review has been arduous and time-consuming. The attached letter from the Judge provides an update on his progress to date. He projects that his work will be completed no sooner than June 30, 2019. I urge you to read the letter for specific details on the critical work completed to date by Judge Holzberg and his team.

### 2. The Reorganized List of Credibly Accused Clergy

The Diocese has published information on its website regarding credibly accused clergy dating back to 2002. In 2015, the Diocese organized this information and

published a streamlined list on the website in October 2015. We continue to review all of our Safe Environment practices to ensure the utmost transparency, particularly regarding our list of credibly accused clergy. To that end, today I have approved the posting of a reorganized list of credibly accused clergy, divided into the following four categories: (1) Credibly Accused Diocesan Clergy, Living; (2) Credibly Accused Diocesan Clergy, Deceased; (3) Credibly Accused Religious Order Clergy, Living or Deceased; and (4) Credibly Accused Clergy Visiting from Other Dioceses, Living or Deceased. New to this list are the diocesan assignment dates for those credibly accused as well as whether they were subject to a single allegation or multiple allegations of abuse. We believe these changes provide a clearer picture of accused clergy, their assignments and their specific connection to the ministries of the Diocese.

### 3. Updates to the List of Credibly Accused Clergy

Three circumstances have led to the addition of ten names to our list of Credibly Accused Clergy:

- (i) The work of our diocesan Sexual Misconduct Review Board has been expanded to consider allegations of abuse against deceased clergy. Many of these allegations significantly predate the creation of this Board and therefore were not investigated under the guidelines of The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (the "Charter"). These cases have now been reviewed to assess credibility.
- (ii) In the last several months, we have received new allegations of sexual abuse of minors against clergy in our Diocese that date back many years. These reports were forwarded both to civil authorities (the Department of Children and Families) and presented to the Sexual Misconduct Review Board for investigation and a determination of credibility.
- (iii) We have also re-reviewed certain cases in which new information has become available, or further review was deemed necessary. These reviews included allegations against both living and deceased clergy.

In 2002, when the Charter first led to the creation of the Sexual Misconduct Review Board, its stated purpose was to determine the suitability of an accused clergy member to return to ministry. Thus, the Diocese did not present allegations against deceased priests to the Sexual Misconduct Review Board. However, with a renewed focus on survivors of abuse and the need for transparency, I have expanded the scope of the Sexual Misconduct Review Board to review files of accused deceased clergy not previously presented to the Board, a process which was arduous and time consuming. For the diligent work of the Review Board, I am most grateful. Many of the allegations had limited information and necessitated a steadfast focus on the available facts and information. While some may argue that this presents an unfair judgment against clergy unable to defend themselves, be assured that any such case was given careful and thorough consideration before a determination of credibility was established.

With this recently completed review by the Board and its recommendations sent to me regarding credibility, the Diocese is now updating its list to include the names of ten additional priests, nine of whom are diocesan priests (eight deceased and one living) and one is a visiting priest from a Venezuelan diocese who spent only the summer of 1991 in the Diocese of Bridgeport. The one living diocesan priest is retired and has not served in the Diocese since 1984. His faculties were removed in 2004. He was placed on permanent administrative leave as a result of an allegation in 2004 of sexual abuse of a minor dating back to 1976. The Archdiocese of Military Services, where he had served for many years, was notified of the allegation. In 2019, the Review Board reaffirmed the decision that he should remain on permanent administrative leave. This list will continue to be updated as new information or allegations come forward and a determination of credibility is made.

### 4. Settlements Paid

As mentioned above, the Diocese has now published an additional list that includes the names of all clergy on whose behalf settlements were reached because of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor. As a follow-up



to the Financial Report issued on November 1, 2018, I determined that it is important and prudent to disclose the names of all clergy on whose behalf settlements were paid. It is crucial to note that in some cases, a settlement may have been paid as part of a larger global settlement or for strategic or administrative purposes without rendering a finding of credibility against the accused clergy. The Settlement List presents the names of those clergy who were not found credibly accused separately from those who have been credibly accused.

### 5. Reporting Hotline

As a part of Judge Holzberg's review, a confidential hotline has been established. As indicated in his attached letter, the Judge and his team want to encourage the people of the Diocese to speak to them directly regarding what they know of the past sexual abuse of minors by diocesan clergy as well the diocesan response to such abuse.

The hotline, recently announced on the diocesan website, is 1.833.990.0004 and the website on which to make an on-line report is [www.lighthouse-services.com/diobpt](http://www.lighthouse-services.com/diobpt). Despite the confidentiality of this hotline, it is critical to note that any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor that has not been previously reported must be reported to civil authorities. The contact information for the Department of Children and Families is 800.842.2288 and the Office for Safe Environment for the Diocese of Bridgeport is 1.203.416.1406 or 203.650.3265.

### 6. Listening Sessions

Finally, as your diocesan Bishop, I am committed to hearing your concerns directly as we continue our healing journey together. To that end, I have scheduled three listening

sessions at which I will be available to respond to your concerns and questions.

- **April 3, 7:30 pm** at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield;
- **April 9, 7:30 pm** at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull; and
- **May 1, 6:30 pm** at Immaculate High School in Danbury

While there are many issues associated with this crisis to be dealt with on both the global and national levels, I remain determined to move forward with whatever tangible steps are possible to address this grave matter in the Diocese of Bridgeport. I encourage you to attend one of these listening sessions.

I have been both humbled and gratified by the steadfast support and encouragement I have received from the people of the Diocese in our common effort to heal our Diocese and our Church. Most of all, I am deeply grateful to those men and women who have suffered at the hands of their abusers and are now working actively to serve as advocates and agents of healing. Their generosity of spirit and commitment are for me both a personal inspiration and a sign of great hope.

As your Bishop, I am committed to remaining transparent and instituting whatever change is needed to better respond to those affected by abuse. I recognize that any restoration of trust will require a continued diligent effort on my part, as well as on the part of all of us who love the Church.

During these difficult days, please be assured of my prayers for you and your families. I also ask that you continue to pray for the lay leadership of the Church, our clergy and for me.

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

*Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport*

# Update on Abuse Crisis



March 19, 2019

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport  
238 Jewett Avenue  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606

*Dear Bishop Caggiano:*

Let me take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the efforts we have undertaken to fulfill your mandate to provide you and the Diocese with a comprehensive, detailed and transparent investigation and report with respect to clergy sexual abuse of minors, and the Diocese's response to that conduct, for the period 1953-present. This is a significant undertaking and we appreciate the full and enthusiastic cooperation we have received from the leadership and staff of the Diocese to date.

The scope of our undertaking is extensive, involving review of thousands of files, hundreds of thousands of individual documents, inspection of offsite locations such as Parish offices and files, the capture and review of electronically stored information, interviews with key participants, review and analysis of past and current sexual abuse and reporting policies, and upon completion of the data gathering portion of the process, reviewing, analyzing, synthesizing and reporting out our findings and conclusions.

In accordance with the foregoing we have been focused, in the initial four months of our investigation, with data collection which include the following efforts:

1. Meetings and interviews with you and your leadership team, other key Diocesan officials and inspections of the diocesan headquarters and file storage areas.
2. Meetings with current and former counsel for the Diocese as well as counsel for those bringing claims against the Diocese.
3. Outreach to victims/survivors of clergy abuse, and the members of the Diocese, through individual meetings as well as the anticipated launch of a dedicated complaint phone line and email address by the end of March.
4. Review of archival material at the Catholic Center, including Bishop and senior leadership files, legal correspondence, litigation files and previously collected data from court proceedings. All relevant files and computer files have been electronically scanned/imaged and will be electronically analyzed using criteria relevant to the scope of the investigation.
5. The capture of electronically stored information on the Diocese email system, website, cloud storage system and personal devices.

Following the data collection phase, described above, we will shortly begin the review and analysis phase of our investigation. The analysis of the data and information that has been collected is a challenge both in terms of time and efficiency. We have retained nationally recognized data-analytic experts whose software has the ability to review and analyze in a fraction of the time the massive amount of data, both electronic and paper, that human review would require.

At the conclusion of this process, we will provide to you and your parishioners a detailed, comprehensive report outlining the history of clergy sexual abuse of minors from 1953-present and the Diocese response to such abuse. I am of course always available to speak with you about our progress and the process going forward. Thank you again for the opportunity and the honor to work on a project of this importance.

*Sincerely yours,*

Robert L. Holzberg

## Bishop calls for Listening Sessions

### Sexual Abuse Crisis Listening Sessions

The past few months have been a time of crisis in the Church with local, national and international stories calling for a complete accounting of the sexual abuse issue. In order to better inform people throughout the diocese and listen to their concerns, Bishop Caggiano has announced three upcoming Listening Sessions:

**April 3, 7:30 pm**  
at Notre Dame High School  
in Fairfield

**April 9, 7:30 pm**  
at St. Joseph High School  
in Trumbull

**May 1, 6:30 pm**  
at Immaculate High School  
in Danbury

Bishop Caggiano will personally respond to all questions and

discuss the administrative and spiritual actions he has taken to restore trust. Members of the diocesan leadership team will also be on hand to answer questions and provide information about Safe Environments and the many steps the diocese has taken to protect children and provide full transparency and accountability.

All are welcome. ■



## DIocese ABUSE INVESTIGATION: HOTLINE AND EMAIL INFORMATION

**Retired Superior Court Judge Holzberg** is conducting an investigation into clergy sexual abuse of minors and the Diocesan response to that abuse. In order to fully include the voices of survivors and others affected by this abuse in his report, his team has established **toll free call in lines** for any person who wishes to provide information related to past incidents of abuse or their experience with the Diocese in regards to such abuse. Survivors and witnesses are encouraged to report as follows:

**ONLINE:** [www.lighthouse-services.com/diobpt](http://www.lighthouse-services.com/diobpt)

**TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE:**

- **English speaking USA and Canada: 833-990-0004**
- **Spanish speaking USA and Canada: 800-216-1288**
- **Spanish speaking Mexico: 01-800-681-5340**
- **French speaking Canada: 855-725-0002**

**E-MAIL:** [reports@lighthouse-services.com](mailto:reports@lighthouse-services.com) (must include Diocese of Bridgeport with report)

**FAX:** 215-689-3885 (must include Diocese of Bridgeport with report)

Once the contact is made either Judge Holzberg or one of his team will contact you directly.

When contacting the hotline, an individual may or may not choose to identify him or herself. However, anonymous reports involving sexual abuse of a minor significantly limit the ability to investigate a complaint and potentially prevent further harm to minors. We urge individuals to consider this when reaching out to the Judge and his team.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY NEW ALLEGATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING YOUR LOCAL POLICE OR THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (**Care line 1-800-842-2288**). IN ADDITION, THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT ENCOURAGES ALL SURVIVORS OF CLERGY ABUSE OF MINORS THAT HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THIS ABUSE TO CONTACT THE DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE (203- 650-3265 or 203-241-0987).

# Annual Catholic Appeal

## 'A spirit of giving'

By **JOE PISANI**

For Carol Calandra, the perfect parish priest was her uncle, Father Frank Lynch, who served many years in the Diocese of Brooklyn. In good times and in bad, in small ways and in big, he ministered to people. He was there to give them the sacraments, to hear their confessions, to listen to their problems, to offer help when help was needed. Irish through and through, he traveled to Mexico in the 1950's to learn Spanish so he could



CAROL AND CONRAD CALANDRA

better serve his parishioners.

"He was bigger than life and when you have someone like that and see the influence he had on other people's lives, it makes a big difference," Carol said. "You could see the image of Christ in him."

When Father Lynch retired from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Astoria, he moved to Florida where he continued to help people until he died five years ago.

One of his favorite sayings was "When we give, we get back tenfold." Because that's just the way God works.

His example of service and giving has been a lifelong inspiration for Carol and Conrad Calandra of St. Lawrence Church in Shelton, who are the lay co-chairs of the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal: "Joy in Christ Our Gift to Share," which has set a \$10 million goal for 14 parishes.

Pamela Rittman, director of Development and the Annual Catholic Appeal for the Diocese of Bridgeport, said, "The Annual Catholic Appeal and our Capital Campaign are closely aligned in their support for the mission of the Church today and in the future. The Appeal responds to the day-to-day, ongoing needs of our diocese, while Capital Campaign gifts enable us to "Stand with Christ" for future and long-term needs. Together they answer the generational challenge issued by our bishop as part of his vision of evangelization and renewal."

She said that gifts to the Appeal support Catholic Charities' nutrition, housing and counseling programs by nourishing the hungry, sheltering the homeless and strengthening families and individuals, in addition to assisting many other ministries and services.

Carol and Conrad, who served as parish chairs at St. Lawrence and vice co-chairs for the 2017 and 2018 appeals, have seen firsthand the good works that the Appeal supports...at St. John Fisher Seminary, Merton House, the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy priests' retirement residence, the Choir for Youth and many other places.

They were especially moved when they visited Catholic Charities in Danbury and met a woman doing outreach to the homeless.

"We toured the facilities and she explained what they did," Conrad said. "It struck me as I was listening to her what the Appeal really meant. She would give socks to the homeless and went to find them in the woods where they camped out and brought them back for meals. It was amazing."

Carol said, "We saw the outreach, the counseling and the meals they served in the morning to people off the streets. Everybody deserves a chance in life and some people have had it pretty rough."

For Carol, the Appeal is all about works of mercy and respecting the human dignity of others. "That is what we are called to do—to help those who can't help themselves and to give them a helping hand so their lives can flourish," she said. "And we are called to help one another, not just Catholics."

She adds, "Our county is so diverse, with some of the highest capital wealth and some of the most underserved. That is why giving back is so very important to our diocese."

Carol is a partner and group CFO at Ernst & Young in Manhattan, a trustee at St. Lawrence and member of the Parish Council. Conrad is

*The 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal, "Joy in Christ, Our Gift to Share" raised \$11,713,125 in outright gifts and pledges on a goal of \$10 million thanks to the generous donors in the Diocese of Bridgeport. We are grateful for their support.*

*The Appeal enables the Church in the Diocese of Bridgeport to continue its mission of renewal, helping youth develop their minds and grow in faith, feeding and counseling the homeless and hungry who live among us, sustaining our priests, providing Catholic education through scholarships and much more. (To learn more, visit [www.201ACABridgeport.com](http://www.201ACABridgeport.com).)*

*Thanks to our pastors, staff and volunteers who work tirelessly during the Appeal and special thanks to the pastors and parishioners of the first phase of the We Stand With Christ Capital Campaign for meeting and exceeding their Capital Campaign goal and meeting 100 percent of their Annual Catholic Appeal goal.*

### Individual Parish Results

|                                       |   | Pledged                   | Goal     | %       |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------|---------|
| DEANERY A                             | Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport                 | \$21,355                  | \$15,000 | 142.36% |
|                                       | Our Lady of Fatima, Bridgeport                | 32,422                    | 30,000   | 108.07% |
|                                       | Saint Andrew, Bridgeport                      | 73,160                    | 75,000   | 97.55%  |
|                                       | Saint Ann, Bridgeport                         | 30,149                    | 45,000   | 67.00%  |
|                                       | Saint Charles Borromeo, Bridgeport            | 21,684                    | 30,000   | 72.28%  |
|                                       | Saint George, Bridgeport                      | 13,323                    | 17,000   | 78.37%  |
|                                       | Saint Mary, Bridgeport                        | 23,108                    | 28,000   | 82.53%  |
|                                       | Saint Michael the Archangel, Bridgeport       | 39,915                    | 45,000   | 88.70%  |
|                                       | Saint Peter, Bridgeport                       | 32,173                    | 45,000   | 71.50%  |
|                                       | Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Bridgeport | 20,050                    | 18,000   | 111.39% |
| DEANERY B                             | Shrine of Saint Margaret, Bridgeport          | 43,049                    | 33,000   | 130.45% |
|                                       | The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport              | 65,137                    | 95,000   | 68.57%  |
|                                       | Holy Name of Jesus, Stratford                 | 73,991                    | 55,000   | 134.53% |
|                                       | Our Lady of Grace, Stratford                  | 93,146                    | 88,000   | 105.85% |
|                                       | Our Lady of Peace, Stratford                  | 66,981                    | 65,000   | 103.05% |
|                                       | Saint James, Stratford                        | 133,102                   | 130,000  | 102.39% |
|                                       | Saint Joseph, Shelton                         | 73,318                    | 90,000   | 81.46%  |
|                                       | Saint Lawrence, Shelton                       | 216,978                   | 195,000  | 111.27% |
|                                       | Saint Mark, Stratford                         | 152,171                   | 137,000  | 111.07% |
|                                       | Christ the King, Trumbull                     | 75,503                    | 80,000   | 94.38%  |
| DEANERY C                             | Saint Catherine of Siena, Trumbull            | 197,756                   | 190,000  | 104.08% |
|                                       | Saint Jude, Monroe                            | 135,886                   | 190,000  | 71.52%  |
|                                       | Saint Stephen, Trumbull                       | 76,155                    | 125,000  | 60.92%  |
|                                       | Saint Theresa, Trumbull                       | 198,543                   | 182,000  | 109.09% |
| DEANERY D                             | Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman                  | 70,835                    | 65,000   | 108.98% |
|                                       | Immaculate Heart of Mary, Danbury             | 17,575                    | 21,000   | 83.69%  |
|                                       | Saint Edward, New Fairfield                   | 206,809                   | 200,000  | 103.40% |
|                                       | Saint Gregory the Great, Danbury              | 103,866                   | 100,000  | 103.87% |
|                                       | Saint Joseph, Brookfield                      | 145,387                   | 130,000  | 111.84% |
|                                       | Saint Joseph, Danbury                         | 151,255                   | 130,000  | 116.35% |
|                                       | Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, Brookfield        | 70,240                    | 73,000   | 96.22%  |
| DEANERY E                             | Saint Peter, Danbury                          | 132,084                   | 120,000  | 110.07% |
|                                       | Notre Dame, Easton                            | 79,690                    | 115,000  | 69.30%  |
|                                       | Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton                    | 278,292                   | 225,000  | 123.69% |
|                                       | Sacred Heart, Georgetown                      | 74,233                    | 70,000   | 106.05% |
|                                       | Saint Elizabeth Seton, Ridgefield             | 138,488                   | 105,000  | 131.89% |
| DEANERY F                             | Saint Francis of Assisi, Weston               | 108,530                   | 105,000  | 103.36% |
|                                       | Holy Cross, Fairfield                         | 19,451                    | 18,000   | 108.06% |
|                                       | Our Lady of Assumption, Fairfield             | 141,138                   | 150,000  | 94.09%  |
|                                       | Saint Anthony of Padua, Fairfield             | 141,100                   | 140,000  | 100.79% |
|                                       | Saint Emery, Fairfield                        | 21,822                    | 21,000   | 103.91% |
|                                       | Saint Luke, Westport                          | 228,319                   | 225,000  | 101.47% |
|                                       | Saint Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield               | 245,066                   | 200,000  | 122.53% |
|                                       | Saint Aloysius, New Canaan                    | 1,806,563                 | 650,000  | 277.93% |
|                                       | Saint Jerome, Norwalk                         | 98,107                    | 85,000   | 115.42% |
|                                       | Saint John, Darien                            | 366,541                   | 250,000  | 146.62% |
| DEANERY G                             | Saint Joseph, South Norwalk                   | 50,816                    | 55,000   | 92.39%  |
|                                       | Saint Ladislaus, South Norwalk                | 16,885                    | 16,000   | 105.53% |
|                                       | Saint Mary, Norwalk                           | 124,285                   | 107,500  | 115.61% |
|                                       | Saint Philip, Norwalk                         | 77,978                    | 78,000   | 99.97%  |
|                                       | Saint Thomas More, Darien                     | 536,111                   | 500,000  | 107.22% |
|                                       | Saint Thomas the Apostle, East Norwalk        | 92,325                    | 115,000  | 80.28%  |
|                                       | H Holy Name of Jesus, Stamford                | 43,989                    | 42,000   | 104.74% |
|                                       | H Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford          | 89,201                    | 105,000  | 84.95%  |
| DEANERY H                             | H Sacred Heart, Stamford                      | 47,938                    | 45,000   | 106.53% |
|                                       | H Saint Benedict-Montserrat, Stamford         | 43,678                    | 40,000   | 109.20% |
|                                       | H Saint Bridget, Stamford                     | 63,988                    | 58,000   | 110.32% |
|                                       | H Saint Cecilia, Stamford                     | 108,373                   | 105,000  | 103.21% |
|                                       | H Saint Clement, Stamford                     | 55,854                    | 53,000   | 105.38% |
|                                       | H Saint Gabriel, Stamford                     | 65,111                    | 57,000   | 114.23% |
|                                       | H Saint Leo, Stamford                         | 474,740                   | 325,000  | 146.07% |
|                                       | H Saint Mary, Stamford                        | 43,252                    | 45,000   | 96.12%  |
|                                       | H Saint Maurice, Stamford                     | 61,635                    | 60,000   | 102.73% |
|                                       | DEANERY I                                     | I Sacred Heart, Greenwich | 50,293   | 50,000  |
| I Saint Agnes, Greenwich              |   | 49,475                    | 55,000   | 89.95%  |
| I Saint Catherine of Siena, Riverside |   | 213,451                   | 200,000  | 106.73% |
| I Saint Mary, Greenwich               |   | 402,839                   | 400,000  | 100.71% |
| I Saint Paul, Greenwich               |   | 130,775                   | 116,000  | 112.74% |
| I Saint Roch, Greenwich               |   | 63,839                    | 55,000   | 116.07% |

Unspecified \$66,851

Total \$9,528,125

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

# Parish News

## St. Jude Parish celebrates 30 years of Living Stations

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

MONROE—The Living Stations at St. Jude Parish in Monroe has become a traditional part of the Holy Week Liturgy. Parishioners begin practicing right after Ash Wednesday in order to be prepared for the event, which includes narration, prayer and liturgical music.

For the 30th year, this Good Friday, April 19, at 7 pm, St. Jude Parish in Monroe will celebrate the Living Stations, once again.

Father Henry Hoffman, pastor of St. Jude Parish, describes the Living Stations as “an extremely emotionally moving event.”

“Since I have been at this parish, I have been impressed at how participation in the Living Stations has brought together faith-filled parishioners and fami-

lies,” says Father Hoffman.

For 20 years, parishioners of all ages have taken on the integral roles of participants in the Way of the Cross including Jesus, the



Roman soldiers, Pontius Pilate, the Blessed Mother, the disciples and the women and children.

“On the evening of Good Friday, many children, teens, young adults and seniors come

together to follow the Way of the Cross, not simply as observers but as active participants. This parish activity makes the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday here at St. Jude’s even more meaningful for everyone when we can proclaim as a parish community ‘Alleluia, Jesus is risen,’” says Father Hoffman.

Established in 1973 by Bishop Walter W. Curtis, St. Jude Parish is located at 707 Monroe Turnpike (Rt. 111), Monroe, CT 06488.

*(St. Jude’s Living Stations is open to the public. All are invited to attend. For more information, call the Parish Office at: 203.261.6404.)* ■

## Let us follow His footsteps

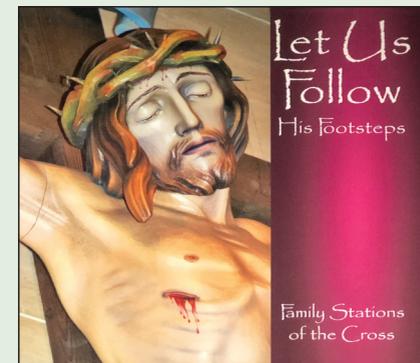
By ELIZABETH CLYONS

NORWALK—The youth of St. Matthew parish have been hard at work recording “Let us Follow in His Footsteps,” a family Stations of the Cross CD, featuring hymns and prayers by the youth.

“This CD is an opportunity to inspire your faith this Lent as you pray with your family to reflect on the sufferings of Jesus on the Way to Calvary,” said Father Tomi Thomas, who wrote and directed the CD. “The meditations, prayers and songs remind us that we, too, are called to carry the Cross along with Jesus in our daily family lives.”

Available February 23, this CD is a great opportunity to lead your families in prayer this Lent. You can pop in the CD at home with your family or while you drive to work to pray, reflect and grow closer to Christ through the season.

*(For more information email: RamonaBouffard@wmconnect.com. A stipend is requested to cover the cost of production.)* ■



## Magnificat Breakfast to celebrate ‘Saintly’ life

TRUMBULL—Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women will host a prayer breakfast on Saturday April 27, 9:30 am-12:30 pm at Tashua Knolls Golf Club in Trumbull.

The mother and sister of the late Joseph Reali of Woodbury, New York, will serve as the featured speakers. Joseph, who passed away in at the age of 25, has been called the American Frassati after Blessed Pier Giorgio, and is thought by many people to have been a saint.

The Knights of Columbus have produced a film about Mr. Reali’s life, “Not your average Joe,” which will be screened at the breakfast.



“The film tells the amazing story of how he lived his life with passion and brought so many back and to the Catholic Faith. An incredible life of living in the world yet so passionate about loving Jesus and Mary and the Saints,” said Fran Hood, Magnificat Coordinator.

“Joseph Reali was known for his Love of Life and Love of Christ and his story would be an inspiration to those attending a Magnificat Breakfast. During his short 25 years on earth Joe became a Knights of Columbus and was also considering the priesthood,” Hood said.

“Joseph was a light in the world,” said his sister Luciana Corsello. “He received God’s love through the sacraments, especially confession and the Holy Eucharist, and radiated it to everyone he met.”

The Knights featured Joseph Reali in their online video series called “Everyday Heroes.” They also have dedicated in his name the newest council on Long Island named The Joseph Mario Reali Council 16261.

Tickets for the breakfast cost \$25. Pre register by April 19. No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, call Fran Hood at: 203.744.1856 or email s.m.hood@sbcglobal.net. Mail the reservation form and check to: Magnificat Bridgeport Diocese, CT, c/o Pat Paniccia, 25 Easton Road, Monroe, CT 06468.

*(For more information visit their website at: www.magnificat-ministry.net.)* ■

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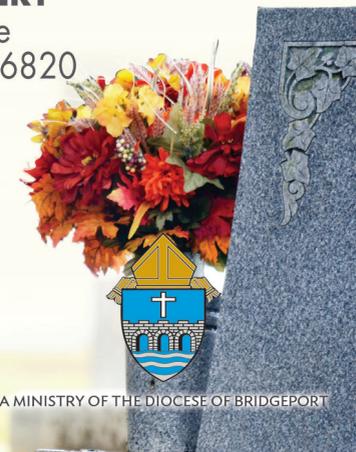
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# St. Catherine Parish, Trumbull

## St. Catherine's puts 'Christ at the Center'

By JOE PISANI

TRUMBULL—Father Joseph Marcello has made pilgrimages to the tomb of St. Andre Bassette in Montreal, the shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Maryland and the tomb of St. Catherine of Siena in Rome and prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary for a very special intention... the success of a project he believes will be spiritually transformative for his parish, St. Catherine of Siena.

For months, the blue vigil lamp burned in front of the statue of St. Joseph for an initiative called "Christ at the Center," which had as its goal putting the tabernacle at the center of the sanctuary, framed by a majestic high altar built from 20 tons of limestone and marble.

His prayers were answered. The project is complete, and after several years of praying, planning, fund-raising, collaborating with parishioners, architects and builders, the church was consecrated on March 24 by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

"We called it 'Christ at the Center' because, above all, each one of us needs always to grow in our understanding that Jesus



(Above) FATHER JOSEPH MARCELLO with his nieces Madisen (center) and Olivia Palmieri. (Right) Father Joseph Marcello with Robert Cavallero, director of parish operations.

Christ is the center of our lives, of our families and of the life of our parish," Father Marcello said. "Locating the tabernacle, which contains Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, at the center of our sanctuary is an important and very consequential reflection of that."

However, the project entailed much more than merely moving the tabernacle from a side chapel into the sanctuary.

Father Marcello says, "It will be a catechism in stone that tells

the story of our faith and honors Our Lord. This is a design that our ancestors in the faith would recognize and something our children will be proud of."

The main architectural feature is a large "retablo," which is constructed from 17 tons of limestone and provides a frame above and behind the Altar of Sacrifice and the crucifix. The inspiration

for the design came from the altar of Our Lady, Health of the Roman People, at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. The design for St. Catherine's is "fresh and timeless and completely organic" because it looks as if it has always been there, Father Marcello says. On top of the reta-



blo is the dove of the Holy Spirit, which is original to the church.

A new tabernacle, which uses the doors of the previous one, sits on a pedestal behind the new Altar of Sacrifice made in Italy from marble that came from quarries outside of Florence used by Michelangelo. The altar has a grill in the front through which can be seen a relic of St. Catherine of Siena, contained in a sunburst held aloft by two bronze angels.

The piece of bone of the church's patron saint was given to the parish by the Dominican General in Rome. There is also a statue of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, and a relic of him within the altar. Shrines in honor of the Blessed Virgin and Saint Joseph are on the left and right of the sanctuary.

The crucifix has a newly designed walnut slab with the inscription in Hebrew, Latin and Greek modeled after an extant piece of the original wood preserved in the Church of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem in Rome.

The side chapel, which had previously been the Eucharistic chapel, has been transformed into the Memorial Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a special place of prayer for the deceased. The altar from a 1997 renovation has been moved there, and above it is a triptych containing the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

with images of angels on either side, one holding the implements of the Passion and the other St. Catherine's Church being presented to the Sacred Heart.

On display in the Memorial Chapel are flags honoring veterans, first responders and law enforcement officials, along with a mosaic of Our Lady in memory of children who have died from still-birth, miscarriage and abortion, a book containing names of those who have been buried from the church, and memorial plaques in honor of deceased parishioners.

The original Stations of the Cross have been reframed and now include meditations by Blessed John Henry Newman.

Several years ago, Father Marcello began discussing the idea for the "Christ at the Center" project with Fathers Luke Suarez and Philip Bochanski and Deacon Patrick Toole. After Christmas 2016, they contacted noted Catholic architect Duncan Stroik of the University of Notre Dame, who visited the church and developed several prospective designs.

"We wanted something that would look natural, as if it had always been there, something that would draw the eye to the tabernacle and the crucifix, and make the area as beautiful and prayerful as possible," Father Marcello said.

The plan was announced on the Solemnity of the Assumption in 2017 and work began a year later. The project was financed entirely through legacy gifts from parishioners, including Father Marcello's parents, Joseph and Ellen, who gave the St. Joseph shrine. Bishop Caggiano consecrated the church on March 24, "bringing to fruition these last 60 years of work and prayer and faith in the parish," Father Marcello said, adding that it has built upon the renovation undertaken by the previous pastor, Monsignor Richard Shea, in 1997.

The project is particularly meaningful to Father Marcello, who was named pastor on January 31, 2015 and has been a member of the St. Catherine community since he was a kindergartner at the school, where his great aunt was secretary. He notes that attending St. Catherine School has been a family tradition. He and his sister Lisa Palmieri stud-

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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# Respect Life

## Local premiere of 'Unplanned' movie

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

TRUMBULL—On a bus ride back from this year's March for Life, Dave Janny and ten other members of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull had the chance to view a movie trailer that made them wonder what they could

do to insure that others might be impacted by its message.



a former director of a Planned Parenthood center. The St. Theresa Knights of Columbus Council #8013 hosted a sneak preview event to promote the national release of "Unplanned" at The Klein Memorial Auditorium in Bridgeport on Tuesday, March 19.

do to insure that others might be impacted by its message.

"We felt that it was a perfect opportunity to help show the movie and wanted to help make it as successful as possible," says Janny, a member of the St. Theresa Knights of Columbus Council #8013, a strong pro-life council.

The trailer was for the movie "Unplanned," which is based on the true events of Abby Johnson's life and her change of heart as

The proceeds of this fundraising event will go towards the purchase of tickets for premiere week to be distributed to parish and pro-life groups throughout Connecticut. The goal is to create theater buyouts and increase awareness of the movie, which will premiere on Friday, March 29. "It is our hope that this will allow us to purchase a percentage of tickets for groups, parishes and organizations who want to create a theater buyout or attend

the movie as a group," remarked Janny. Council #8013 would like to buy at least 25 percent of tickets for a theater buyout or group ticket purchase upon the movie's release.

"Theater buyouts are the best way to promote the movie in Connecticut and insure that it has the longest possible run in theaters," says Janny. "We're hoping to make this one of the biggest and best pro-life events in Connecticut history," Janny remarked, explaining that it is the council's hope that this event will act as a unifier for the pro-life movement in Connecticut.

The pre-screening event began with a mini pro-life rally, which featured distinguished pro-life speakers. Representatives from the Knights of Columbus and the Diocese of Bridgeport, as well as Hopeline Pregnancy Research Center and Malta House were there to talk about their cause and their involvement in the pro-life movement.

"We wanted to encourage as many people to come to the fundraiser, to create group purchases or theater buyouts...but most of all, we encourage people to go see the movie," remarked Janny.

This film is rated R. The USCCB has released a memo, indicating the film's intense and graphic content. From the memo:

"An earlier version of the film viewed by some USCCB staff contained graphic content and emotionally and psychologically intense scenes." The USCCB warns that the film does not contain a trigger warning. A trigger can cause a person to experience a flashback and relive the trauma. It is a decision for prayer and discernment as to whether to view the film or invite others to a film that could provoke intense reactions.

*(If you would like help organizing an "Unplanned" theater buyout in your area, please contact Dave Janny at: 203.856.8496 or djdj00414@gmail.com or Maureen Ciardiello, coordinator of Respect Life Ministry for the Diocese of Bridgeport at: 203.416.1445 or mciardiello@diobpt.org. If you were not able to attend our movie sneak preview event but would like to support our effort with a donation, visit: www.squareup.com/store/st-theresa-knights-of-columbus-8013.)*

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*For more information contact Austin Ryan  
[austin.ryan@foundationsineducation.org](mailto:austin.ryan@foundationsineducation.org) or call 203.416.1671*

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**Gala Committee:**  
*Chair: The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano*

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Christine & David Cappiello | Janet & Gerald Catenacci        |
| Mary & Brian Donovan        | Xandy & Jack Duffy              |
| Sarah & Matthew Fair        | Elise & Glenn Major             |
| Lynn & Frank Mara           | Lisa Ferraro & Michael Martino  |
| Paula & Tom McNerney        | Michele & John Mitola           |
| Jody & John Myers           | Gina & David Orticelli          |
| Jane & Mark Pompa           | Lisa & Joe Purcell              |
| Barbara & Peter Ripp        | Martha & Gerry Robilotti        |
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## EDITORIAL

Update on Diocesan  
Response to the Crisis

This issue features the latest update on the diocesan response (see pages 4-5) to the clerical sexual abuse crisis. The letter by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano focuses on the revision and reorganization of the list of credibly accused clerics, the establishment of a crisis line and the announcement of a series of listening sessions for the faithful of the diocese to come forward, ask questions and share their concerns.

Over the last several months, the diocese has received many calls and letters concerning the abuse issue. First and foremost people want assurance that diocese is doing everything to protect young people. They also want the full story of abuse and the assurance that people are being held accountable.

The bishop hasn't simply condemned abuse in strongest language, he has also taken measures to address every aspect of the crisis and he has promised spiritual and administrative actions to bring healing and reconciliation.

The latest update is another delivery on that promise. Nothing can undo the suffering of victims, nor the distress experienced by all the faithful—from the people in the pew to the good and faithful priests. It may take generations for the Church to come to terms with the crisis, but our bishop has understood that renewal begins with total transparency and accountability, a reaching out to victims, the continuous strengthening of safe environments—and the healing of one person at a time.

We are fortunate to have his leadership during this most difficult time. Through his and the efforts of so many others, we remain hopeful that the Church can grow stronger, more faithful, and be purified.

## Mass of Healing

If you haven't attended one of the diocesan Healing Mass for Survivors of Sexual Abuse, you might want to join Bishop Caggiano and others on Sunday, April 7th, 2 pm at St. Joseph Church, 8 Robinson Avenue, Danbury. All are welcome. The Healing Mass, planned by members of the diocesan Survivors of Sexual Abuse as Minors by Priests, is a sign of hope, and an opportunity for all of us to stand in solidarity with the abused.

Members of the survivors planning committee will perform the readings, lead the Prayers of the Faithful and speak briefly after Mass. In spite of their suffering, they have courageously stepped forward to help protect others and work for healing.

Bishop Caggiano has spoken eloquently of his own gratitude for the survivors: "I am deeply grateful to those men and women who having suffered at the hands of their abusers and are now working actively to serve as advocates and agents of healing. I am blessed to work with such men and women who have become both my collaborators in ministry and my friends. True Christian discipleship is lived when a person is able take the sufferings that he or she has endured in life, and to allow those sufferings to become the vehicle of healing for someone else. Such disciples are for me both a personal inspiration and a sign of great hope."

We are blessed by their witness and generosity of spirit as they help the entire Church to move forward by reclaiming their voices and affirming their faith. The best way to share in that hope is to attend the Healing Mass.

## Ashes &amp; Glory

"*Sic transit Gloria mundi*," so passes the Glory of the world," Bishop Caggiano said, when he began his Ash Wednesday homily with this simple Latin phrase, which was used for nearly 660 years each time a bishop assumed the throne of Peter. The bishop noted that for all the pomp, circumstance, glory and power that the new Peter would receive, the words were recited to remind him that much of what the world considers to be glory will end up in ashes.

"We've come here in the beginning of this time of penance to be reminded of the same thing. We enter into the desert for forty days and forty nights so that we may come to the cross of Jesus Christ renewed with our minds and hearts clear that we do not place our trust in the glory of *mundi* but in the glory of *Christi*."

We begin Lent mindful that we have all at times chosen the glory of this world over the will of God. Let us be resolved to end Lent not being afraid of the words *sic transit Gloria mundi*, because we will have already left the glories of the world behind to embrace the One who is our Glory, our hope and our salvation. ■



## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

## PASTOR

FATHER ROJIN  
ZACHARIAS KARICKAL  
MAMMACHAN, from  
Parochial Vicar, Saint Jerome  
Parish, Norwalk, to Pastor,  
Saint Jerome Parish, Norwalk.  
Effective date is May 15.

## MONSIGNOR

CHRISTOPHER J. WALSH,  
from Parochial Administrator,  
Saint Charles Borromeo Parish,  
Bridgeport and Academic Dean  
of Saint John Fisher Seminary  
Residence, Stamford, to Pastor,  
Saint Charles Borromeo Parish,  
Bridgeport. Effective date was  
January 25. Monsignor Walsh  
will remain Theological Advisor  
to the Bishop.

## DEAN

FATHER MICHAEL P.  
NOVAJOSKY, to Dean,  
Queen of Peace Deanery.  
Effective date was February 14.

FATHER MICHAEL K.  
JONES, to Dean, Mystical  
Rose Deanery. Effective date  
was February 14.

FATHER PETER A.  
CIPRIANI, to Dean, Queen  
Assumed into Heaven Deanery.  
Effective date was February 14.

FATHER BOSE RAJA  
SELVARAJ, to Dean, Mary,  
Mother of the Church Deanery.  
Effective date was February 14.

DIRECTOR  
OF SAINT EDMUND CAMPION  
PROGRAM OF DISCERNMENT

FATHER PAUL N. CHECK,  
to Director of the Saint  
Edmund Campion Program

of Discernment. Effective date  
is June 30. Father Check will  
remain Rector of Saint John  
Fisher Seminary Residence.

## PAROCHIAL VICAR

FATHER JOSEPH A. GILL,  
from Episcopal Chaplain to both  
Trinity Catholic High School  
and the Catholic Academy of  
Stamford, to Parochial Vicar,  
The Basilica of Saint John the  
Evangelist, Stamford. Effective  
date was March 1.

## TRIBUNAL

FATHER WILLIAM M.  
QUINLAN, to Promoter of Justice.  
Effective date was January 30.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

FATHER ROLANDO ARIAS,  
from Parochial Vicar, Saint  
Mary Parish, Greenwich, to  
Graduate Studies in Rome.  
Effective date is June 30.

FATHER WILLIAM M.  
QUINLAN, from Pastor, Saint  
Gabriel Parish, Stamford and  
Parochial Administrator, Saint  
Cecilia Parish, Stamford, to  
Graduate Studies in Rome.  
Effective date is June 30.

## PRIEST RETIREMENT

FATHER DAVID  
BLANCHFIELD, from Pastor,  
Saint Jerome Parish, Norwalk,  
to retirement. Effective date is  
May 15.

FATHER JAMES COLE, from  
ministry at Immaculate High  
School, to retirement. Effective  
date is June 30.

## DIACONATE OFFICE

DEACON GERALD  
LAMBERT, from Coordinator

of Diaconate Formation, to  
Coordinator of Diaconate  
Formation and the Diaconate  
Office. Effective date was  
February 1.

DEACON JOHN C.  
DITARANTO, to Coordinator  
of Diaconate Continuing  
Formation. Effective date was  
February 1.

## DEACON

DEACON MICHAEL JAMES  
VIAN CLARK, new transitional  
deacon, to Episcopal Chaplain  
to both Trinity Catholic High  
School and the Catholic Academy  
of Stamford. Effective date  
was February 2. Deacon Clark  
will reside at Saint John Fisher  
Seminary Residence, Stamford.

DEACON GERALD  
LAMBERT, from Saint Mary  
Parish, Ridgefield, to Saint  
Theresa Parish, Trumbull.  
Effective date was February 18.

## DEACON RETIREMENT

DEACON SANTOS GARCIA,  
from The Cathedral Parish,  
Bridgeport, to retirement.  
Effective date was February 28.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

FATHER ANDREW A.  
VILL, from Parochial Vicar,  
The Basilica of Saint John the  
Evangelist, Stamford, to leave  
of absence. Effective date was  
March 1. The leave of absence is  
for a period of four months for  
discernment with the communi-  
ty of Los Hermanos del Amor  
Misericordioso in Getafe, Spain.

Monsignor Thomas W. Powers  
Vicar General, March, 2019

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# Editorial



## The earth reflects His glory

### A YOUNG WOMAN'S VOICE

BY ELIZABETH CLYONS

*Libby Clyons is Communications Associate for the Diocese of Bridgeport. She can be reached at [elizabeth.clyons@diobpt.org](mailto:elizabeth.clyons@diobpt.org).*

If you know me, you know I love to be outside. I could walk for hours just taking in the beauty of nature. It is often in nature that I witness God's presence most of all. Gazing on the beauty of His creation can bring a sense of peace, along with a sense of wonder and awe that makes me say, "God, I know you must be there."

This love of nature has lent itself well to my enjoyment of

photography. Capturing the beauty of God's creation with the right combination of light at the perfect angle seems, in a way, to be a nod to Him. Almost as if each picture is a way of saying, "thank you, I appreciate the beauty of your creation."

Over a year ago, I had the privilege of joining a group of young adults from around the diocese on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This was something I

never thought I would be able to do and an experience I am forever grateful to have had.

I never really imagined what it would be like to travel to the Middle East. Any image I had ever seen of that area of the world seemed barren and even dangerous.

That being said, one of the things that surprised me most about being there was the sheer beauty of the land around us. Each place we went was more beautiful than the next. We were surrounded by palm trees, lush vegetation and sunsets over the sea. Even the desert, which most would expect to be dry and void of life, was absolutely breathtaking.

When I'm reading the Gospels, I often picture the places that we traveled to. I look back at the pictures I took as reminders. It makes a difference knowing they are real, tangible, beautiful places.

This seems especially heightened during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Having been there makes it all the more real, even though it all occurred some two thousand years ago.

The forty days of Lent mirror the forty days that Jesus was tempted by the devil in the desert. We know it is a real place. We know because we've been there.

I can't help but picture the Mount of Temptations in Jericho, surrounded by mountains of rock and sand. We hiked up to a monastery build high up in that rock. Although the monastery and the buildings below it would not have been there when Jesus was, it wasn't hard to imagine what the land might have looked like at the time. It makes a difference knowing it was a real place.

It helps the Gospels come alive when we can picture an actual place in which they

occurred. When the Pharisees tried to silence the crowd of disciples upon our Lord's entry into Jerusalem, Jesus responded, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out" (Luke 19:40). I believe it. The earth reflects His glory. His creation can be a prayer, wherever you may be.

He has made all ground holy: Every time we watch a sunrise or a sunset. Every time we walk by the beach or hike up a mountain. Every time we witness the change of seasons; the fresh fallen snow, a tree of bright orange leaves or the first buds of spring.

As Thomas Merton wrote, "Let me seek, then, the gift of silence and poverty and solitude, where everything I touch is turned into prayer: where the sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayer, the wind in the trees is my prayer, for God is all in all." ■



## Failure is a teacher

### A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

*Matthew Hennessey and his family are parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Stamford.*

This is not a news column. I write here about my family. Sometimes I report on my own struggle to be a good and faithful man in an increasingly weird world. My goal is to do it with a dash of style and a dollop of humor. I never, ever, want to be accused of laying it on too thick. My nightmare is that I'll come across as preachy.

Occasionally a news story comes along, however, that practically stands up on its spindly hind legs and screams: Preach, Brother Matthew!

So, settle in. Here comes a sermon.

The hardest thing to do is watch your kids fail. It goes against every parental instinct. To sit back and watch them fail

at something they want to be good at, that you want them to be good at, or that you and they think they need to be good at, is excruciating.

I am lately reminded of this on Saturday mornings at a local school gym near our house.

Here, Patrick and Sally train for the upcoming Gaelic football season in our new neighborhood. They have no idea what they are doing, and it shows. The kicking, the passing, the dribbling—it's all bad. No bueno. I find it hard to watch.

But as excruciating as it is to stand by and do nothing while your child flails away, it's nothing compared with the upswell of pride you feel when they figure it out. The two things are related: If you can't handle the pain of failure, you can't enjoy the thrill of success.

Some things come easily to some people. That doesn't change the fact that the greatest satisfaction in life comes from overcoming obstacles. Earned success tastes better, even if you have to take a few Gaelic footballs to the face.

God put us here to be fruitful

We know this intuitively.

Sometimes, though, because our lives are chaotic, our intuition goes screwy. We read the instructions upside down. We scramble God's commandments and feed them back to ourselves in simplified form. Usually it amounts to this: Don't hurt anyone. Fine. It's what comes next that that's the killer: Make sure your kids get into good colleges.

It would be so easy to mock the parents who were recently indicted as part of the college admissions scam. They bribed college officials and paid to have people take the SATs for their children. They embarrassed themselves. They conspired to cheat the system because they had the money to do it and the system was open to being cheated.

How easy to laugh, shake your head and say, "What a bunch of idiots!" It's easy to think yourself better than them.

But are you? Am I? Really? Saying I'd never pay \$500,000 to get my kid into USC isn't difficult. I don't have that kind of money, and I'm betting you don't either. It's also quite within my power to say I wouldn't cheat on a test, because cheating is wrong.

That's obvious.

What's not obvious is when to stop yourself from hurting your kids in the guise of helping them. To succeed, first we need to fail. That's the paradox.

Put aside for a moment that those college-scam parents were rich. Put aside that some were famous. Put aside that people get into elite colleges because their grandparents endowed the dining hall.

All true, but put it aside. These parents aren't really so different from the rest of us. They love their kids and want the best for them. They wanted to help them and did the only thing they could think to do, which was to protect them from failure.

That was a mistake, but I'm guessing they realize that now. Failure is a teacher. Failure is a motivator. Failure teaches humility. It even works for parents.

Don't get me wrong. You shouldn't deliberately put obstacles in a kids' way (says the guy who signed his up for Gaelic football). But if you insulate them from failure, you'll insulate them from happiness.

I told you it was going to get preachy around here. I hope I didn't lay it on too thick. ■

**"Some things come easily to some people. That doesn't change the fact that the greatest satisfaction in life comes from overcoming obstacles."**

and multiply. He wrote on your heart and mine how to do it: Have children, love them with all your heart, push them to be the best they can be, forgive them their trespasses, give them an example of goodness to follow.

# Diocesan News

## Rite of Election begins lifelong journey of faith

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

TRUMBULL—“A loving and merciful God wants to lead us to greatness that has nothing to do with us,” Bishop Frank J. Caggiano told more than 250 men, women and young people who are preparing for full communion with the Church at Easter.

Hundreds of faithful including sponsors, family members and friends filled St. Theresa Church, the largest in the diocese, to near capacity for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion service celebrated on March 10 in Trumbull.

“Thank you for saying ‘yes,’ and allowing Jesus to change your life,” the bishop said, cautioning those in attendance not to be impressed with themselves and their own achievements. “The truth is we can do nothing without Jesus.”

During the service, each catechumen (non-baptized person) and candidate (those who were baptized but did not receive further sacraments) is invited to come forward and be welcomed by the bishop in an act of recogni-



tion and admission.

With an emphasis on the need for preparation and readiness, the bishop urged all to continue to grow in the faith and deepen their understanding of God’s gifts to them.

“This is a journey not just to Easter, but to months and years ahead,” the bishop said to those seeking a life of faith and service. “You deserve to be sealed by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and to have a place at the Lord’s Eucharistic table.”

In his homily reflecting on the temptation of Jesus in the Gospel passage (Luke 4:1-13), the bishop said it was important not only to

root out our own sinfulness and weaknesses during Lent, but also to “recognize, celebrate and give back to Jesus your strengths and talents.”

This liturgical rite, traditionally held on the first Sunday of Lent, is part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process. It closes the period of formation and marks the beginning of the period of final preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter.

This year, 36 parishes sent candidates and catechumens to the Rite of Election Ceremony. St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bridgeport has the highest number of people enrolled in its RCIA program with 47 candidates and 17 catechumens.

Rose Talbot-Babey, coordinator of Religious Education, read the names of each elect from the pulpit and called the catechumens, accompanied by their Godparents, to meet the bishop and to sign the “Book of Election,” signifying their interest in joining the Church.

The Presentation of Candidates followed the welcoming of Catechumens. Candidates were accompanied by their priests and pastors as well as sponsors, who were asked to affirm them in unison.

Prayers and readings were said in both English and Spanish, and the church was filled with applause at the conclusion of each rite.

Father Luke Suarez served as Master of Ceremonies. Music was provided by Dr. Carolina Flores, director of music of St. Theresa Parish, and St. Theresa cantor Ava Wing.

In his closing remarks, the bishop thanked Father Brian Gannon, pastor of St. Theresa Parish, and all pastors and priests who accompanied those preparing to enter the Church.

After the ceremony, long lines

formed to personally greet the bishop, with many family members and friends taking photos on the joyful occasion.

(For more information regarding RCIA and Adult Formation, contact Rose Talbot-Babey, Coordinator of Religious Education: 203.416.1648 or [rtalbotbabey@diobpt.org](mailto:rtalbotbabey@diobpt.org).)

### The parishes welcoming candidates and catechumens:

Church of the Assumption Parish, Westport: 1 candidate  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Danbury: 21 candidates, 4 catechumens  
Our Lady of Peace, Stratford: 1 candidate  
Our Lady of the Assumption, Fairfield: 6 candidates  
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Danbury: 3 candidates  
Sacred Heart, Georgetown: 1 catechumen  
Sacred Heart, Stamford: 17 candidates, 1 catechumen  
Saint Aloysius Parish, New Canaan: 2 candidates  
Saint Andrew Parish, Bridgeport: 6 candidates  
Saint Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport: 3 candidates, 4 catechumens  
Saint Cecilia Parish, Stamford: 3 candidates, 1 catechumen  
Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport: 47 candidates, 17 catechumens  
Saint Edward the Confessor Parish, New Fairfield: 2 candidates, 1 catechumen  
Saint Emery Parish, Fairfield: 2 candidates  
Saint Francis of Assisi Parish,

Weston: 1 candidate  
Saint George Parish, Bridgeport: 6 catechumens  
Saint James Parish, Stratford: 1 candidate, 2 catechumens  
Saint John Parish, Darien: 2 candidates  
Saint Joseph Parish, Norwalk: 2 catechumens  
Saint Joseph Parish, Shelton: 11 candidates, 3 catechumens  
Saint Jude Parish, Monroe: 2 candidates  
Saint Ladislaus Parish, Norwalk: 4 candidates  
Saint Mark Parish, Stratford: 1 candidate  
Saint Mary-St. Benedict/Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Stamford: 17 candidates, 3 catechumens  
Saint Mary Parish, Bethel: 2 candidates, 2 catechumens  
Saint Mary Parish, Bridgeport: 8 candidates, 3 catechumens  
Saint Mary Parish, Ridgefield: 3 candidates  
Saint Matthew Parish, Norwalk: 7 candidates  
Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Greenwich: 2 candidates  
Saint Paul Parish, Greenwich: 1 candidate  
Saint Peter Church, Bridgeport: 4 candidates, 13 catechumens  
Saint Peter Church, Danbury: 3 candidates  
Saint Theresa Parish, Trumbull: 10 candidates, 1 catechumen  
Saint Thomas More Parish, Darien: 1 candidate, 1 catechumen  
Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Norwalk: 1 candidate



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## HEALING ANOINTING Mass

Saturday,  
April 6, 2019  
11 a.m.

Saint Francis of Assisi Church  
35 Norfield Road  
Weston, CT 06883

Mass Celebrated by  
Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano

### QUESTIONS?

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# Fairfield University Ignatian Center

## Finding God in all things

By **JOE PISANI**

FAIRFIELD—Ignatian spirituality is centered on the belief that God can be found in all things—the mundane and the monumental, the joys and sorrows of life, and even in suffering, says Father Gerry Blaszczak, S.J., director of the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality of Fairfield University center and vice president for mission and identity at the university.

“God really is involved in the life of each person,” says Father Gerry. “Using Ignatian roadmaps, you try to sensitize the person to be aware and to be able to articulate the experiences that she or he is having of the transcendent God, who is mercifully active in their lives. Ignatius believed that if we pay attention to the interior movements of a person’s life, they will be able to identify and respond more effectively to the call that God is giving them for greater union and communion.”

At the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality of Fairfield University, there are programs for students, adults, parishes and

corporations that include spiritual direction, retreats, religious studies and formation. The most ambitious is known as the “19th Annotation Retreat” or “The Retreat in Daily Life,” which is individually directed and based on models of prayer St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, developed. Since the center was launched in 2014, more than 100 people have participated in the 19th Annotation, which takes about a year to complete and includes weekly meetings with a spiritual director.

Father Denis Donoghue, S.J., associate director of the center, says that the Exercises are the core of who they are as Jesuits. “Through them, you are able to exercise your capacity to find God in all things and learn how to practice spiritual discernment.”

Father Gerry said that people with different spiritual backgrounds and faiths are drawn to the center. Some have solid Catholic formation with a regular prayer life even though it may largely consist of recited prayers; however, as part of their spiritual maturing, they find themselves

hungry for something more.

“They want a deeper, more direct and more personal experience of God and Ignatian spirituality helps them identify God’s presence in their lives,” he says. “With a sizable number of our students—without knowing what it is or Who it is they’re looking for—there is a spiritual hunger. It is a kind of holy discontent.”

The center also offers a formation program for those who want to become spiritual directors. Last December, 12 people, including four deacons from the Diocese of Bridgeport, completed the training, and Bishop Frank J. Caggiano presided over the first certificate awards ceremony.

Sister Karen Doyle, SSJ, who is co-director of the Spiritual Direction Training at the center with Father Gerry, comes from Philadelphia every month to teach and mentor those in formation.

Deacon Patrick Toole, chairman of the advisory board, assisted Father Jim Bowler S.J. in developing the center five years ago because they recognized the need for more spiritual directors.



MURPHY CENTER—Students gather at the newly named Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Fairfield University, which offers programs for students, adults, parishes and corporations that include spiritual direction, retreats, religious studies and formation.

“To me, it is very exciting,” Deacon Toole said. “This is exactly what Bishop Caggiano is calling us to do—evangelize one person at a time.”

Deacon Toole, who has done the 19th Annotation, says the beauty of Ignatian spirituality is that through it, your life becomes a prayer and an offering to God. It also helps people deal with critical issues, such as a health problem, a new job, the death of a loved one, or a personal crisis.

“People who come to the center have a chance to encounter the living Christ through a primary religious experience,” says Father Jerry. “This is a jumping-off point to a yet deeper

companionship with Jesus,”

He points to a wayside cross outside his office and says, “I want people to fall in love with the love of God that is made manifest to us in Jesus because to be fully human is to be conformed to Jesus.”

The center, he says, is a place that shows people another way of what it means to be fully human—a way that does not pursue the false promises of the secular world, such as money, power, fame and honor. Instead, a way that pursues Jesus Christ.

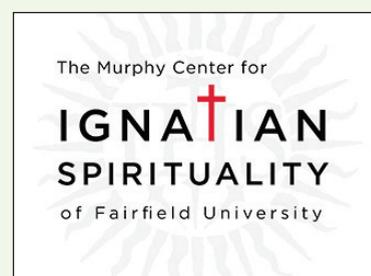
(For more information about the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality, call 203.254.4000 ext. 3468 or visit [www.fairfield.edu/cis](http://www.fairfield.edu/cis).)

## Bishop Caggiano to be honored at Ignatian Center

FAIRFIELD—The Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality Dinner & Award Ceremony Honoring Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be held on April 12, 2019, in the Oak Room in the Barone Campus Center of Fairfield University. A reception is set for 6 pm with dinner to follow at 7.

“Fairfield University’s Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality gratefully recognizes Bishop Frank Caggiano’s enthusiastic support of the Center from its very inception. Over the past years, it has been our privilege to collaborate with Bishop Caggiano in the mission entrusted to him,” said Father Gerry Blaszczak, S.J., director of the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality of Fairfield University.

“We honor Bishop Caggiano for his unflinching



commitment to the growth in Christ of the clergy, religious and laity of Diocese of Bridgeport, whom he has served with outstanding wisdom, courage, fidelity and compassion,” said Father Blaszczak.

Father Robert Kinnally, chancellor of the diocese and pastor St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan and Deacon Patrick Toole, episcopal delegate for administration, Diocese of Bridgeport, are serving as co-chairs of the event.

The Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality offers spir-

itual direction in the Ignatian tradition to guide individuals and groups in their journey toward this encounter, as St. Ignatius did, by “finding God in all things.” As part of this outreach, we also train spiritual directors who can assist in the discernment of God’s direction in their lives.

The Center’s goals are to establish a lasting infrastructure to serve as a repository of the Jesuit values foundational to the culture of Fairfield University. The Center also promotes vibrant expressions of Ignatian spirituality at individual and group levels, both on campus and in parish settings in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

(To make a reservation for the dinner or to learn more, call 203.254.4000 ext.3468 or email [mcis@fairfield.edu](mailto:mcis@fairfield.edu).)

# BRAVE

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BE READY AND VIGILANT EVERYDAY

**1 Today is Ash Wednesday.** As you receive the ashes, intentionally enter into Lent as you remember that Christ died that you may have eternal life.



**2 Repent.** Commit to a daily examination of conscience at the end of the day and resolve to turn away from sin and repent for sins of the past.

**3 Fasting and prayer.** Try going beyond the prescribed Ash Wednesday, Good Friday fasting and abstinence from meat on Fridays and commit to abstaining each Wednesday and Friday in Lent.



**4 Intercede for someone.** Is there a family member or friend who has fallen away from faith? Is there someone struggling with a particular addiction or challenge in his or her life? Pray for that person each day during Lent.



**5 Celebrate the solemnities!** The Solemnity of St. Joseph is on March 19 and the Solemnity of the Annunciation is on March 25. The Virgin Mary's response to the Angel Gabriel was "yes." Spend time asking the Holy Spirit for His leading and then, as Mary did, demonstrate your obedience by saying, "Let it be done to me according to Your word."



**6 Go to confession.** Draw closer to Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially on Monday, April 15th at parishes around the diocese.



**8 Give something up.** When considering what to "give up" during Lent, challenge yourself to choose something that will truly be a sacrifice. Christ sacrificed it all for us. Let's draw closer to Him through joyfully denying ourselves.



**7 Donate.** On days that you commit to fast, place any money saved from meals into a jar. Decide as a family where you would like to contribute the money at the end of Lent.



**9 Volunteer.** Step out and find ways to use your time and talent to serve others by checking out opportunities at your parish or looking at the Catholic Service Corps website for volunteer opportunities.



**10 Attend Adoration.** Find opportunities for Adoration at local churches and spend an hour with Him. Our world is so noisy, and it is difficult in the noise to hear His still, small voice. Enter into silence with Him, the One Who loves you!

**11 Attend Stations of the Cross.** Remember what Christ suffered for love of us.

**12 Pray for others.** Find out if there are people preparing to enter the Church in your parish this Easter. Pray for all those throughout the diocese who will become part of the Catholic Church this Easter!

**13 Read.** Cut back on TV and Netflix binge watching and use the extra time to read Sacred Scripture or books on the Catholic faith.



**14 Play!** Sign up to be part of the Family Bible Challenge at the Leadership Institute.

**15 Discover.** Explore the great outdoors and thank God for the gift of His creation.



**16 Arrive at Mass early.** Spend 10 minutes in prayer before Mass begins to prepare your mind, your heart and your spirit to more intentionally receive Jesus in the Eucharist.



**17 Read the daily Gospel.** Then ask God for what He is saying to you personally through the Gospel reading. Is there a word or a phrase that stands out to you?

**18 Attend an additional Mass.** The Eucharist provides the grace, the life of Christ in us, to help us navigate this world.

**19 Write a letter** to someone who has been helpful or particularly kind to you. Let them know how much you appreciate them.



**20 Recommit yourself.** If you have been challenged in your commitment to "give up" something, challenge yourself to start again.

**21 Spend time as a family** reading and discussing the bible verses in the Family Bible Challenge.



**22 Choose a Bible verse.** Set it as the screensaver or wallpaper on your phone. Each time you open your phone, take the opportunity to remember the verse.



**23 Give thanks.** Remember a time when you were struggling and God met you in the struggle or when you particularly felt His presence with you. Thank Him.

**25 Clean.** Choose an area in your home to clean out. Donate or throw away items and discover how cleaning our physical space can help us to clean out the clutter in our minds.

**28 Show gratitude.** Find an opportunity to thank the priests in your life through cards or inviting them for dinner.

**29 Pray for vocations.** Pray for men to hear and answer the call to the complete self-gift of the priesthood.



**30 Pray the sorrowful mysteries** using a Scriptural Rosary where there is a verse from scripture for each bead.

**33 Listen.** Take a moment to listen to the glorious Exsultet which is chanted at the start of the Easter Vigil. Check out Youtube for recordings of this great prayer.



**34 Learn.** Is there a particular teaching of the Church that challenges you? Bring your concerns to your pastor and ask him to help you better understand the teachings.



**26 Get involved.** If your parish has a Formed membership, sign up and check out all of the great resources to help you grow in your faith including an amazing series called Presence.

**31 Invite a friend to join you** for Easter Mass and include them in your family celebration of Easter.

**35 Participate** in a parish mission, reflection or retreat. Find options at the diocese website.

**36 Attend the Chrism Mass** at 10 am on Holy Thursday at St. Augustine Cathedral. Hear the priest renew their sacred promises and pray with the Bishop as he blesses the Holy Oils to be used in the coming year.

**37 Encourage young people.** Help the next generation to know the Lord's kindness and faithfulness by accompanying them.

**38 Be Reconciled.** Confession will be available in many parishes on Monday of Holy Week. See the Bridgeport Diocese website for locations and times.

**39 Tune in.** Rather than listening to pop music or news on the radio, try listening to Christian music or Catholic Radio during Lent at KLOVE 96.7 on FM, The Message, EWTN Radio or Catholic Radio on Sirius XM.

**40 Rejoice!** Christ is Risen! Alleluia! We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song! Continue to celebrate Easter every day!





# A priest's perspective of the capital campaign

By JOE PISANI

WILTON—When Father Reggie Norman first considered a vocation to the priesthood, he thought about the spiritual benefit he could bring to people, he thought about the charitable acts he could do, but he never thought about repairing the furnace. Or for that matter, replacing pews that were broken after decades of use.

Years later, after having been the administrator and then pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Bridgeport and pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Wilton for six years, you could say his worldview has changed.

“As Catholics, we are not big on preventive maintenance and a lot of times we find ourselves in crisis mode,” he says. “If your furnace goes, it could cost a couple of hundred thousand dollars. And my rule is that if I can fix something today, I will do it because the cost will go up tomorrow.”

As co-chair of the “We Stand With Christ” capital campaign, that is a message he is eager to share with other pastors in the Diocese of Bridgeport and their parishioners.

“You always think ‘I have money,’ but usually you don’t have enough to do all the work that needs to be done,” he says.



FATHER REGGIE NORMAN

“That is why this campaign offers a great opportunity for us to do some real and necessary projects.”

The campaign with a \$75 million goal has already raised more than \$60 million, making it already the largest and most successful campaign in the 64-year history of the diocese.

The “We Stand With Christ” campaign is led by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and a 26-member executive committee with the support of priests, deacons, religious and lay leaders, whose co-chairs are Father Norman and Brian Young of New Canaan.

With the public launch of the campaign, parishioners throughout the diocese are being asked to make a pledge that will benefit the long-term needs of the parishes and essential diocesan ministries.

“I am asking people of faith to join with me in this generational challenge of taking a great leap forward in the evangelical and spiritual renewal of the diocese,” Bishop Caggiano said. “We have accomplished much in the past five years, but there is much

more to do. These are challenging times in the Church and our larger society. Now is the time to accompany each other and all those in need in our spiritual journey and plan for the future.”

With a goal of strengthening parishes, the campaign will designate 50 percent of the funds raised, an estimated \$37.5 million, for parish needs.

The remaining 50 percent will be invested in three foundations: Foundations in Education (\$12.5 million), Foundations in Faith (\$15 million), and Foundations in Charity (\$10 million). Each foundation has its own board of directors.

The campaign is the result of the fourth diocesan synod and the pastoral planning process that followed, which confirmed the need to address educational, charitable, pastoral and parish needs.

“This campaign gives us breathing room to make the necessary repairs, especially in inner-city parishes,” Father Norman said. “If you come into our church, you will see the need. Our buildings take wear and tear and we are doing quite a few projects.”

Among the projects at Our Lady of Fatima are renovations to move the tabernacle to the middle of the sanctuary, replacing old pews with solid red oak, creating a Memorial Garden for those who have lost loved ones, a parking lot renovation and upgrading the sound system.

Father Norman points out that the Annual Catholic Appeal is directed toward those in need, but that there has never been a campaign directed toward the needs of the parishes. And while 50 percent of the funds raised will go to parishes, those that exceed their goals will be award-

ed 75 percent.

“A common problem we have is that a few people are doing a lot, and if everyone got involved, it would help us meet the goal,” he said. “We should try to exceed the goal because this campaign will help tremendously.”

Father Norman said that one of the challenges is that news reporting about scandals in the Church has made people wary of giving.

“People are upset, but they have to realize a lot of those problems happened long ago, and now our diocese is very transparent and we are doing great things,” he said.

In addition, Catholics

grams, hospitals, schools and social service agencies.

“If the Catholic Church went away, what would society look like?” he asks. “We do a great job providing services that most people don’t even realize they are receiving from us. We impact a lot of lives...and that’s what it

means to be my brother’s keeper.”

He also cautions against having a myopic view that focuses solely on your own

parish, adding “That may be your connection to the Church, but you are actually part of something bigger.”

“We are often quick to com-

**“We impact a lot of lives...and that’s what it means to be my brother’s keeper.”**



should never forget the importance of the diocese in caring for the needy and the disadvantaged. Father Norman, who was raised a Southern Baptist and converted to the Catholic faith, said he is proud of what the Church does caring for others through its outreach pro-

plain, but the real solution comes from getting involved,” Father Norman says. “And this campaign is a perfect opportunity for Catholics to get involved to help their parishes, along with the educational, charitable and pastoral needs of the diocese for future generations.”



## Supporting works of Charity

### Foundations in Charity

#### The Challenge

Catholic Charities puts faith into action by providing food, housing, mental health, adoption, immigration and family support services to the needy and vulnerable

#### The Opportunity

As more families turn to Catholic Charities each year, it is critical that we have the resour-



of all faiths in Fairfield County. Faithful to its mission, the impact that Catholic Charities programs has on our brothers and sisters most in need in Fairfield County is indispensable.

In 2018, more than 10,000 people utilized one of our programs. Over 1,300,000 meals were provided, 15,000 counseling sessions were provided, and countless others were sheltered, comforted and supported through one of the numerous agencies in 23 communities in Fairfield County.

The ability to sustain and increase this impact depends on having sufficient financial resources. Last year, Catholic Charities received less than 50 percent of its revenue from government sources. If not for the generosity of the faithful of Fairfield County, countless individuals and families would remain hungry, homeless, or lacking the support they need to tackle life's challenges.

es to respond to their needs. Recognizing that our ever-changing political landscape may affect those resources, it is imperative that we establish permanent sources of revenue to ensure we remain a leading provider of social services in Fairfield County.

#### The Solution

A total of \$10,000,000 is needed to endow the work of Catholic Charities. This endowment, secured in Foundations in Charity, will provide a long-term source of funding to help:

Sustain financial support for food, housing, mental health, adoption, immigration and family services.

Meet the increasing needs of the poor and disenfranchised of Fairfield County who rely on Catholic Charities to offer counsel and assistance in the areas of behavioral health, homelessness, immigration services, hunger, and adoption.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Meals Served  
**1,300,000**

Senior Center Lunches  
**52,000**

Home Delivered Meals for the Elderly  
**91,000**



Preschoolers from low income families educated  
**134**



Holiday Donations Toys  
**2,600**  
Articles of Clothing  
**1,000**

Housing Units  
**120**

Individuals Served  
**240**



Counseling Sessions Provided  
**15,000**

# FOUNDATIONS IN CHARITY

[www.westandwithchrist.org/charity](http://www.westandwithchrist.org/charity)



# Parish Projects

*Editor's note: The \$75 million We Stand With Christ campaign has already raised more than \$60 million in gifts and pledges, making it the most successful campaign in the 64-year history of the Diocese of Bridgeport. This historic success is the result of the 13 pilot parishes that conducted the campaign in 2018, Bishop Caggiano's efforts to secure lead gifts, and from the 70 percent of the parishes in the Diocese that are currently conducting the campaign. The campaign is designating 50 percent of the funds, an estimated \$37.5 million, for parish needs. What follows are the stories of four pilot parishes that conducted the campaign in 2018 and projects they have begun.*



## Our Lady of Guadalupe, Danbury

Father John Perez, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Danbury, knew right from the start what his parish needed the most — a parking lot.

"Our parish is growing, and we have more and more people every day," he said. "There are six masses on the weekend and all of them are really packed." It is, he admits, a good problem to have.

With money from the Capital Campaign, Our Lady of Guadalupe will add almost 90 spaces on parish-owned property to the existing 80.

Father is proud that his parish, with a large population of people from Ecuador, was so successful in the campaign. Their goal was \$542,000, and so far they have raised more than \$1.1 million in pledges.

"This is a very vibrant church, and I have 250 volunteers who help me — Eucharistic ministers, lectors, choir members, catechists,

ushers and almost 40 altar servers," he said. "More than 50 of them helped with the campaign and were happy to talk to others and visit them and spread the word throughout the community."

"They show an amazing faith in God and the Blessed Mother. The campaign helped me to see clearly that there are many people who love the Church in the midst of difficult times. They believe in the Church, in the priests, the bishops and the pope. They are a faithful people."

## St. Margaret Mary, Shelton

Since he was appointed pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church in Shelton in 2014, Father Ciprian Bejan recognized the need to build a parish center.

"Every parish has one, and we didn't," he said. For many years, the hall in the basement of the church was used for catechism classes by placing dividers through the room.



The new parish center is being built where an outdoor pavilion had been, and it will be three times larger. Seven meeting rooms are being constructed to accommodate catechism classes, parish ministries, other groups and church events. They broke ground in December, and the project is expected to be completed in July.

Father is particularly proud of the 35 percent participation rate achieved in the campaign. In addition, the parish reached 170 percent of its goal. As a result, it will receive 75 percent of the contributions above its initial target.

"I have been overwhelmed by the response of the people," Father Ciprian said. "They made a great sacrifice to contribute

to the campaign. Before the campaign began, I had a hard time falling asleep because I was nervous, and at the end of the campaign, I had a hard time falling asleep because I was so overwhelmed by the response and generosity of the people."

## St. Rose of Lima, Newtown

After the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, a Franciscan community from Maryland gave a set of four brass bells to St. Rose of Lima Church, which will be displayed in a Garden of Peace that is being created.

Monsignor Robert Weiss said the bells will honor the victims of 9/11 and Sandy Hook, along with children who suffer from violence, and the military and first responders.

The garden is part of a renovation of the entire church, which will include a new vestibule that will provide a much-needed



The facade of the church will remain the same because of the meaning it holds for so many people who came there for prayer and consolation after the events of December 14, 2012.

These projects were possible because of the capital campaign. From March to June last year, the parish raised \$6.1 million. Monsignor is particularly proud that almost 1,000 parishioners contributed, representing a 30 percent participation rate.

As he looks back on the past 20 years, Monsignor says, "When I got here, there was substantial debt and the buildings needed repair, but the parish worked together to make things happen. It is great to see what it has become—a real center for this community."

## St. Patrick, Redding Ridge

When Father Joseph Cervero arrived at St. Patrick Church in Redding Ridge nine years ago, he was approached by parishioners who wanted to know what would be done with the then-shuttered old church, which had been built

to provide a place for the youth ministry to meet along with other church and community groups that currently compete for time and space in the parish hall, which was built in the 1970s. On any Friday evening, Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Safe Rides and other groups use the space. During Lent, the church relies on the hall for the soup and bread meal before Stations of the Cross. All that is about to change.

Refurbishing the old church will benefit the youth group, religious education programs, parish activities and community organizations. Father expects work to begin in early spring.

For St. Patrick's, the capital campaign represented a demonstration of faith, commitment and enthusiasm. The initial goal was \$526,000. They subsequently set their sights on an aspirational goal of \$680,000 and raised \$720,000.

"I didn't do it alone. A lot of families that come to Mass were willing to jump on board and help me reach out to parishio-



ners," Father said. "Every day I made a phone call to a possible contributor, and I had two or three meetings a week."

Father's advice to pastors currently involved in the campaign is simple: "Find a good project that people are enthusiastic about and stay positive. If the pastor is positive, the committee will be too." ■

The old church will be reno-

space for fellowship. Thirty-three stained glass panels that tell the story of Creation will be displayed. They were created by a Mexican artist 100 years ago and given to Monsignor by a group of religious sisters. "They are really magnificent and made in different sizes and shapes," he said.

The interior of the church will also be renovated with refinished pews, new carpeting, and a new lighting and sound system.

"People were ready for a change and have been very supportive," Monsignor said. "We have gone from a dark church to a very light church." The parking lot will be repaved to solve a drainage problem and brighter lights will be installed outside.



## ‘We Stand With Priests’

BRIDGEPORT—Father Michael Novajosky, pastor of the St. Augustine Cathedral Parish in Bridgeport, reflects on being a priest in a recently released video that is part of the “We Stand with Christ” video series that was publicly announced in January.

In the brief video filmed in the Cathedral, Father Novajosky says, “I’ve been ordained as a priest to serve. My role and where I see fulfillment is that I can assist people in my parish and others to deepen their faith and grow in holiness, and to go out and convert the whole world.”

“My ministry is help them, love them and serve them—and whenever they can share that with others, the joy that comes to me is realized...that’s how we stand together. We also literally stand together here during the holy liturgy and other times of prayer,” says Father Novajosky, who was installed as pastor of the Cathedral Parish in 2018.

The series of 24, 90-second videos will accompany the capi-

tal campaign through the month of June.

Over the past two months, Catholics throughout the diocese have delivered personal and powerful testimonies of their faith experience and commitment to “Stand with Christ” by standing alongside those in need in the diocese. Video themes include standing with the aged, the abused, children, the vulnerable and all those seen in the image and likeness of Christ.

The vignettes are part of a communications campaign to share how we can stand with Christ, our Church in Bridgeport and with each other. They are posted every Thursday on Bishop Caggiano’s Facebook page and every Saturday on the Diocese of Bridgeport’s Facebook page.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano also took up the topic of “standing with our priests” in his March 4 Facebook video, in which he reflects on the priesthood.

“In these difficult and challenging times, with constant news

of the abuse crisis, we know the vast majority of our priests are good and living a life of generous service. I myself, as shepherd of the diocese, have the privilege and the duty to stand with priests, support them, guide them and accompany them in their ministries,” the bishop says.

“We as a diocese also do that through ongoing formation programs, our beautiful retirement facility and other spiritual accompaniment to help them live holy and healthy lives. To live the priestly life is never easy, and it is particularly difficult in a secular world that looks askance at everyone who is a priest simply because of our vocations. I ask you to join with me and stand with our good and holy priests, support them in their ministry, offer words of encouragement and provide the support they need to continue their generous self-sacrifice and service.

“In the years ahead, through your generous support of the We Stand with Christ capital cam-



campaign, we will find new and innovative ways to help our priests realize their destiny to be another image of Christ in our midst and to continue to lay down lay their life down in service as Christ did for you and me.”

- **St. John Vianney Retired Priest Fund**—Our long-serving priests rely on the support of the generosity of the people of the diocese for much of their care and support. This fund will create a strong support system for those who have served us over so many years.
- **St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Fund**—This fund

will help assist with the education and formation of seminarians in the Diocese of Bridgeport, both at the St. John Fisher Seminary for diocesan young men and at the Redemptoris Mater Seminary supporting the mission of the Neocatechumenal Way here in the diocese.

*(For more information on the “We Stand with Christ” campaign for the diocese, call 203.648.9050. Visit the web at [www.WeStandWithChrist.org](http://www.WeStandWithChrist.org). Give online at: [www.givecentral.org/wswc](http://www.givecentral.org/wswc). To watch the We Stand with Christ videos visit the diocesan YouTube.)*

## Foundations in Faith—off to a great start!

BRIDGEPORT-- In February of 2018 the St. John Paul II Fund was launched to seek applications from parishes and diocesan organizations to find innovative approaches to invigorating religious education and youth ministry.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano emphasized the importance of “thinking outside the box,” as parishes approach ways to reimagine lifelong faith formation by find new and creative ways to engage youth and build faithful communities.

According to Kelly Weldon, who is managing the grant process for Foundations in Faith, The St. John Paul II Fund has proven to be successful in meeting this challenge.

“A total of 48 grants were submitted for funding in 2018. The total amount requested was \$219,500. Upon careful review, 32 grants were approved and \$115,000 was distributed. We are currently at the mid-year mark of the projects and the

reports submitted from the funded projects indicate meaningful impact,” Weldon said.

Weldon said that the following profiles offer a snapshot and some highlights of the grant projects already underway in parishes.

**St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish** in Shelton received \$8,000 and invested in training for their adult youth ministers working with the middle and high school youth. Training included a weekend retreat, weekly meetings utilizing the LifeTeen program, attendance at the fall LifeTeen’s Genesis Conference in Texas to name a few. Additionally, funding has provided opportunities to the teens to attend events that the group could not previously afford, such as the Steubenville East retreat.

“The grant has injected a spark into the group that has been missing for some time. It’s rejuvenated the youth ministers’ passion for ministry; it’s reinvigorated the youth enthusiasm for Jesus and the community; it’s given the youth ministers’ space to dream

about how to empower our future leaders with their faith.”

**St. Andrew Parish** in Bridgeport received \$2,000 and invested in serving single-parent families by waiving fees for religious education, creating monthly family workshops, providing children/adult books and bibles for free and opportunities to attend conferences including NCYC and Convivio.

The program has enabled the parish team to minister one-by-one to our single-parent families and respond to their challenges.

“I felt like God turned away from me. I felt that I couldn’t turn to a place to help me with my beliefs, until I found St. Andrew’s. I was welcomed with open arms...I go to Mass on Sundays and I feel every word the priest says in my heart... God is listening...my belief is stronger than ever,” said one of the parents.

**St. Rose of Lima Parish** in Newtown received \$1,000 used to launch the Alpha program. The program was uniquely designed

to reach those who do not attend church or who may not have an active faith with God. The Alpha program is an 11-week program that explores basic questions of the Christian faith. It consists of a shared meal, a 30-minute film series episode (solidly based on Scripture), followed by a 30-minute group discussion.

Between 15-20 people have attended each week. Five of those attending did not previously attend Mass; of those, four have continued regular attendance at Alpha through the entire program.”

“One guest who came with his wife was not a churchgoer or believer, prayed to ask the Lord into his life at the retreat and had begun to read the Bible daily... another man who did not attend church and mostly listened at the start of the program now regularly participates in the table conversations about faith,” said the program leader.

**St. Theresa Parish** in Trumbull received \$4,900 and a LifeTeen subscription. Their focus was to

launch a new ministry designed to meet the needs of teens. They engaged youth by inviting them to lead with the youth ministers and co-design a program based on fellowship and community service.

The projects started out simply with “Box of Joy,” which led to making blankets for the poor. Momentum grew when the youth established a group of 12 committed teens formally recognized by St. Theresa Church as STAY (St. Theresa Apostolate for Youth). They reached out to their families with fun ways to engage the community: “Talk and Tacos,” Teen Holy Hour with monthly Teen Adoration Night and more.

“I along with the other kids my age have seen the profound impact that giving has on others. I look forward to the future of our youth group,” said one young member.

*(For more information visit the website at: [foundationsin-faith.org](http://foundationsin-faith.org).)*

# St. Anthony of Padua Parish

## Remembering Father Baran and celebrating a new appointment

By **JOE PISANI**

FAIRFIELD—When John Baran entered St. Joseph High School in 1972, one of the closest friendships he developed was with “The Rev.”—AKA the school chaplain, Father Tom Lynch. John would regularly stop by his office to discuss the problems and confusions that plague teenage life, and from these encounters came a lifelong friendship with a man who inspired him in his vocation to the priesthood.

“John and I would talk a lot and got to know each other very well,” Father Lynch recalls. “He was a unique person and tremendously sensitive and bright. He was his own person, with tremendous compassion, and I sense that at a young age, he understood what suffering was about.”

Father John Baran, who died March 24, 2018 at 59, became one of the most beloved priests in the Diocese of Bridgeport. The pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield, he was posthumously honored recently with the Spiritual Leadership Award from St. Joseph High School.

In announcing the creation of the Father John Baran '76 Scholarship, Dr. William Fitzgerald, president of St. Joseph High School said, “Father John Baran made a difference at St. Anthony of Padua Parish. He moved so many of us to live life gracefully and always in service to the greater good.”

The award was accepted by Dr. Eleanor W. Sauers, who worked with Father Baran for many years and was recently named Parish Life Coordinator at St. Anthony’s to oversee the daily administration of the church while a team of priests fulfills its sacramental needs.

In her tribute at his funeral Mass, Dr. Sauers said, “So many times at his wake, I heard stories of lives changed, of people giving the Church another chance, of so many quiet moments of healing. John believed in ‘unlocking’ people and had a gift for discovering and nurturing the gifts of others, encouraging them to become who they were created to be. He empowered the members of the

parish to use their gifts in the service of others and fostered the maturity of people by helping them face the truth of themselves, acknowledging their limited but overall graced natures.”

Father Baran suffered from late onset muscular dystrophy, diagnosed in 2006. Eleven years later, he was diagnosed with melanoma. He endured his suffering without complaint.

“He had a sense of suffering from an early age, and suffering followed him throughout life with

passion, with joy and laughter, valiantly, heroically, resisting until the time when surrender to the Mystery who is our God becomes inevitable and in fact desirable.”

### Canonical Appointment of Dr. Sauers

Father Baran was much on the mind of those who filled St. Anthony Church on February. Bishop for the Mass of Blessing to celebrate the canonical appointment of Dr. Eleanor Sauers was installed as Parish



PARISHIONERS FILLED the Church and stood in the aisle for the 11:30 am Mass at St. Anthony of Padua in Fairfield, during which Dr. Eleanor Sauers was installed as Parish Life Coordinator.

muscular dystrophy and later cancer, which is why he had such compassion for others,” Father Lynch said. “He lived through it. Despite his suffering, he never lost his love of God. He didn’t play ‘priest.’ He was a priest. God used him well.”

Holy Thursday was always an especially meaningful night for him. Despite his infirmity, he would get down on his knees and wash the feet of parishioners.

“We would watch him struggle,” Dr. Sauers recalled. “He was not afraid to struggle in front of people; he was driven to wash their feet. He was a strong man to expose his vulnerability and disability. I’m sure there were times he wanted to go away and retire but he didn’t.”

She was blessed to share Father Baran’s last days and said, “He became an icon of the suffering Christ, a personification of the Pascal Mystery. His suffering was profound ... John Baran taught us how to live—with truth, with

Life Coordinator of St. Anthony of Padua Parish.

Parishioners filled the Church and stood in the aisle for the 11:30 am Mass concelebrated by Bishop Caggiano, diocesan priests who have served the parish and members of the Fairfield University Jesuit Community, who were commissioned to provide Sacramental and Liturgical ministries.

The bishop said that Eleanor Sauers has lived her life in the spirit of the Beatitudes and in seeking personal holiness. “Working with Father John, you have served the people of St. Anthony well and will now care for the life of the parish, day in and day out.”

Though the Parish Life Coordinator role has been employed in other dioceses across the country, Dr. Sauers’ appointment marks the first time that it has been used in the Diocese of Bridgeport, and she becomes the first lay woman to oversee the daily administration of a parish in the diocese.



FATHER JOHN BARAN

since the bishop announced her appointment.

Recalling the leadership of Father Baran and his commitment to creating a welcoming parish community, Dr. Sauers said that Father Baran understood that “people without a vision perish.” She said her leadership model is based on respect, mutuality, collaboration and listening.

“In the Christ-centered journey we are taking together, we will encourage people to grow into whole and holy persons,” she said. Her reflection was greeted by a standing ovation.

The soaring music for the service was provided by Frank Macari, director of music and the St. Anthony Choir along with composer and musician Dan Schutte. The bishop and others processed in to “All are Welcome” with “City of God” sung as the closing hymn.

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But you don't have to  
He already has!

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**ENTERING CANAAN**  
**Hope & Healing Weekend**  
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“Let us not close our hearts, let us not lose confidence, let us never give up: there are no situations which God cannot change, there is no sin which he cannot forgive if only we open ourselves to him.”  
Pope Francis - Easter Vigil

“I went to an Entering Canaan Retreat Weekend. As amazing as it sounds, it was during this weekend that my healing took place. It was then that I truly felt God’s mercy and grace.  
With God’s grace, I was finally able to accept His forgiveness. I am now closer to understanding the cross and Jesus’ excruciatingly painful death for us so that we may live. I understand that He hates my sins but loves me dearly and longs to heal me.  
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Sponsored by Diocese of Bridgeport, Project Rachel & Luminal Hope & Healing After Abortion

# Malta House

## Carey Dougherty named new Executive Director

By EMILY CLARK

Carey Dougherty equates her life at one time to a speeding train, flying in a single direction. After professional positions in teaching, sales and interior design, she came to a metaphorical fork in the road two years ago and faced a wake-up call to choose the next step in her life.

"I listened to a small voice inside, feeling that I was called to something else," Dougherty said. "I needed to hear where God was leading me."

As the recently appointed executive director of Malta House, Dougherty now sees what God had planned for her: the opportunity to provide hope to unwed mothers and their babies, some of the most vulnerable of our society.

Founded in 1998, Malta House offers residential and supportive services to pregnant

women and new mothers who have chosen life for their unborn. Located in Norwalk, this is one of only several homes of its kind in Fairfield County, serving those who have nowhere else to turn.

"This is more than a shelter. It's a caring, protective and comprehensive program," said Dougherty, who values the relationships she has formed with the residents. She said some of these young women have been abandoned by their families, have fled from abusive relationships or have been told to get rid of their babies.

"Women should not feel they are forced to have an abortion," she added. "We want them to know there are resources."

Having worked at Malta House for two years as their director of development and strategy before becoming executive director, Dougherty aims to raise awareness of the home's mission



CAREY DOUGHERTY

and expand on resources they currently provide such as child-care and help securing employment and housing for when residents transition to independent living. By offering parenting and nutrition classes, job train-

ing, subsidies for education and courses in budgeting and finance, she hopes Malta House can be a "beacon for women in the state of Connecticut."

As Dougherty settles into this new role, she feels her previous jobs and volunteer work all led her to this point. While teaching in Japan after college and then in her hometown of Rochester, New York, she made connections with students, similar to the connections she now makes with the residents at Malta House. With a natural eye for interior design, Dougherty created Her Haven in 2009, a non-profit organization that helped craft spaces of healing and hope for those affected by trauma.

"I wanted to bring this gift that I received to others," said Dougherty. "I believe in the benefits of having a peaceful, dignified environment."

It is this sense of peace and dignity that Dougherty and the board of directors at Malta House wish to create for even more residents as they look to raise funds for additional services and a new site through their Capital Campaign. With space for a maximum of 10 beds at their current location, the home is full on most days. Once finalized, the prospective site would have larger bedrooms, enabling families to stay together.

Dougherty's passion for helping these mothers and babies extends beyond their immediate needs. She recognizes the importance of the "Partnering Success" program, which continues assisting alumnae after they have left Malta House, and the spiritual guidance that the home provides.

Reflecting on the hardships of one woman who left her abusive partner in the middle of the night, taking only her baby with her, Dougherty said this resident gained a sense of spirituality and told her, "The greatest thing I learned here was love."

"She didn't get that from her parents or her boyfriend. This really epitomizes what we do," Dougherty said. "We want to show our mothers that they are not alone."

In addition to these services, Malta House also funds a community outreach program twice a month, offering diapers, formula, clothes and other necessities to over 1,000 low-income families in the greater Norwalk area, a so-called "homeless prevention" that helps the working poor, said Dougherty.

Michael O'Rourke, the founder of Malta House and its first board chairman, affirms these ideals and feels Dougherty is the perfect person to lead this organization into its next phase.

"She is outstanding, a very unique woman with a wonderful, compassionate heart," O'Rourke said of Dougherty. "When you're with Carey, you're the only person in the world. She's like that with the moms and with everyone she meets."

As Dougherty looks toward the expansion and growth of Malta House, she keeps the needs of these young mothers and babies at the forefront of her vision, guiding them and this organization as they move together into a more secure life, which is all a part, she said, of where God has led her. ■

  
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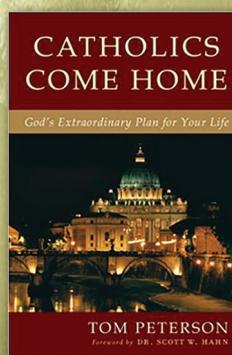
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# Rector's Dinner

## To honor Msgr. DiGiovanni and Stamford couple

By JOE PISANI

STAMFORD—Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni, pastor of the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist and founding rector of Saint John Fisher Seminary, will be honored at the Second Annual Rector's



MSGR. STEPHEN M. DIGIOVANNI

Dinner. His tenure at the seminary produced 27 priests currently serving in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

The event, "Forming Fishers of Men," which will be held at the Italian Center of Stamford on May 18, will also recognize Stamford residents Phil and Judy DeFelice for their longtime commitment to the seminary and the Diocese of Bridgeport.

The dinner is being hosted by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and Father Paul Check, rector of the seminary.

"By honoring members of the clergy and lay faithful who have contributed significantly to the formation of candidates for the

priesthood, the Rector's Dinner affirms the essential work of Saint John Fisher Seminary and helps to raise funds for the seminary's work and ongoing restoration," Bishop Caggiano said. "I thank everyone in advance for their support and enthusiasm, and I look forward to this very blessed and special evening."

Bishop Caggiano praised Msgr. DiGiovanni and the DeFelices, who he said have faithfully served the "Fishermen" for more than 20 years.

"Our honorees were also instrumental in the development of the Adoration chapel and have truly inspired the diocese through their leadership and ongoing support for the seminary," he added.

Father Check said, "I am one of a number of priests serving in the diocese today who attribute in good measure the formation we received for the priesthood to Msgr. DiGiovanni." When Father Check entered in 1992, Monsignor was vocations director and rector. He later served as parochial vicar under Monsignor at Saint John the Evangelist for six years.

A churchman, author and historian, Monsignor was founding rector of the seminary in 1989 when it was located on Daniels Farm Road in Trumbull before moving to Stamford in 1995. He established the program and served as rector for eight years. Sixty-four active priests in the diocese are alumni of the seminary, 27 of them attended during Monsignor's tenure.

Born in Arlington, Mass., he is an alumnus of the Pontifical North

American College in the Vatican and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport in 1977. In 1983, he was awarded his doctorate in Ecclesiastical History from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He served as parochial vicar in two parishes, vocation director for the diocese and rector of the seminary. He has been pastor of the Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist in Stamford since 1998.

His most recent book, *Armed with Faith: The Life of Father Vincent R. Capodanno, M.M.*, tells the story of Servant of God Father Capodanno's missionary work in Taiwan and Hong Kong, and his service as chaplain during the Vietnam War.

"Monsignor is a gifted diocesan priest who has served in many roles," Father Check said. "What stands first in my mind is his devotion to the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ and the People of God...His love of Church history leads us to a greater appreciation of how Christ is at work in the world."

Father Check said that Phil and Judy DeFelice have been his



PHIL AND JUDY DEFELICE

friends since before his ordination to the diaconate in 1996 through their involvement with the seminary, where Judy was receptionist and secretary for 22 years before retiring in 2017.

"Those job descriptions don't adequately indicate the scope of her roles," he said. "She has a great heart for the men and lives a true spiritual maternity for so many who have come through the program and are now priests. She is a prayerful lady and a committed and devout Catholic, who has regarded the Fishermen as her spiritual sons."

Father Check said that Phil DeFelice "is in a category unto himself." "He is a general contractor, a carpenter and a woodworker by trade," he said. "He is diligent and accomplished in his work. There is an added dimension to his professional life, which is his life of faith, and he has put his skills to the service of

the diocese and the seminary."

Phil DeFelice was instrumental in the major renovations done to St. Augustine Cathedral along with the construction of the seminary's main chapel and Adoration chapel.

"He is a man who built the current Adoration chapel, not just with hammers and nails, but with his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament," Father Check said. "Since the chapel opened in 1995, Phil visits every day for an hour of adoration at 6 am. Both Phil and Judy have a deep love of the Eucharist, and they have shared that love with many people for many years," Father Check said.

Last year's dinner was sold-out. This year, the Rector's Dinner will be held at the Italian Center of Stamford.

(For further information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.stjohnfisherseminary.org](http://www.stjohnfisherseminary.org) or call the seminary at 203.322.5331).



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#### LENTEN SCHEDULE:

**DAILY MASSES:** Monday-Friday: 9 am, 12:10 pm; 6:30 pm

First Friday: 7 pm with Novena to The Sacred Heart

**FAMILY STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Friday: 7 pm

**SATURDAY** Vigil Mass: 4 pm

**SUNDAY MASSES:** 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am (RCLA meets after 10:30 Mass), 12 noon and 5 pm

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday: 3:15-4 pm; Tuesdays: 7-8 pm, Apr 15: 3-9 pm

**HEALING MASS** - in Church - March 26: 12:10 pm & 6:30 pm

**GUIDED MEDITATION** - in Church - Wednesdays, March 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17: 7-7:45 pm

**RETREAT for MEN and WOMEN:** Saturday, March 16: 9:30 am-4 pm

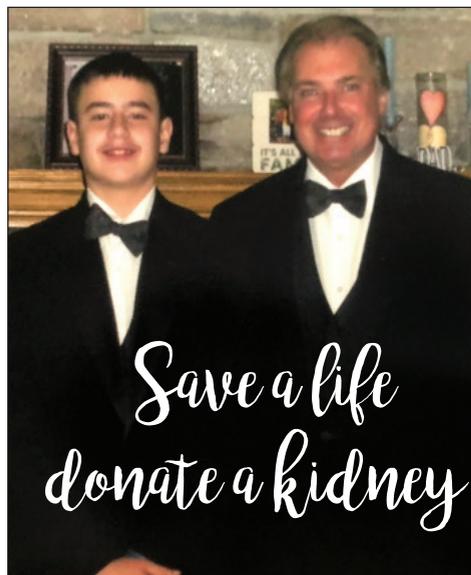
**RETREAT for Young Adults:** Saturday, March 16: 9:30 am-4 pm

Both Retreats at the Convent of St. Birgitta, Darien

**RECONCILIATION MONDAY** - in Church - April 15: 3 pm to 9 pm

**VOCATIONS HOLY HOUR** - Wednesday, March 20: 7 pm

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# St. Patrick's Day Parade

## Students wear the green!

BRIDGEPORT—Students from Catholic schools in the Greater Bridgeport area marched and displayed their school banners in the 37th Annual St. Patrick's Day parade held on Friday, March 15 in downtown Bridgeport.

For the sixth year the parade had a complete division exclusively for the Catholic Schools. Participants included marchers, floats and several bands.

Students from Holy Trinity Catholic Academy, St. Catherine Academy, St. Mark, St. Ann, St. Andrew, St. Catherine of Siena and St. Joseph High School joined this year's festivities. Peter Carroll, of Stratford and served as Grand Marshal. ■



### A SPIRIT OF GIVING FROM PAGE 6

retired from his career as college administrator at Southern Connecticut State University and previously at Iona College in New Rochelle.

"We're ordinary people living in Shelton," she says. "Many people think that to be of any help, you have to give, give, give. That's not how it is. I'm a big believer in sharing your time, treasure and talent. Everyone has something they can share."

The Calandras are the parents of two children — Kerry, a kindergarten teacher at a Catholic school in New York City, and Chris, a graduate of Antioch University in Los Angeles who plans to pursue a degree in counseling.

Carol, who grew up in a faith-filled family, has been a lifelong member of St. Lawrence Church. She says her faith is central to her life: "I was brought up to believe that it is important to give back, and we raised our kids to think that way."

The challenge of reaching out to young people is especially important now, Conrad said. "These days, there are so many things going on that young people can be naysayers about our Church and what it means."

Ministries and programs the Appeal supports, such as the Choir for Youth, are especially important to this mission. They recall that their daughter Kerry was shy as a teenager and they encouraged her to join the parish choir. That engagement gave her a new perspective on the Church. Conrad, whose career was in higher education, believes the fervor and enthusiasm of the younger generation and their appreciation of the need to give back are fundamental to the Church of the future.

When Carol talks about the good that comes from the Annual Catholic Appeal, she says that you will never fully realize the enduring good that can come from a simple act of human kindness. She recalls meeting a woman who knew Father Frank.

She told Carol: "I was in Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and you have no idea of the influence your uncle had on people's lives." For many years, her mother had kept a letter Father Frank sent her because it meant so much.

"It's the little things; it's not the grandiose," Carol says, that have lasting value. And that, to the Calandras underscores the true meaning of the Annual Catholic Appeal. ■

## Saint James Parish

† LENT 2019 †

"Come back to the Lord with all your heart. Leave the past in ashes and turn to God with tears and fasting, for He is slow to anger and ready to forgive." Joel 2:13

### Daily Eucharist \*

8:00 am Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday  
5:30 pm Tuesday and Thursday

\* Daily Rosary prayed 20 minutes  
before Mass

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Tuesday during Lent,  
from 7:00-9:00 pm  
Saturdays 12:15-1:30 pm

### LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Saturday, March 23 – 5:30 pm  
St. James School cafeteria

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE  
FOR ADULTS, YOUTH AND CHILDREN  
Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 pm

### DEVOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
All parishioners are invited to participate  
in personal stations at anytime.

Stations of the Cross:  
Every Friday in Lent at 7:00 pm in the Church  
There will be reserved parking

"The Living Stations of the Cross":  
with the children of St. James School,  
Friday, April 12, 12:30 pm and 7:30 pm

### PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

FOR MEN  
Beloved Sons - Parish Center  
Thursday, April 4 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, April 20 at 6:30 am

FOR WOMEN  
Breaking Bread  
Saturday, April 6 - 8:00 am  
Lenten Retreat  
Saturday, April 13 - 8:00 am Eucharist;  
9:00 am Retreat

SILENT TOGETHER:  
WEEKLY CENTERING PRAYER  
Wednesdays during Lent  
7:00-8:00 pm - Parish Center Chapel

### SAINT CATHERINE FROM PAGE 8

ied there, and his nieces Madisen, 10, and Olivia, 7, are currently students in fifth and second grades. When asked to evaluate their uncle's tenure as pastor, they responded, "Uncle Joey is doing a fine job."

Madisen is excited about the new look of the church, and Olivia gave a thumbs up to the new votive candle racks, where 11-inch beeswax candles can be placed in sand for prayer intentions.

All the changes, Father Marcello says, will help parishioners deepen their relationship with Christ. "Since Jesus is the Center of our life and of our faith, it is integral to our parish's mission of evangelization that we put together one of the most effective ways to form people in the faith and deepen their relationship with Christ through the Church's liturgy celebrated beautifully and reverently and prayerfully." ■

# Youth News

## St. Philip Food Fast helps fight against hunger

NORWALK—On Saturday, February 23, St. Philip Parish, in collaboration with local parishes and Catholic Relief Services, held its annual hunger awareness event “FoodFast – Be the Change” to help raise awareness and funds to eradicate World Hunger. As the title indicates, everyone was fasting for the entire day... what an incredible display of devotion to this very worthy cause! Fifty-five middle school and high school teens from local parishes participated in the daylong event taking part in activities including prayer, reflection, educational games and service projects before concluding



the day with Mass.

The St. Philip parish community is passionate about the issue of world hunger, and they have worked to alleviate hunger

throughout the world by raising \$360,000 over the past fifteen years.

Christian Mendoza from Person-2-Person, an organization in Norwalk and Darien,

spoke of the local struggles of our neighbors here in Fairfield County. Through his talk and his video presentation, he opened the eyes of the teens to the reality of hunger in our own backyard. The teens had the opportunity to spend several hours volunteering at local organizations in the afternoon—Filling in the Blanks, Maplewood Assisted Living and the Open Door Shelter. The team noted that the service opportunities were an essential part of the day, because it’s important for “the teens to be aware of the different opportunities they have, to serve and to reach out” beyond this one day event. The Fast

concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Eugene Szantyr, the pastor of St. Andrew Church, Bridgeport. Father Szantyr shared his experience of his CRS Ethiopia trip and spoke about the scarcity of water in Ethiopia.

St. Philip Parish will continue to collect donations for CRS throughout the month of March. The parish hopes that even more young people from parishes and schools throughout the diocese will join them for next year’s FoodFast.

(Donations can be made by visiting the parish website at: [www.stphilipnorwalk.org](http://www.stphilipnorwalk.org) or [www.crs.donordrive.com/team/5571](http://www.crs.donordrive.com/team/5571).)

## Trinity Catholic celebrates Black History Month

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

STAMFORD—This year, Trinity Catholic High School celebrated Black History Month centered on the theme: The Gains of the Civil Rights Movement—A Celebration.

An academic component—Black America after MLK, was ongoing in the classrooms throughout the month, along with an art competition celebrating Black History, which culminated in a gym showcase.

All that students were learning in the classroom led up to a culmination day of celebration dedicated to Black History on Tuesday, February 27. The month-long celebration was spearheaded by Dr. Peter Umoh and supported by HSA and TCHS.

“The work of Dr. Umoh and his committee really made the month stand out,” shared Mike Macari, director of marketing and communications for Trinity Catholic High School.

The day of celebration featured a moving exhibit of actual slave artifacts as well as food and music.

Craig Kelly, a 9/11 firefighter and counselor, brought in a personal collection of African-American slavery artifacts. Having one of the largest collections, he tours presenting the artifacts to students.

“Craig has original abolitionist newspapers, branding irons used to label slaves as property and even centuries-old quilts riddled with messages from elderly slaves who made blankets with rags from their owners houses,” states Dr. Peter Umoh, a teacher at Trinity Catholic High School and coordi-

nator of the month-long celebration. “He felt compelled to share them with the students at Trinity.”

“To see him speak with the students was incredibly fascinating,” shared Macari. “It put everything in a historical perspective.”

The February 27 program also included a music and word show-



case from Dr. Tiffany Jackson, a noted opera singer and professor of music and a soul-food demonstration and lunch sponsored by Auntie Viv’s Homestyle Cooking.

(For more information, visit Trinity’s website at: [trinitycatholic.org](http://trinitycatholic.org).)

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# Catholic Academy of Bridgeport

## Mardi Gras celebration garners scholarships

By PAT HENNESSY

"We represent how much it means to us as a school for these donors to be here," said St. Andrew's eighth grader Jayden Paltoo as he greeted guests at the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport's Mardi Gras Dinner and Auction on March 5.

"We want to show them a personal face, so they see that they're donating to something positive," added Jazlene Rosario, a fifth grader from St. Andrew.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was guest of honor for the evening. "It's our way to thank our devoted bishop who never says 'no' to anything we ask of him," said Sister Joan Magnetti, rscj, executive director of the Catholic Academy.

The Catholic Academy of

Bridgeport is comprised of four campuses: St. Ann, St. Andrew, St. Augustine and St. Raphael. Students from St. Andrew were on hand for this festive occasion at the Woodway Country Club in Darien, not only greeting donors as they came in but setting the tone for the evening by offering Mardi Gras beads, feather boas in bright colors and elaborate, glittering masks.

"I'm helping my school be visible for what we really are," said Destiny Kelly as she handed out the baubles and bangles.

Live music from the Back Country Jazz Band, featuring local Bridgeport youth, put an appropriate New Orleans flavor to the gathering during the cocktail hour. Warm and welcoming on a frosty March evening, the setting gave guests time to greet



PRINCIPALS FROM THE FOUR CAMPUSES of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport enjoy the festivities during the school's recent Mardi Gras Dinner and Auction held at Woodway Country Club. From left: Sr. Christine Hoffner, Lori Wilson, Debi Boccanfuso and Pat Griffin.

and mingle, and spend some time with the four Academy principals and administrators

and local priests.

During his opening remarks at dinner, Brad Evans, chair

of the board of directors, told donors that the Catholic Academy passed the rigorous accreditation process "with flying colors. It met or exceeded every single standard."

In honoring Bishop Caggiano, Sister Magnetti called him "the most loving of good shepherds, for your dedication to educate over 900 children every year. You are part of 'The Miracle of Bridgeport.' Future leaders in Bridgeport will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus with your support. Imagine all these young people who are being formed because of you."

Donors also heard from Tony Fox, a graduate of St. Augustine, who went on to Fairfield Prep and Fordham University and is now a mechanical engineer.

"Statistically, I shouldn't be here," he told them. He cited the odds against young black men from the inner city, including a high school dropout rate in Bridgeport of 26 percent. Fox credits his Catholic schooling from Pre-K through college with helping him beat the odds against him.

Led by auctioneer Charles Antin, a spirited auction during dinner offered guests the opportunity to bid on gifts as varied as VIP seats to a Zachys Wine Auction and personal discussion with one of their wine specialists; a vacation package to experience Mardi Gras 2020 in New Orleans; and an escape to a tropical paradise at a private home in the Bahamas, including round-trip airfare. The hit of the evening, with the most energetic bidding, was for a dinner for seven at Rao's Neapolitan restaurant in NYC with Bishop Frank Caggiano. Auction cards were raised throughout the room as guests vied for the chance to spend the evening with their bishop.

By the end of the dinner, the Mardi Gras evening grossed \$500,000. All proceeds will go to scholarships for students at the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport.

(To learn more about the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, go to [www.catholicacademybridgeport.org](http://www.catholicacademybridgeport.org), or contact Susan Cecere: [sccere@diobpt.org](mailto:sccere@diobpt.org) or 203.362.2990.)

## PB&J Day at Saint Catherine Center

FAIRFIELD—Every third Friday morning you'll find a lively group of students and staff from Saint Catherine Academy and volunteers from the Order of Malta engaged in a signature project: the creation of 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport.

"This is a project that provides a sense of purpose in multiple ways," says Helen Burland, executive director, who proposed the community service idea—called "PB&J Fridays"—shortly after she came to Saint Catherine Center. "Our students are on the receiving end of so much service and generosity. We wanted them to experience the joy of giving back as well," commented Burland. The Order of Malta was a willing partner, as it promotes hands-on involvement in the organizations that they support. Four or five volunteers from the order currently participate each month. The Center has even had guest "chefs," including Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

Saint Catherine Academy is part of Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs in Fairfield, which serves students and

young adults with developmental and physical disabilities, including autism.

Students and staff set up long tables in the gym at Saint Catherine Center and Malta vol-



unteers bring in the supplies. The assembly line forms in a familiar symmetry: stacks of bread, peanut butter spreaders, jelly dippers and smoothers, sandwich-cutters, bag-inserters and packagers. Some students help as they can, unsealing the sandwich bags and getting them ready. Soon music is playing and the room begins to smell like whole wheat and pea-

nuts. There's a sense of purpose, but also of fun. You hear a lot of laughter, as well as words of encouragement at every station.

"There's a role for everyone, whatever their ability," says Burland. The project helps the stu-

After the sandwiches are prepared, they are loaded into the van and students deliver them to Merton Center, where they are received with gratitude. "We figure after 11 years, we've made more than 30,000 sandwiches," says Burland. But in a project filled with this much generosity, who's counting? Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs includes Saint Catherine Academy, a state-approved, private special education school in Fairfield, Conn., serving students ages 5-21 of all faiths who are impacted with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities. It also includes an Adult Day Program, approved by the Department of Developmental Services, which offers opportunities for adults with disabilities to learn new skills and participate in vocational and community-based activities. The Office of Parish & Community Support at the Center serves as a resource for members of parishes throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport.

"PB&J Day is so good!" says Philip, an Academy student who works the line every month.

The students also have the added benefit of seeing their efforts delivered to others in need.

and local priests.

During his opening remarks at dinner, Brad Evans, chair

of the board of directors, told donors that the Catholic Academy passed the rigorous accreditation process "with flying colors. It met or exceeded every single standard."

(For more information, visit the website at: [StCatherineCenter.org](http://StCatherineCenter.org), call: 203.540.5381, or email: [info@stcatherinecenter.org](mailto:info@stcatherinecenter.org).)

# La parroquia de Saint Joseph

## El reto de acoger Nuevas Inmigrantes

By **MARICARMEN GODOY**

**NORWALK**—Con 1.800 familias registradas y con más de 2.500 familias que entran y salen de la iglesia Saint Joseph, ubicada en el barrio de South Norwalk, la parroquia está a punto de celebrar 125 años de fundación con la responsabilidad de caminar al pulso en la comunidad.

El P. Peter Lenox, es el nuevo párroco de Saint Joseph, nombrado como su titular desde el 4 de noviembre del 2018. El sacerdote, que habla perfectamente español, reconoce que desde su llegada la iglesia está viviendo un nuevo camino y en esa transición busca fusionar la espiritualidad con la vida en comunidad de sus feligreses.

La bienvenida a los recién llegados es parte de los retos no solo de la iglesia sino de la ciudad, para que logren identificarse y fusionarse con el casi 40 por ciento de feligreses hispanos.

Para todos es sabido, dice el Sacerdote, que el vecindario de South Norwalk es el lugar de llegada de todos los nuevos inmigrantes y por ser la parroquia San José la iglesia que los atiende en su idioma materno, tanto en español, como inglés y francés-criollo, para los haitianos; el trabajo de estar a la altura de las nuevas circunstancias es un reto que hay que enfrentarlo

con valentía y la alegría que da la esperanza en el Evangelio.

En San Joseph, los números de sus feligreses se dispararon en forma dramática entre el 2016 al 2018, atrás quedaron las olas migratorias a la iglesia de Saint Ladislaus; y por eso, los sacerdotes de estas dos parroquias están buscando proyectos y programas para trabajar en forma conjunta.

Por ejemplo, dice el P. Peter, “Saint Joseph tiene un gimnasio enorme dentro de nuestra escuela la Side by Side, mientras que Saint Ladislaus tiene un Centro Comunitario muy bonito que nosotros no poseemos, entonces, la idea es que entre las dos parroquias usemos lo que el uno tiene a favor del otro y así viceversa”.

La diversidad es la constante que marca a la parroquia de Saint Joseph fundada en 1895. Estar a la altura de la carretera I-95 y cerca de la estación del tren no solo la convierte en la pionera de la fe y de las iglesias hispanas sino que tiene el gran reto de combinar la espiritualidad con la comunidad y la liturgia.

A partir de este año, entre los planes de cambio, el P. Peter decidió aumentar una nueva misa en español los domingos a las 8:30 am, y así acumular al horario acostumbrado del sábado a las 6:30PM y la dominical del medi-

odía. También aumentó dos misas en español los días miércoles y jueves a las seis de la tarde.

Y el siguiente reto fue enfrentar la educación religiosa desde un punto de vista de la identidad cristiana y desde la comunidad geográficamente hablando. Por eso, el sacerdote decidió buscar personal de apoyo para que se dedique al diseño de un programa pastoral educativo que por razones propias de la administración anterior fueron suspendidas en el 2016 y ahora está siendo retomadas al son de las manillas del reloj, “es decir, sin parar”, para que se pueda colocar la educación infantil con la educación cristiana para adultos en forma paralela.

Otro de los cambios de la parroquia está en el plano informativo. El P. Peter cree que sus feligreses deben estar informados de todo en forma transparente y como ha crecido tanto la parroquia el boletín pastoral semanal será un librito de 8 páginas y no la tradicional hoja volante.

Como parte de las nuevas fiestas de celebración el P. Otoniel Lizcano, vicario parroquial, está promoviendo la fe en el Santo mexicano San José Sánchez del Río, un niño santo mártir asesinado en la guerra.

La fiesta de San Joselito, acorde con el P. Peter está pre-

vista para celebrarse la segunda semana de agosto y el segundo jueves de cada mes hay una misa especial donde se muestran las reliquias del mártir mexicano.

“El aumento de la población migrante es el reto más grande que experimenta Norwalk”, responde el sacerdote, crecimiento que también la iglesia debe tener una respuesta de acción. Contestación que se está forjando desde la educación espiritual,

➤ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 27*



EL VECINDARIO de South Norwalk por su estructura geopolítica es el paradero de los recién llegados y Saint Joseph se ha convertido en el punto de partida de la fe y de la vida en comunidad. Isabella Morillo, una bebé recién nacida de padres hondureños, es prueba de la nueva ola migratoria.

## Pedro Rubalcava viene a la diócesis

Pedro Rubalcava es un clínico, compositor e intérprete bilingüe / bicultural conocido a nivel nacional con experiencia en varios estilos musicales. Pedro se dedica a buscar y crear experiencias de oración de lo Divino a través de la música, la liturgia, las artes y más allá. Estará en nuestra área el 5 y 6 de abril.

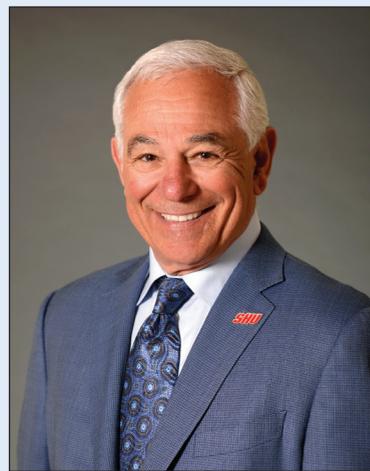
La inscripción es gratuita. Registrarse en: [www.formationre-imagined.org/events/pedro-rubalcava-viene-a-la-diocesis](http://www.formationre-imagined.org/events/pedro-rubalcava-viene-a-la-diocesis).



## Valentine to speak for NCC

New Covenant Center will hold its 15th Annual Celebrity Breakfast at the Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT on Wednesday April 24, from 7-9 am.

All proceeds will benefit the center, whose mission is to provide basic living items and services combined with longer-term solutions that focus on self-sufficiency, to those in need. New Covenant Center serves healthy meals twice a day, 365 days a year, totaling 600,000 meals per year. The



**NEW COVENANT CENTER** focused on hunger prevention and social services for a better life  
A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
40 YEARS SERVING THOSE IN NEED 1978-2018

facility includes an efficient and modern kitchen, a welcoming dining area, expanded food storage and refrigeration, as well as a spacious food pantry.

This year's keynote speaker is Bobby Valentine, executive director of Athletics at Sacred Heart University. A native of Stamford and a talented athlete, Sports Illustrated voted him one of the best athletes from Connecticut in the 20th century. Bobby Valentine is active in the community and provides philanthropic support in numerous ways.

(For tickets, sponsorships and questions contact Leisa Hinds-Simpson at 203.964.8228 ext. 409 or [lhinds-simpson@ccfc-ct.org](mailto:lhinds-simpson@ccfc-ct.org).) ■

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# Obituary

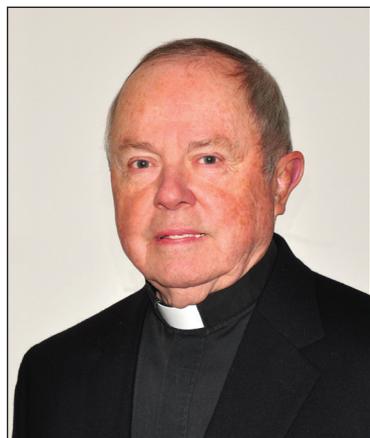
## Father Edward Colohan, 86

BRIDGEPORT—Reverend Edward A. Colohan passed away at St. Vincent's Medical Center on Thursday March 14, 2019, at the age of 86.

"Father Colohan will be remembered for his writing and teaching skills along with the warm and caring pastoral ministry that he brought to so many over the years. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father Colohan and for the consolation of his family," said Bishop Caggiano in announcing his passing.

Born and raised in Norwalk, Father Colohan was ordained at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport in 1961 by Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan, first bishop of Bridgeport. Following ordination, Father Colohan taught at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield, the former Central Catholic High School in Norwalk and Immaculate High School in Danbury.

In 1968, he became a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force, where he served for 24 years in positions as Senior Catholic Chaplain at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., and at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. He



REVEREND EDWARD A. COLOHAN

was decorated for meritorious service 11 times and cited by the command chaplain of the Strategic Air Command as the outstanding chaplain major in 1979.

He retired from the service with honors and citation by Chief of Staff USAF in 1992 with the rank of colonel and returned to the diocese as parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Shelton, before coming to St. Stephen Parish in Trumbull in 1993, where he served as pastor for 11 years.

Father Colohan also taught at Notre Dame High School in

Fairfield, the former Central Catholic High School in Norwalk and Immaculate High School in Danbury.

Father Colohan earned his bachelor's degree from St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia, a master's degree in Religious Education from Loyola University in Chicago, and a master of science degree in Counseling from Troy State University in New York. He also graduated from St. Thomas Seminary Junior College in 1953.

After retiring in 2004, Father Colohan became a regular contributor to the Connecticut Post clergy column and other publications, where he wrote on a wide range of social and spiritual topics.

Father Colohan's body was received at Saint Stephen Church in Trumbull, at 9:30 AM on Friday, March 22, 2019 will 1 in repose until the

His Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday March 22, at St. Stephen Church in Trumbull. Monsignor Thomas W. Powers served a celebrant, and Monsignor Laurence R. Bronkiewicz, Pastor of St. Mary in Ridgefield was the homilist. ■

## Sister Frederick Tkacz, 102

Sister M. Frederick Tkacz, 102, and most senior member of the Sisters of Mercy, died peacefully in West Hartford on March 14, 2019. Sister was born on November 16, 1916 in Stamford to Anthony and Caroline (Myczak) Tkacz. From as early as third grade, Caroline knew she would be a sister and upon graduation from Greenwich High School, she entered the Sisters of Mercy on June 27, 1934 and professed religious vows on January 2, 1937. With degrees earned from University of St. Joseph, then St. Joseph College and Fairfield University, Sister taught grades 1 through 8 in Catholic Schools throughout Connecticut for 56 years, 45 of those in the Bridgeport Diocese. Sister's most recent mission was at St. Augustine parish school, Bridgeport where she also served as principal for 13 years. Her love for her students made her an effective, respected and fondly remembered teacher and administrator.



A prayerful and grateful woman of deep faith, "Sister Freddie" possessed a hearty laugh and an uncanny ability to remember and repeat stories and jokes, many at her own expense! Her energy was the envy of many as they watched her at the age of 99 hop on the bus heading for Shop Rite, Dunkin' Donuts, or a Chinese restaurant! Sister Frederick is predeceased by her four siblings Frederick Tkacz, Valeria Tkacz, Helen Seward, Genevieve Lorenz (and spouses). She is survived by several grandnieces, grandnephews, and her sisters in the Mercy Community with whom she shared her vowed commitment for nearly 85 years. Those wishing to make a donation in Sister's memory are asked to consider the Sisters of Mercy, 25 Prescott Street, West Hartford, CT 06110. ■

### DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT MARCH 17—APRIL 13

#### MARCH

|    |                                   |      |
|----|-----------------------------------|------|
| 17 | Rev. Daniel F. Golden .....       | 1955 |
|    | Msgr. John F. Murcko .....        | 1975 |
|    | Msgr. Francis X. McGuire .....    | 1993 |
| 18 | Msgr. Donald M. Paolucci .....    | 1990 |
|    | Rev. John Fay .....               | 2006 |
| 19 | Rev. Bartholomew J. O'Shea .....  | 1959 |
| 20 | Msgr. Francis A. Campagnone ..... | 2003 |
| 24 | Rev. John Baran .....             | 2018 |
|    | Rev. Jon C. Bokron .....          | 1993 |
| 25 | Rev. J. Clifford Grisé .....      | 2017 |
| 26 | Rev. Andrew Marus .....           | 2018 |
| 27 | Rev. Bertrand E. Parent .....     | 1973 |
| 30 | Msgr. Patrick F. Donnelly .....   | 1993 |

#### APRIL

|    |                                 |      |
|----|---------------------------------|------|
| 2  | Rev. Richard R. Dunn .....      | 1999 |
| 3  | Rev. Francis C. Metro .....     | 1957 |
| 4  | Rev. David W. Howell .....      | 2013 |
|    | Msgr. John F. Jazowski .....    | 2010 |
| 5  | Rev. Hugh F. Gallagher .....    | 1980 |
| 7  | Rev. Stephen E. Opra .....      | 1992 |
| 8  | Rev. Joseph V. Kazlauskas ..... | 1968 |
|    | Rev. Edward M. Horan .....      | 1978 |
| 9  | Rev. John A. MacNeil .....      | 1994 |
|    | Rev. Frederick Saviano .....    | 2016 |
| 12 | Rev. Emidio O. Gregori .....    | 2016 |
| 13 | Msgr. Henry M. Callahan .....   | 1956 |
|    | Deacon Harold Lynch .....       | 2016 |

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# Sports

## Smith, Palmer to receive Gold Key awards

By **DON HARRISON**

Connie Mack, Joe Cronin, Willie Pep, Julius Boros, Andy Robustelli, Smoky Joe Wood, Floyd Little, Joan Joyce, Otto Graham, Calvin Murphy, Gordie Howe, President George H.W. Bush.

These are just a dozen of the illustrious names that appear on the list of Gold Key honorees celebrated at the Connecticut Sports Writers' Alliance's annual awards dinner since its inception in 1940.

On Sunday, April 28, two graduates of Diocese of Bridgeport schools will join this renowned group of award winners when the CSWA holds its 78th annual Gold Key dinner at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington: Chris Smith, Kolbe Cathedral '88, and Chris Palmer, Immaculate '68. They, along with former NBA and Harding High guard, John Bagley, St. Thomas More basketball coach, Jere Quinn and ESPN co-founder, Bill Rasmussen, will be presented Gold Keys at the banquet.

Smith, 48, was a two-time New Haven Register All-State selection (1987, '88) at Kolbe Cathedral, where he sparked the Cougars to one Class M state title and a runner-up finish during four seasons in the starting lineup. As a senior, he averaged 28.2 points and 10 assists a game and was named a Parade high school All-American.

"A great man," he says of the late Msgr. Frank Wissel, who served as principal during Smith's time at Kolbe. "So many times in

his office we'd talk about college. He was there when I needed him. Kolbe definitely did a lot for me."

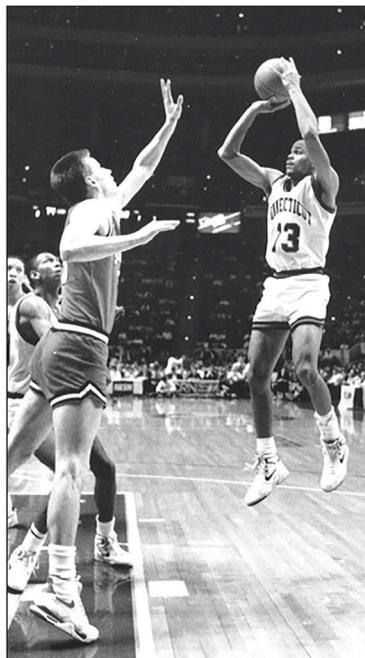
Palmer, 69, was the starting quarterback on Immaculate High's early football teams, but is also being recognized for his extensive coaching career that embraces 24 seasons in the National Football League, a year in the Canadian Football League and 15 seasons spread among five colleges and universities. He is currently director of athletics at the University of New Haven.

"I may not be worthy to receive this award, but I'm honored," Palmer said modestly.

Considered Jim Calhoun's first major in-state recruit, the 6-foot-2 Smith quickly developed into a star at the University of Connecticut, accumulating 2,145 points—still the school's career record—and averaged 16.9 points per game across four seasons. He topped the Huskies in scoring his final three years (17.2, 18.9 and 21.2).

As a sophomore, Smith was the catalyst for UConn's 1989-90 "Dream Season," the season in which the Huskies established themselves as a national power. UConn assembled a 31-6 record that winter, captured their first Big East championship, both regular season and post-season tournament, and advanced to the NCAA Tournament's Elite Eight. He was voted MVP of the Big East Tournament.

As a senior, Smith was chosen to the All-Big East first team and co-captained the Huskies with classmate Rod Sellers. But



CHRIS SMITH, a two-time All-State guard at Kolbe Cathedral High School, still holds the UConn career scoring record.



CHRIS PALMER PLAYED quarterback at Immaculate High School and Southern Connecticut State prior to embarking on a lengthy coaching career that encompassed college and NFL teams.

and in the Continental Basketball Association for several years before leaving the game.

Well, not entirely. From 2009 to 2015, he served as head coach at his alma mater, directing a new group of Kolbe athletes at the Cardinal Shehan Center, where it all began. Today, he works as a probation officer in the court support services division of the state judicial system.

Palmer was born and raised in Brewster, N.Y., but his parents decided that he and his brothers "were such good young men that we needed a Catholic school,"

and so all attended Immaculate, the new Catholic high school in Danbury.

"My younger brother, Mike, was the wide receiver, and he said he was responsible for me being a good quarterback," Palmer said with a grin.

He played four seasons of football at Southern Connecticut State, earning both bachelor's and master's degrees, and then began a coaching odyssey that included 22 seasons as an assistant coach with nine NFL teams, including the New York Giants and New England Patriots, and two years as head coach of the expansion Cleveland Browns. He was the Giants' quarterback coach when Eli Manning engineered the 17-14 victory over the Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

On the collegiate level, Palmer served as head coach at New Haven (1986-87) and Boston University (1988-89), and an assistant at UConn, Lehigh and Colgate. His New Haven squads posted back-to-back 8-2 seasons.

He also coached with Montreal of the CFL and the New Jersey Generals of the short-lived United States Football League.

Tickets for the Gold Key dinner are \$75 and may be reserved by contacting CSWA President Tim Jensen at [tim.jensen@patch.com](mailto:tim.jensen@patch.com).

VOZ FROM PAGE 25

tanto desde la catequesis infantil como desde la formación de dos nuevos grupos de jóvenes y el refuerzo de grupos de adultos carismáticos, catecúmenos, marianos, o sencillamente de los grupos de oración.

Como parte de esa alegría de esperar la Pascua de Resurrección que este año será el 21 de abril, el P. Peter está trabajando en un encuentro parroquial con uno de sus amigos sacerdotes de nombre Luke Vakos, que conoció en Roma y que es un conferencista reconocido dentro de los Estados Unidos.

"Creo que estamos llegando a la nueva era en la parroquia de Saint Joseph camino a cumplir

sus 125 años de fundación", dijo el sacerdote, con una alegría que transmite de manera singular siempre.

Es que Saint Joseph, ostenta el título de pionera no solo porque es la primera iglesia que acogió a la comunidad hispana sirviéndola en su lengua vernácula, sino porque también es la primera parroquia que se desprendió de sus tierras y permitió la construcción de lo que hoy se conoce como el Centro Hispano (South Norwalk Community Center). Y además es la primera iglesia que atendió a los haitianos ofreciéndole sus servicios religiosos y comunitarios en su lengua nativa.

## Congratulations Trinity Women!

STAMFORD—Trinity Catholic High School girls basketball team captured the Class S final against Canton High School on Saturday, March 16 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville.

With senior Iyanna Lops leading the way by scoring 26 points with nine rebounds Trinity took home to its first class S championship since 2006 with a 52-45 win over top-seeded Canton. Lops, who is headed to the University of California-Bakersfield, was named Player of the Game.

The victory was also the first girls state crown for legendary Coach Mike Walsh who led the Crusaders' boys team to seven titles. (Story originally published at [gametime.com](http://gametime.com).)



(PHOTO BY STACY ELLIS)

# Column: Thomas Hicks



## Holiness

### POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

The Second Vatican Council stressed the essential need in the Church for “stirring up a hunger for holiness” (cf. *Lumen Gentium*). What is the meaning of this “holiness” the Council calls for? One can wonder why God seeks a contact with human beings in the first

place. What is He pursuing in us? We are told that God seeks something more from us than submission and reverence. We’re told that He wishes to be loved. Indeed, He desires to be loved above all things. Deuteronomy 6:5: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and

with all your might” (cf. Luke 10:27). I sometimes found myself asking, “Was God lonely? Is God lonely? Does God need humans?”

And then, on the other hand, Therese of Lisieux stated: “Oh, how little God is loved on this earth, even by priests and religious. No, God isn’t loved very much.” A writer nameaway J.H. Leuba pointed out that “God is not known; He is not understood; He is used.” For the average person it can seem that God is Someone the person never thinks of save in exceptional circumstances.

Still, we are told that we can have a personal relationship with one’s Creator. Is it possible for two beings so far apart to love one another? Can the Origin and Sustainer of the universe be the object of a relationship to be cultivated? Moses’ intensifying relationship with God is fascinating. Moses, the frightened shepherd, “slow of speech and slow of tongue (Ex.4:10) ends up speaking to God “face to face, as one speaks to a friend” (Ex.33:11).

There was the God I grew up with. He had lots of rules and He was looking on approvingly or disapprovingly. He seemed prone to take offense. As I remember it, religion was occupied with saving one’s soul, avoiding hell, shortening purgatory. And there was a multitude of devotions (nine first Fridays, novenas, etc.). I made offerings to God of duties performed and devotions

attended. It was a quid pro quo piety—I made deals with God. My view of God was essentially as Scorekeeper and as Spoilsport.

Eventually, a reshaping began to take place silently. The old things that used to satisfy began to lose their luster, their vitality. I could no longer see them as serving for a mature, adult spiritual life. My image of God began to change. So much of what was familiar began to fall away. That which was good for me yesterday was not right for me today. That which I had come to yesterday no longer helped me to mature, to grow and deepen.

I began to feel the need for something more in my spiritual life. For me, it was mainly Bible Study that led to a deeper and more mature spirituality. As Jeremiah 15:16 puts it: “When I found your words, I devoured them; they became my joy and the happiness of my heart.”

There is the sheer poetry and beauty found in the Scriptures. Now many of my happiest times take place in the study of the Bible. The Bible never grows wearisome or stale. I even enjoy slogging my way through the scholarly commentaries. When one studies the Scriptures, what one leaves behind is much more than what one takes away. Christian spirituality needs to be rooted in the Scriptures for its nourishment and sustenance.

St. Augustine insisted that “soaking oneself in Scripture” is a part

of holiness. The Second Vatican Council called for a return to the Scriptures as the primary source of Catholic spirituality. After the Reformation, Catholics were officially discouraged from reading the Scriptures owing to the emphasis given to Scripture by the Reformers. In 1692, a man named Pasquier Quesnel published a book in which he asserted that “the reading of Sacred Scripture is for everyone.” That comment became one of the propositions in the list of Quesnel’s “errors” condemned by Pope Clement XI in his constitution “Unigenitus Dei Filius.”

Today, many of us Catholics agree with the Scripture scholar Daniel Harrington, S.J., who said: “I find God largely in and through the Bible. Most of my spiritual life revolves around the Bible. It is for me the most important way to know, love and serve God.”

Bible Study needs to be accompanied by other kinds of reading. A spiritual life needs to be nourished by sustained reading. When we read, God can talk to us. Unfortunately, many modern people no longer read serious books.

There is a desperate need in our Church today for the recovery of spiritual depth. Spirituality is the hook back into the faith for many young people. They’re not turned off to spirituality. As we know, they talk of being “spiritual but not religious.” It is possible to be “religious but not spiritual.”

*(to be continued)*

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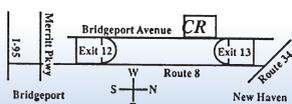
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IN MEMORY OF RICHARD T. CARROLL

# Column: Joe Pisani



## God will provide

### SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

**M**y mother always said, “God will provide,” but I can’t say that I always believed her. She usually said it the day my father got laid off from his job as a carpenter because winter had set in and there wasn’t enough work to go around, so he had to sign up for unemployment and drive down to the union hall every morning to see if there was anything he could do.

I’m sure St. Joseph understood the situation because he was a carpenter, and there were probably times in Egypt when he didn’t have enough work to support the Holy Family.

Did my father believe “God will provide,” as he sat at the

kitchen table, with a bottle of Budweiser and a jigsaw puzzle laid out before him, passing the time in anxious worry about what tomorrow would bring ... or wouldn’t bring?

If you ever lost a job and knew the fear of not knowing what tomorrow would bring, it can be hard accepting that “God will provide.” Sometimes God waits a little too long for my tastes before providing.

But my mother understood his mysterious ways better than we did. Truth be told, we never went hungry although God cut it close some of the time. She kept a dime taped to the bottom of the statue of the Infant of Prague, which they got as a wedding gift, because she had been told that

was an assurance you would never go without.

Both my parents knew what it meant to go without because they lived through the Great Depression and went to bed hungry a lot of nights. My mother had to leave her family in Bridgeport and go live with her aunt in Stamford because her parents didn’t have enough money to support everyone. And my father was one of nine children raised by a widowed immigrant from Italy back before there was a safety net for the needy. They knew hunger and they knew cold ... but so did Jesus.

During the Great Depression, I’ve been told, when you were down to your last dollar, it was a common practice to give it away because it ensured God would provide. Over the years, I’ve met people who did just that and swear it worked.

Sometimes you have to let go and let God and step out into the unknown. You have to have faith and a hopeful attitude. But trusting is never easy. It’s a virtue that is acquired from experience and prayer.

In her book “God Will Provide,” author Patricia Treece

recounts miraculous stories about saints like Mother Teresa, Solanus Casey, Frances Xavier Cabrini and Padre Pio, who turned to God in trust when the chips were down ... and he provided beyond their wildest expectations.

Of course, our idea of what God should provide is probably different from God’s. As long as things are going well, we can have a strong faith but when things start to get a little shaky and the going gets rough, we worry.

I even start to suffer anxiety when I look at my 401(K) statement and the accounts are headed in the wrong direction. You see, sometimes I confuse the assurance “God will provide” with the fantasy “God will make you rich.”

The Sisters of Life have a wonderful prayer called the “Litany of Trust.” It says in part:

“From the fear that trusting You will leave me more destitute

Deliver me Jesus.

From the rebellion against childlike dependence on you, Deliver me Jesus.

From anxiety about the future, Deliver me Jesus...

That not knowing what tomorrow brings is an invitation to lean on you,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You always hear me and in Your goodness always respond to me,

Jesus I trust in you.”

Sometimes God waits before he provides in order to strengthen our trust.

Worrying about the future is part of the human condition, but it can cripple us spiritually. Jesus knew that and talked about it often. He meant for us to take him seriously when he said, “Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

God will provide. ■

## SHU JOURNEY: FAITH, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP



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# Bits and Pieces

\* For more events happening around the diocese, visit our website calendar at: [dobcalendar.bridgeportdiocese.org](http://dobcalendar.bridgeportdiocese.org).

**DIDACHE PROGRAM** is being held at St. Mary in Bethel. The topic is The Mass and Our Preparation. The program began **Thurs., Jan. 31** and will continue for 9 weeks following, every Thurs. from 6:30-7:30 pm.

**CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS OF GREATER DANBURY** will gather on **Wed., March 20**, at 7 pm we will meet for Faith Formation and Discussion at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Danbury and on **Tues., April 2**, at 6:45 pm for a Praise

and Worship Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Parish in Danbury, followed by a social at a local eatery. Please email us at: [catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com](mailto:catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com) to be placed on our email list and to ask us any questions you may have.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one will meet at St. Stephen's Parish, Trumbull. A series of ten weekly meetings with experienced counselors will begin on **Thurs., March 21**, from 4 pm to 5:30

pm. Registration required in advance. For info, call the Parish Office at: 203.268.6217.

**RESERVE TICKETS NOW** for Immaculate High School's 14th Annual Spring Gala, Springtime in Paris, at the Amber Room Colonnade on **Sat., March 23**. Tickets, sponsorships and program ads are available at [www.immaculatehs.org/gala](http://www.immaculatehs.org/gala).

**ST. EMERY PARISH IN FAIRFIELD PRESENTS** David Haas' Biblical Way of the Cross on **Sun., March 24**, at 2 pm in the church.

**CHRIST LIFE, A CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION** will have their next sessions of "Discovering Christ" on the following dates: **March 25, April 1, & April 8** at 6:30 pm. The series includes a Sat. retreat on **March 30** and will be held at St. Pius X Parish Community Center in Fairfield. For further info contact Viki at Holy Family Parish at: 203.336.1835, email at: [Christlifefld@gmail.com](mailto:Christlifefld@gmail.com), or register at: [www.holyfamilyrc.com/christlife](http://www.holyfamilyrc.com/christlife).

**ST. ROCH WILL HOST AN OPEN MEETING FOR SURVIVORS** There will be an open meeting for adult sur-

vivors of sexual abuse as a minor and family members of survivors on **Tues., March 26**, 6:30 pm at St. Roch Church in Greenwich. Fellow survivors and social workers from the Office of Safe Environment will be present. For more info please contact Erin Neil, L.C.S.W., Director of Safe Environment & Victim Assistance Coordinator 203.416.1406 or 203.650.3265 or Michael Tintrup, L.C.S.W., Victim Assistance Counselor 203.241.0987. You may also contact the local coordinator of this event, David D'Andrea at 293.918.9089.

**A MASS OF HOPE AND HEALING** will be held on **Wed., March 27**, at St. Marguerite Parish in Brookfield at 7 pm. Fr. Larry Carew will be the celebrant.

**THE CAROLINE HOUSE** is holding A Roaring '20s Soirée-Starry Night which will take place **Fri., April 5**, 6:30-11 pm. Tickets are \$195. For more info visit: [www.thecarolinehouse.org](http://www.thecarolinehouse.org) or contact Christine Paine at: [cpaine@thecarolinehouse.org](mailto:cpaine@thecarolinehouse.org).

**FIRST FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES** is being held at St. Luke Church in Westport. On **Fri., April 5**, Sister Janet Ruffing, RSM, PhD will discuss women mystics. Each evening begins at 7 pm with a wine and cheese reception. The lectures begin promptly

at 7:30 pm and conclude with a question and answer session until approximately 8:45 pm.

**A MASS OF HOPE AND HEALING** will be held on **Mon., April 8**, at St. Edward's Church in New Fairfield at 7 pm. Fr. Larry Carew will be the celebrant. The Guild of the Mother of Jesus membership will meet for their monthly meeting on **Wed., April 10** in the parish hall.

**THE GUILD OF THE MOTHER OF JESUS MEMBERSHIP** will meet for their monthly meeting on **Wed., April 10**, in the parish hall.

**DIACONATE DISCOVERY EVENINGS** will be held on the **second Thurs.** of each month through Sept. 2019 from 7-8:30 pm. Dates are as follows: St. Stephen Parish: **April 11**.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CT STATE COUNCIL** will be having Stations of the Cross and Benediction on **Palm Sun., April 14**, at St. Margaret Shrine in Bridgeport starting at 1 pm with an optional Mass at 11 am. Msgr. Peter Cullen will be the main celebrant.

**ST. MARGARET SHRINE'S VETERAN'S MEMORIAL** deadline for donating a Veteran's Brick, in order to ensure installation by Memorial Day 2018, is **Mon., April 15**. The names of the Veterans, on the newly

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## 2019 MASS OF HOPE AND HEALING SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019 | 2:00 P.M.

**The Most Rev. Frank 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. The Mass will be held on **Sunday, April 7th, 2019 at 2:00 PM** at St. Joseph Church 8 Robinson Avenue, Danbury CT. Light Refreshments will be served immediately following the Mass.

There are regularly scheduled gatherings for any person who has been sexually abused as a minor, as well as any family members of survivors, to meet with the victim assistance coordinators and fellow survivors of sexual abuse for friendship, prayer and for peer support.

- **Monday February 25, 2019** – Open Meeting for Survivors of Sexual Abuse as a Minor. 6:00 PM-7:30 PM Catholic Center 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport CT
- **Thursday March 14, 2019** – Open Meeting for Family Members of Survivors 6:00 PM-7:30 PM the Newman Center Danbury 7 8th Ave, Danbury, CT
- **Tuesday March 26, 2019** – Open Meeting for Survivors of Sexual Abuse as a Minor. 6:30 PM -8:00 PM St. Roch Church 10 St Roch Ave, Greenwich, CT

If you are an adult survivor of sexual abuse as a minor or a family member of a survivor and you would like to learn more about the Mass, the upcoming meetings and other resources that are available in our Diocese, please contact one of our Victim Assistance Coordinators,

**Erin Neil, L.C.S.W., 203.650.3265 Or Michael Tintrup, L.C.S.W. 203.241.0987**

*We hope to hear from you, you are very important to us.*

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# Bits and Pieces

donated bricks, will be read at our 9th Annual Veterans Mass, in September 2019, and be included in our Mass Program Book. For info on donating a brick for a Veteran, from the U.S. Military and our Allies; living, deceased, wartime, peacetime, reserves, regulars and currently serving, call: 203.345.3244.

**NEW COVENANT CENTER'S 15TH ANNUAL CELEBRITY BREAKFAST** will be held on **Wed., April 24**, at Woodbury Country Club in Darien, starting with a Networking Coffee at 7 am. The Keynote Speaker will be Bobby Valentine.

**TAG SALE VENDORS NEEDED**—A Tag Sale will be held at St. Mary Parish Stamford on **Sat., April 27**, from 9 am-3 pm. For more info call Sharon MacKnight at: 203.327.1806 or email: [smacknight@optionline.net](mailto:smacknight@optionline.net).

**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 in Fairfield on **Sat., April 27**, at 9:30 am the celebrant is Fr. Gene Szantyr. Afterwards, there will be a social and meeting held in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! For further info call Pat Heile, OFS at: 203.255.8801 or email at: [pheile5713@aol.com](mailto:pheile5713@aol.com).

**MARIAN VENERATIONS THROUGH THE AGES** will be presented by Dr. Joan Kelly, with lunch following, at St. Margaret Shrine in Bridgeport on **Sat., April 27** and **Sat., May 4**, from 9:30-11 am.

**THE HEART OF ST. JOHN VIANNY** will be visiting St. Catherine in Trumbull on **Mon., April 29** and **Tues., April 30**. At 7 pm there will be a public, cele-

bratory Mass, followed by veneration of the heart. There will also be a vigil of prayer through the night in the presence of the heart. Every hour there will be readings from the writings of St. John Vianney.

**THE ST. PIUS X SENIORS** in Fairfield, are sponsoring a day trip by bus to the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Westchester, N.Y. on **Wed., May 1** to see "Newsies." Cost is \$84 which includes lunch and transportation. Time of departure from the St. Pius parking lot is 9:30 am returning at 5 pm. For reservations contact Pete Carey, 203.673.2081 or email him at: [aandp1964@aol.com](mailto:aandp1964@aol.com).

**FIRST FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES** is being held at St. Luke Church in Westport. On **Fri., May 3**, Professor Frederick V Simmons will discuss astrobology and Augustinianism, an interesting and contemporary way to understand some basic aspects of Christianity and science. Each evening begins at 7 pm with a wine and cheese reception. The lectures begin promptly at 7:30 pm and conclude with a question and answer session until approximately 8:45 pm.

**A MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RALLY** featuring nationally known speaker Steve Angrisano is being held at All Saints in Norwalk on **Sat., May 4**, from 9:30 am-2:30 pm. It is open to all students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. \$25 per student. Register at: [bridgeportdiocese/faith-formation](mailto:bridgeportdiocese/faith-formation).

**CONFESSION AND ADORATION** is offered every **Tues.** from 7-8:30 pm at St. Catherine of Siena in Trumbull. The opportunity for both anonymous and face-to-face.

**PERPETUAL**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION!** Spend time, heart to heart with Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist at Our Lady of Fatima Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel of St. Theresa Parish at 5310 Main Street, Trumbull. The Chapel is open 24 hours, 7 days a week. The entrance to the Chapel is on Rosemond Terrace. If interested in making a weekly holy hour as a Eucharistic Guardian, please visit our website at: [StTheresaTrumbull.org](http://StTheresaTrumbull.org) or call the Parish Office at: 203.261.3676. Office Hours are: Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-4:40 pm. Confessions is offered. Everyone Welcome!



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MASS & CONCERT

*For married couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50+ year wedding anniversaries*

**SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019** 3:00PM  
MAIN CELEBRANT: BISHOP FRANK CAGGIANO • ST. THERESA PARISH IN TRUMBULL  
*As a special gift to those celebrating anniversaries, the Mass will be immediately followed by a free concert by the Diocesan Youth Choir.*

For questions, please contact [OfficeofFaithFormation@diobpt.org](mailto:OfficeofFaithFormation@diobpt.org) or (203) 416-1670




## ST MARGARET SHRINE a diocesan shrine

### Outdoor Stations of the Cross and Benediction

*with Monsignor Cullen sponsored by the Knights of Columbus*

Sunday, April 14th, 1 pm



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
Saturday, April 6th  
12 noon  
*All children welcome*

**During Lent Weekday Masses**  
8:15 am and 12:15 am

**Stations of the Cross**  
Every Friday - 6:30 pm in Italian,  
7 pm in English

2523 Park Ave, Bpt 203-333-9627 [SaintMargaretShrine@gmail.com](mailto:SaintMargaretShrine@gmail.com)  
Masses: Mon-Sat 8:15 am, Sat Vigil 4 pm, Sunday 8, 9:30 (Italian), 11 am

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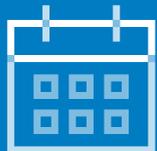




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