



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE



5 *Annual Jubilee Mass celebrates Catholic Marriage*



12-13 *Understanding Liturgical Norms*

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GOOD FRIDAY AT ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL: An air of reverent silence filled the Cathedral Parish of Bridgeport as hundreds gathered for the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion service at St. Augustine's. The service included the beautiful chanting of the Gospel of the Passion of our Lord, the showing, adoration and veneration of the Holy Cross and a reading of the solemn intercessions.

EASTER VIGIL: Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in his homily urged Catholics to take their faith outside the four walls of the church "to a world that does not want to proclaim Jesus for who he is—the Savior and Conqueror of all." During the Vigil Mass, the bishop administered the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist—to nine people.



CHRISM MASS (left): "The Lord asks of us, Watch with me," but most of us fall asleep out of complacency, fear or self-righteousness, said Bishop Caggiano at the Chrism Mass held at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. Hundreds of priests, deacons, religious and laity filled the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass, which is celebrated to bless the holy oils that are used in the sacraments throughout the year, and to strengthen the bond between the bishop and his priests.



Easter

IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



PROCESSION: This year's Good Friday procession began at St. Mary Church in Bridgeport and ended at Our Lady of Fatima in Bridgeport. Over a thousand people turned out to walk the Stations of the Cross in solemn procession as they journeyed with the Lord in His suffering.



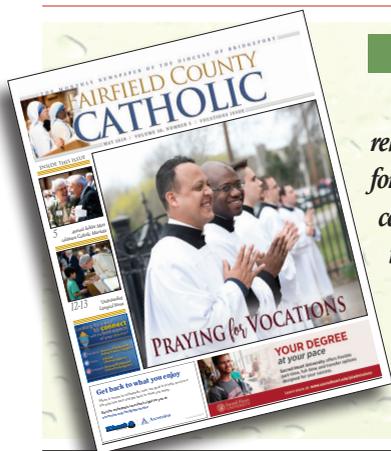
LIVING STATIONS: This Palm Sunday, St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Bridgeport held their fifth annual passion play, which was entirely directed and acted by the parishioners and friends of St. Michael's.



ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP: Matthew Razzaia of Darien portrayed Jesus on Good Friday in the annual living stations. "It was nice to see the teenagers participate. It was beautifully done, ending with candles signifying the Resurrection," said Mrs. Razzaia.



ST. JUDE PARISH: For the 30th year, parishioners of St. Jude's took 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 in their annual living stations.



ON THE COVER

Hundreds of priests, deacons, religious and laity filled the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass, which is celebrated to bless the holy oils that are used in the sacraments throughout the year, and to strengthen the bond between the bishop and his priests.
(Photos by Amy Mortensen)

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|---|--|-------|--|
| 3 | UPCOMING ORDINATIONS
<i>To the priesthood and diaconate</i> | 14 | IGNATIAN CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY
<i>Bishop receives Bowler Award</i> |
| 4 | VENERATING SACRED RELICS
<i>Faithful gather at two Trumbull parishes</i> | 15-18 | WE STAND WITH CHRIST
<i>Capital Campaign success stories</i> |
| 6 | LISTENING SESSIONS
<i>Bishop offers wisdom on abuse crisis</i> | 20 | BE VIGILANT EVERYDAY
<i>Youth gather at Brave rally</i> |
| 8 | CELEBRATING RELIGIOUS LIFE
<i>Mass honors Jubilarians</i> | 22 | FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION
<i>Annual Spring Gala</i> |

Latest News

Three men to be ordained to the Priesthood

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—On Saturday, June 1, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will ordain three men as priests for the Diocese of Bridgeport. The Ordination Mass will be celebrated at 11 am in St. Augustine Cathedral. These three men were ordained as transitional deacons last year, May 19, 2018.

Peter Adamski

Peter Joseph Adamski, 65, one of four sons of the late Peter and Melda Adamski, grew up in Jersey City, N.J., and now considers Holy Spirit in Stamford as his home parish. He and wife, Kathy, were married over 40 years before she died in 2014. They have one son, John, who will be a lector at the Ordination Mass. His brother, Gary, will bring up the gifts.

Peter holds his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in New Jersey, where he graduated in 1976, and earned an MBA from Rutgers the following year along with his C.P.A. license. He has been a CFO with Johnson & Johnson Co., worked for Bausch & Lomb eye health products in Rochester, N.Y., and was the CEO of a successful foam manufacturing company in New Jersey. Peter is also a proud father and marathon runner of 40 years. He had thoughts of becoming a priest as a teenager, and discussed the possibility of a priestly vocation with Kathy shortly before she passed.

He completed his seminary studies at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Mass.

Father Adamski will celebrate his first Mass at Holy Spirit on Sunday, June 2, at 11:30 am. Msgr. Kevin Royal, Holy Spirit's



PETER ADAMSKI

pastor, will be the homilist and concelebrant, along with Very Rev. Brian Kiely, rector/president of Pope St. John XXIII Seminary and Msgr. Peter Cullen, retired. Also joining in the celebration of Holy Mass will be Rev. Robert Hoffman, Diocese of St. Augustine, Rev. Brian Beal, Diocese of Columbus and Rev. Corey Bassett-Tirrell, Archdiocese of Boston, all of whom were from the Class of 2019 at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary.

"My love for the Lord has grown so very deeply during these past four years of formation," said Deacon Adamski, "I have learned to surrender myself completely to doing His will and how to discern His will from the actions of the Evil One. I thank Jesus every day for calling me by name to His ministerial priesthood and ask to be filled with the graces necessary to minister to the members of His Holy Church in the years ahead."

Christopher Ford

Christopher Joseph Ford, 29, was born in Bridgeport on October 2, 1989. The only boy in a family with three sisters, he grew up in Naugatuck, attending St. Francis of Assisi Elementary



CHRISTOPHER FORD

School and Naugatuck High School. His parents, Terence and Teresa Ford, live in Naugatuck and are members of St. Francis, and will be lector and gift bearer at the Ordination Mass, respectively.

He graduated from Southern Conn. State University in New Haven in 2011. While attending Southern, he worked for candidates for the U.S. Senate and Conn. governorship. Upon graduation, he worked for Westminster College in New Wilmington, Penn., while obtaining a master's degree in education from Kent State University in Ohio.

He entered St. John Fisher Seminary in 2015. Deacon Ford has earned his M.Div./S.T.B. degree from St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.

Father Ford will celebrate his first Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Naugatuck on Sunday, June 2 at 3 pm. Rev. Keith Chylinski of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Penn. will be the homilist and concelebrant, along with Rev. Michael Dunn, pastor of St. Gregory the Great in Danbury, Rev. John Kuzhikottayil, SDB, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Naugatuck,



DAVID ROMAN

Rev. Norman Guilbert, pastor of Holy Family in Fairfield and Rev. Christopher M. Ford, pastor of Assumption Parish in Woodbridge.

"As soon as Mary said 'yes' to the angel Gabriel and received the gift of Christ, she immediately went out and sought her cousin Elizabeth," said Deacon Ford, "In a way, that is the whole business of the priesthood," he continued, "to receive this gift of a heart conformed to Christ and then spend a lifetime bringing His loving and merciful presence to a world so in need of it. St. John Vianney once called the priesthood 'the love of the heart of Christ' and the peace and the joy I feel at being called, unworthy as I am, to offer myself as an instrument of sacrificial love, is indescribable."

David Roman

David Roman, Jr., 34, the first of three sons of David and Yvonne Roman, was born in Waterbury on April 18, 1985. He grew up in that city, he and his family attended St. Patrick Parish. Mrs. Yvonne Roman will bring up the gifts at the Ordination Mass.

He graduated from Western

Connecticut State University in Danbury with a bachelor's in history in 2008 and earned a master's degree in education from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

He taught at St. Joseph School in Danbury, and served as youth minister at St. Joseph Parish and Notre Dame of Easton Parish prior to entering St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford. He received his M.Div./S.T.B. degree at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Father Roman will celebrate his first Mass at St. Joseph in Danbury on Sunday, June 2 at 12 noon. Father Robert Kinnally will be homilist and concelebrant, along with Father Samuel Scott, pastor of St. Joseph in Danbury, Father David Franklin, associate pastor of St. Joseph in Danbury, Father Ray Sherba, priest in residence at St. Joseph in Danbury and Father Harry Prieto, associate pastor at St. Edward Parish.

"The everyday encounters of 'Cor ad cor loquitur,' of allowing the hearts of my brothers and sisters in Christ to speak to mine and vice versa has been a cornerstone in my life," Deacon Roman shared. "Because it was there that I encountered the love of God," he continued, "It was in the parishes that I walked alongside the young and the old in pursuit of the Gospel truth. And it was in prayer that God showed me the beautiful vision of where the center of priestly life is located: in the Most Sacred Heart of His Son Jesus. That all-encompassing, concrete love of God has been the catalyst and safeguard of my vocation. And undoubtedly my priesthood will forever bear the marks of those sacred moments." ■

Six to be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

TRUMBULL—On Saturday, June 15, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will ordain six men as permanent deacons for the Diocese of Bridgeport. The Ordination Mass will be celebrated at 11 am at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull.

Joseph Cann

Joseph Cann recalls, "I felt

a slow growth in spirituality. There was something more that God was asking of me." He went home one Sunday and asked his wife, Fran and his children Meagan, the late Joseph Jr. and Patrick about becoming a deacon. There was a unanimous consensus that it was the right thing to answer God's call. As a member of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys in Brookfield, he discussed it with

the clergy there, who all supported him and he moved to apply. Cann describes the decision as pure joy in his heart and has felt his spiritual growth continue moving him toward being a deacon. Born and raised in Brooklyn N.Y., Cann worked as a janitor for the NYC Board of Education. Cann believes all of his experiences were part of God's calling and preparing him for his role of service to

others as a deacon.

Stephen Hodson

Stephen Hodson grew up in Stratford and attended Holy Name of Jesus School, Stratford High School and Uconn. He and his wife Susan have lived in the Nichols section of Trumbull since 1984. They have four children: Daniel, Cassie, Kayleigh, Bella and are blessed with one granddaughter, Valentina Rose.

A parishioner at St. Theresa's Parish in Trumbull, Steve has been graced to have been a member of the Sons of St. Joseph Men's prayer group and the Knights of Columbus. "God has let me share my love for spiritual music, which is prayer, by allowing me to be a music minister beginning at Holy Name and then leading me to Our Lady of

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Sacred Relics

Hundreds turn out for Exposition of Saints relics

BY EMILY CLARK
AND KATE GOMBOS

TRUMBULL—An exposition of sacred relics was held on Wednesday evening, April 10 at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross presented a multi-media production and teaching event, followed by the opportunity for attendees to venerate the first class relics of over 150 saints, such as those of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Padre Pio and St. Maria Goretti. Highlights included one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross as well as a portion of the Veil worn by the Virgin Mary.

"We give people the experience of the living God through these relics," said Father Martins, who travels the world with

Treasures of the Church, his ministry of evangelization. "The saints are masterpieces of creation."

In bringing these expositions to churches, schools and prisons over the past 20 years, Father Martins educates participants on the history of the relics, the powerful intercessions that occur from people's encounters with them, and the miraculous stories of the saints themselves. "Relics are a means God chooses to draw our attention to the saints as models and intercessors," said Father Martins. "They allow healing with material objects."

Following the presentation, the faithful venerated the scores of relics on display at St. Theresa School, touching rosary beads and personal objects to such reliquaries as those containing the

hair of St. Bernadette of Lourdes and the bone particles of St. Francis Cabrini. Many waited on line for the rare occasion to stand, even for just a moment, in the presence of Our Lady's Veil and the True Cross.

Reflecting on Father Martins' story of hope and healing through St. Maria Goretti, who forgave her assailant and died from her injuries at age 11, Father Brian Gannon, pastor of St. Theresa Church, said, "Her story shows us the power of forgiveness. And these relics give people a palpable sense of the communion of saints. Holiness is in our grasp."

Saint John Vianney Relic

TRUMBULL—There was standing room only at the Parish of Saint Catherine of Siena in Trumbull on Monday evening, April 29, as people from far and



HEART OF A PRIEST—People from far and wide gathered at St. Catherine of Siena in Trumbull for a joyful and beautiful Mass in the presence of the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney, Curé of Ars and patron saint of all Catholic priests.

wide gathered for a joyful and beautiful Mass in the presence of the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney, Curé of Ars and patron saint of all Catholic priests.

The Most Reverend Daniel A. Cronin, Archbishop Emeritus of Hartford, was the Principal Celebrant and Homilist for this Mass, which took place on the parish's patronal feast, the Solemnity of Saint Catherine of Siena. In his homily, Archbishop Cronin reflected on St. John Vianney's call to the priesthood, and his clear understanding of

his mission, as a priest, to save souls. In the school Mass on Tuesday morning, which was well attended by parishioners, others from the community, and students from St. Catherine of Siena School, St. Mark School in Stratford and St. Joseph High School in Trumbull, Father John Connaughton, director of vocations for the Diocese of Bridgeport, noted further that each of us has an obligation to help others seek holiness as part of our own pathway to heaven.

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

4



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Wedding Jubilee Mass

Celebrating 'Grace-Filled Marriage'

By EMILY CLARK

TRUMBULL—The rainy weather did not dampen the spirits of those gathered at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull on Sunday, May 5 to celebrate the annual Jubilee Mass and Concert. Over 150 couples registered for this joyful anniversary event to renew their commitment of love and friendship to each other.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano congratulated the couples on more than 6,200 combined years of marriage. Recognizing the longest married couple with 73 years, the bishop said, "Now that's worth celebrating!"

In reflecting on the day's Gospel reading from John 21, the bishop commented that those words could reveal the success of such lasting marriages. "When Jesus asked Peter, 'Do you love me?'" the bishop quoted in his

marriage: friendship," the bishop said. "It is a life worth living and enjoying. It mirrors the very love of God."

After his homily, the bishop led the couples in a renewal of their marriage promises. As they turned to each other and joined hands, just as they had done so many years ago, the bishop congratulated them, saying, "Upon whom are you looking? Your husband, your wife, but also your best friend. You have unlocked love's deep abiding power."

When the Jubilee Mass concluded, the bishop introduced C4Y, the Diocesan Youth Choir, which presented their annual Spring Concert, the final one of the year. Under the direction of Mary Bozzuti Higgins, the choir gave its audience a special anniversary gift with such selections as "This Little Light of Mine," "Carry Me Home," and "I Will Rise."

George & Elizabeth Gauruder, 60 years
Richard & Mary Joan Marus, 60 years
Vito & Dolores Montelli, 60 years
John & Victoria Passiglia, 60 years
James & Geraldine Szabo, 60 years
Kevin & Lorraine Tobin, 60 years
William & Georgene Caldwell, 59 years
Americo & Maria Paniccia, 59 years
Bernardo & Ada Vittori, 59 years
Carmine & Marie Vaccaro, 58 years
Raymond & Diane Cummings, 55 years
Bill & Patricia Font, 55 years
Aldo & Edelwies Melchionno, 55 years
Vincent & Jean Pagliuca, 55 years
James & Carol Santora, 55 years
Claude & Mary Ann Emond, 54 years
Bob & Carol Pinard, 54 years
Robert & Joanne Litzie, 53 years
Teofilo & Maria Blanco, 51 years
James & Gail Canganelly, 51 years
Antonio & Lucia Alves, 50 years
Mario & Adriana Barnardi, 50 years
Edward & Catherine Bert, 50 years
Peter & Carol Ann Brady, 50 years
Thomas & Suzanne Calnon, 50 years
Thomas & Lorraine Carrano, 50 years



WEDDING JUBILEE—Over 150 couples registered for the annual Jubilee Mass and Concert at St. Theresa in Trumbull, honoring married couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50+ year wedding anniversaries.



homily, "he was also saying 'Peter, will you be my friend?'" While married couples are undoubtedly spouses and lovers, he added, they are also the best of friends.

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friend," he said, speaking before the altar filled with white roses and peonies. "You have offered your life fully and completely to your spouse. Through illness, health, prosperity and maybe even poverty, you have chosen to stand by your spouse."

This commitment, he said, is often misunderstood in our world, but those present have the "unbreakable glue" that keeps a marriage strong, a glue that comes from the grace of Christ which brought such couples together—and held them together for decades.

"You have found the recipe for a successful, grace-filled

"It is always appropriate to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage, and here at the diocese we truly enjoy showcasing couples at our Annual Jubilee Mass," said Rose Talbot-Babey, coordinator of Religious Education who, along with the Office of Faith Formation, organized this event. "We should encourage and promote those who desire to unify themselves as one with our Lord."

Following the Mass and Concert, a light reception followed at St. Theresa School for all celebrants and their families.

Wedding Jubilarians

Lawrence & Ruth Schmidt, 73 years
John & Helen Kowalonek, 65 years
Joseph & Rosemary Newberry, 63 years
Joseph & Deanne Donia, 62 years
Brendan & Shirley Sniffin, 61 years
Arthur & Sheila Blank, 60 years
William & Monica Brown, 60 years
John & Mary Craine, 60 years
Michael & Lorraine Derivan, 60 years

William & Gerry Corry, 50 years
Joseph & Marie-Elena Crupi, 50 years
Thomas & Janet DiStasio, 50 years
Sebastien & Marie Filippone, 50 years
Donald & Natalie Foust, 50 years
Albert & Eileen Gallo, 50 years
Paul & Linda Gargano, 50 years
Robert & Kathleen Kacmarsky, 50 years
Thomas & Sarah Kirrane, 50 years
Henry & Bonnie Klaassens, 50 years
Joseph & Carol Konopka, 50 years
Donald & Helen Krysynski, 50 years
Peter & Joyce Kuhn, 50 years
Ronald & Lenora Labrecque, 50 years
Joseph & Lina Luciano, 50 years
John & Josephine Luicci, 50 years
Gerald & Kathleen Mahoney, 50 years
Mario & Pasqualina Maroccia, 50 years
Albert & Mary Ann Mascia, 50 years
Donald & Ruth Masso, 50 years
Frank & Sandra Masso, 50 years
Eugene & Renee McEvoy, 50 years
John & Pat McGlynn, 50 years
Thomas & Patricia McManus, 50 years
Joseph & Dorothy Moyer, 50 years
Robert & Louise Noll, 50 years

Dennis & Sally Oligino, 50 years
Kenneth & Mary Ann Perry, 50 years
Gerard & Elaine Reidy, 50 years
Gabriel & Annette Roy, 50 years
David & Kathleen Sochacki, 50 years
Arkadiusz & Teresa Targonski, 50 years
James & Patricia Tharrington, 50 years
Joseph & Linda Welsh, 50 years
Zygmunt & Linda Zajkowski, 50 years
Raymond & Mary Banacowski, 47 years
Feye & Jacqueline Bell, 45 years
Frank & Terry Buckingham, 45 years
Peter & Catherine Denkus, 45 years
Kevin & Eriqueta Donovan, 45 years
Claude & Maureen Eustache, 45 years
Martin & Mary Ann Foncello, 45 years
Jacinto & Veronica Gador, 45 years
Guy & Deborah Gallo, 45 years
Martin & Denise Gross, 45 years
Thomas & Virginia Gunther, 45 years
Stanislaw & Anna Marczyk, 45 years
Jaime & Igdalia Olivera, 45 years
James & Kerry Plutte, 45 years
William & Noreen Reda, 45 years
Cosme & Reina Rivera, 44 years
Daniel & Liliana Casal, 40 years
Armando & Eva Cerquozzi, 40 years
Anthony & Rose Marie D'Aquila, 40 years
Jan & Donna Darula, 40 years
Michael & Pamela DePaoli, 40 years
Robert & Kathleen Fiorillo, 40 years
Scott & Margie Goodfellow, 40 years
Dennis & Jo-Anne Horvath, 40 years
John & Elizabeth Marchese, 40 years
Robert & Jean Maresca, 40 years
Alfonse & Joanne Mauro, 40 years
Peter & Vincenza McNulty, 40 years
Gary & Barbara Moyher, 40 years
David & Rebecca Purcell, 40 years
Peter & Margaret Barrella, 35 years
Brian & Mariotte Corson, 35 years
John & Karen Davidson, 35 years
Vince & Dana Fini, 35 years
Mark & Katherine Ianni, 35 years
Bernard & Janie Nneji, 35 years
James & Sharon O'Hara, 35 years
Alexander & Judith Palmieri, 35 years

Andrew & Irena Rak, 35 years
Frank & JoAnna Rogers, 35 years
Joseph & Karin Rooney-Forte, 35 years
James & Diane Ryan, 35 years
Steven & Mary Simise, 35 years
Paul & Sharon Spicer, 35 years
Jack & Anne Talley, 35 years
Jeffrey & Carol Wise, 35 years
Juan R & Nelsy Londono, 31 years
Colin & Matilde Cafferty, 30 years
Benjamin & Damaris Caldera, 30 years
Frank & Beth Carpanzano, 30 years
John & Lynda Donohoe, 30 years
Anthony & Susan Franco, 30 years
Mark & Joann King, 30 years
Krzysztof & Krystyna Kopec, 30 years
Joseph & Mohini Lisboa, 30 years
Cesar & Marisol Perez, 30 years
Peter & Mariola Potapowicz, 30 years
Philip & Dianne Quagliariello, 30 years
Michael & Ginny Ryan, 30 years
Marco & Margarita Salazar, 30 years
Steven & Monica Taddonio, 30 years
Ernest & Eileen Vitarbo, 30 years
John & Monica Welch, 30 years
Jesus & Josefina Barragan, 25 years
Nicholas & Elizabeth Carriero, 25 years
Daniel & Jennifer Chichester, 25 years
John & Maureen DiTaranto, 25 years
David & Kathleen Gerhart, 25 years
Stephen & Marcia Giorgio, 25 years
Gregory & Sonia Girolamo, 25 years
Patrick & Virginia Gorman, 25 years
Mark & Sharon Halstead, 25 years
Steven & Martha Hyland, 25 years
Dave & Anne Leskow, 25 years
Joseph & Michelle Luciano, 25 years
Vito & Anna Mazza, 25 years
Natalio & Juventina Mones, 25 years
Paul & Marybeth Nisco, 25 years
Rolando & Angelica Perez-Elorza, 25 years
Nicholas & Karen Piciw, 25 years
Kevin & Mary Rivera, 25 years
Claudio & Mary Beth Ronzitti, 25 years
Roger & Daina-Marie Trapasso, 25 years
Charles & Pamela Woodside, 25 years
Manuel & Celia Yupangui, 25 years

Final Listening Session

Heroic witness will bring healing

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BROOKFIELD—At the third and final abuse crisis listening session held in the chapel of St. Joseph Church in Brookfield the discussion between Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and those in attendance was candid, at times deeply personal and ended on a hopeful note.

The bishop said that the crisis may take generations to heal, but he believes profound change is already underway in the Church and much of it is coming from the bottom up.

"I think we're entering an age of heroes. There's no room for mediocrity in our faith. Heroes come with collars and without them, from inside the Church and outside. They are witnesses of holiness in life and they teach us to be bearers of light in a world that is divided and filled with violence and loneliness."

The men and women who shared their thoughts and feelings with the bishop expressed disappointment, anger and confusion about the scandal that has engulfed the Church, but they also said they love the Church and were grateful for the bishop's candor and commitment to transparency.

"It has been cover-up after cover-up for years and trust has been eroded. The wounds are deep and this will take a long time to heal," said one woman who was dismayed by ongoing revelations.

Another said she had started to write a letter to the bishop but

gave up because she didn't really think anyone was listening or would answer her.

The bishop then listened in depth to her concerns as she spoke about wanting to feel more welcome and engaged by the Church, which often seems remote and uncaring to her. She said the Eucharist keeps her in the Church despite her disappointment.

Peggy Fry, a victim of clerical sexual abuse and member of the diocesan survivor's group, consoled the woman and told her that a meeting between Bishop Caggiano and victims of abuse changed her life because the bishop listened intently to her story and began to work with victims.

Father Karol Ksiazek, parochial vicar of St. Joseph's, said he was grateful for the bishop's leadership and "his sense of urgency about the crisis."

A young man who was recently baptized into the Church told the bishop that the abuse crisis "has done a ton of damage to the Church," but said he was encouraged by the meeting, the comments of parishioners and the bishop's commitment to accountability.

One man said he was concerned "that the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction" and that priests, including those who are deceased, don't have the opportunity to defend themselves against allegations.

Erin Neil, director of Safe Environments for the diocese, explained the diocesan investigative and review board process and



THE THIRD AND FINAL abuse crisis listening session was held in the chapel of St. Joseph Church in Brookfield. The discussion between Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and those in attendance was candid, at times deeply personal and ended on a hopeful note.

the multiple ways that a decision of credibility is arrived at when allegations are made.

In his brief remarks before taking questions from the gathering, the bishop said that the Dallas Charter, established in 2002 and the Safe Environments programs it created, have been very successful in protecting children, but the diocese still has more work to do to bring closure to the crisis.

"You can't have healing and move forward without three elements—child protection, transparency and accountability," the bishop said.

The bishop said in order to address the transparency and accountability issue he asked retired Connecticut Superior Court Judge Robert Holzberg to

lead an independent investigation that not only provides a complete accounting of all priests credibly accused of abuse, but also reports on leadership decisions and how the diocese handled abuse cases in the past.

"There will be no redactions to the report. The people of the diocese will read the same report that I receive," the bishop said, adding that he expects the report to be completed by the end of summer.

The bishop said that Judge Holzberg and his team have reviewed 38,000 files and imaged the contents of 11 diocesan computers in addition to responding to calls on the hotline (833.990.0004) that the judge set up recently as part of the investigation.

As in the first two listening sessions held at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield and St. Joseph High School in Trumbull, people inquired about seminary training, the screening of candidates and overall priestly formation.

The bishop responded that current seminary programs place a strong emphasis on "human formation" and the ability of seminarians to relate to others and understand their own sexuality.

"If you had told me in 2006 when I was first named a bishop that I would spend so much time on this issue, I would have been amazed," said the bishop who admitted that everyone in the Church has been affected by the crisis and that priests are having a difficult time because of public perceptions.

He said that the relationships he has formed with the men and women survivors of sexual abuse have been a gift to him and the entire Church.

"One of the great blessings for me has been the witness of survivors. They have come forward as healing agents and I am very grateful to them."

A full accounting of the diocesan response to the abuse crisis including information on how to report abuse, a financial accountability report, a revised list of credibly accused and settlements paid and a complete guide to resources can be found on the "Pledge to Protect" page of the diocesan website.

(For more information visit: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/pledge.) ■

New TV Mass

There's another way to watch the daily Celebration of the Eucharist television Mass. A new channel has been added where your loved ones can experience God's love and the joy of joining with people all over Connecticut for prayers of comfort, of healing and of hope.

Each day at 10 am, the Celebration of the Eucharist is broadcast on WCCT-TV, channel 20 and also now on WCTX, channel 59—also known as MyTV9. WCCT can be found on cable television systems as channel 7 or 11, and WCTX as channel 9 on cable.

This is especially beneficial to folks in the Diocese of Bridgeport, because this additional broadcast outlet is available to more people in Fairfield County by virtue of the availability of MyTV9 on cable systems, plus being broadcast over the air for folks who still rely on an antenna for their TVs.

(To view the Mass online visit: www.ortv.org/streaming/TV_Mass_stream.htm at the website of the Office of Radio and Television.) ■

Pentecost Vigil set for June 8

BRIDGEPORT—This year's Vigil of Pentecost Mass is set for Saturday, June 8, 7 pm at St. Augustine Cathedral. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. All are welcome to attend.

"We form one beautiful mosaic as a Church. This diversity, which extends to every nation, is a small piece of the mystical presence of the family of God," said Bishop Caggiano during last year's Mass that drew hundreds to the Cathedral.

Prayers will be said in many languages reflecting the diversity of Bridgeport area parishioners and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the universal Church.

As an example, the prayers of the faithful will be read in Portuguese, Italian, Spanish,

Polish, Haitian, Vietnamese and English.

Pentecost is a feast of the universal Church which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles fifty days after the resurrection of Christ on the ancient Jewish festival called the "feast of weeks" or Pentecost.

The feast celebrates the completion of the work of redemption, the fullness of grace for the Church and its children and the gift of faith for all nations. ■

Deacons Convocation

We are living in challenging spiritual times

By JOE PISANI

FAIRFIELD—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano unveiled a plan for a spiritual association called the Diaconate Confraternity of Saint Stephen, whose mission would be to deepen the personal holiness of members by fostering a spirituality centered on the Eucharist, at the Diaconate Convocation held recently at Fairfield University.

"We are living in challenging spiritual times," the bishop said. "And it is extremely important that you and I have as our foundation our personal relationship with the Lord."

The challenges facing the Church are the result of a loss of trust in the leadership and a sig-

nificant decrease in understanding and belief in the Eucharist. He said the latest research shows that nearly half of Catholics in the United States no longer believe in the Real Presence or cannot articulate what it means.

The Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ that comes in the Sacrifice of the Mass must be central to the deacons in their lives and ministry, he said. The confraternity is similar to the Confraternity of St. John Vianney, which was inaugurated last December and had 16 priests as original members.

The goals of the confraternity, which the wives of deacons would be invited to join, are to deepen reverence for the Blessed

Sacrament through prayer and adoration, to foster ongoing spiritual renewal and fraternal bonds among its members, and to encourage works of charity and acts of reparation for the sins of deacons, priests and bishops. Members would commit to weekly Eucharistic adoration, daily silent prayer, weekday Mass, monthly confession and other duties.

The deacons responded enthusiastically to the bishop's proposal, which he hopes to inaugurate on the Feast of Pentecost.

Deacon John DiTaranto, who is assigned to St. Stephen's in Trumbull and is pastoral administrator of Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel in



(PHOTO BY CHRIS GREER)

Bridgeport, welcomed the group and announced a restructuring of the Office of the Diaconate. Responsibilities will be divided among three coordinators—Deacon Tim Bolton will assume diaconate vocations and inquiry, Deacon Jerry Lambert, diaconate formation and Deacon DiTaranto, continuing formation.

Of the 100 deacons in the diocese, 66 are in active service. Six men will be ordained on June 15 at 11 am at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull, and there are five aspi-

rants in the formation program.

The daylong convocation also included a session for diaconate wives by Ilene Ianniello, a Liturgical Practicum by Deacon Patrick Toole, sessions about spiritual direction and programs at the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Fairfield University and a presentation by Patrick Donovan, director of the diocesan Leadership Institute.

Father Paul Check, rector of St. John Fisher Seminary, gave a talk on the Resurrection, which he defined as "the central mystery and sum of the Christian faith."

He told the wives of deacons in formation that the mystery of Christ's Resurrection should stir them just as it did the first Apostles and draw them closer to the Lord. It cannot merely be a fact in history because, he said, "God intends for us to enjoy a measure of Easter joy right now" even as we carry the crosses in our lives for the sake of Christ.

"As Christians, we don't rely on ourselves, so instead of thinking of self-confidence, let us think of Christ-confidence," he said.

Marianne Smythe, wife of Deacon Brad Smythe, led a discussion with the women and was joined by Ilene Ianniello, who is president of the ministry for the wives of deacons. They explained their work at St. Joseph Parenting in Stamford, St. Vincent DePaul Center and their projects at St. Raphael School in Bridgeport.

Patrick Donovan, director of the Leadership Institute, delivered a talk based on the pastoral teaching of Pope Francis, titled Ten Traps for Ministry and offered a recipe for a successful ministry, which included suggestions like be friendly, be approachable, be polite, be serene, be enthusiastic and be joyful.

He also offered recommendations, based on his doctoral dissertation, which he defended last month. They were formulated from research that spanned more

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

DEACON ORDINATION FROM PAGE 3

Peace, St. Gabriel and now at St. Joseph's Manor," shares Hodson. Hodson is grateful for being able to attend St. Joseph's Seminary College in Yonkers where he just attained a master's degree in theology as a portion of his diaconate studies. "I am so thankful to God for working with me over the course of my life. I have been so blessed with a wonderful family, holy priests, and God's songs in my heart," says Hodson.

Eric Keener

Eric Keener was confirmed and received into the Church at the Easter Vigil in 2010. A resident of Bethel, he attends St. Mary Parish along with his wife Kathleen and children Audrey and Jonathan. "I became more and more involved in my parish and began to sense that the Holy Spirit was calling me to serve God and his people in a permanent and consecrated way," shares Keener. "While my relationship with God had always been important to me and I knew a bit about the permanent diaconate, it was really the proactive encouragement of my pastor, Father Corey Piccinino that led Kathy and me to discern whether I was being called to this ordained ministry." Keener expresses that he and his wife have been blessed with more graces than they could have possibly imagined along the journey of formation and they look forward



THE SOON TO BE ORDAINED recently celebrated their graduation from St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., all receiving their master's degrees. Eric Keener was awarded the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for Academic Excellence. (l-r) Joseph and Laura Klimaszewski; Michael and Kathy Ronan; Eric and Kathleen Keener (The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for Excellence); Stephen and Susan Hodson; Richard and Christine Lawlor; Joseph and Frances Cann.

to whatever God has planned for them as they approach ordination and beyond.

Joseph Klimaszewski

Joseph Klimaszewski attends St. Lawrence in Shelton, where he resides with his wife Laura and daughters Alexis and Nicole. Since his days at St. Michael the Archangel in Bridgeport, where he received his sacraments and attended grammar school, Klimaszewski has always been drawn to the altar and has had a desire to serve Christ and His Church. "The Holy Spirit is opening a new door for me to grow in prayer and service," shares Klimaszewski on his calling to serve by becoming a deacon.

Richard Lawlor

Richard Lawlor works for

the Town of Ridgfield as a Fire Captain and when not working at the firehouse, he works for his family business, R.E. Lawlor Graphics & Printing, located in downtown Bethel, where he is a resident along with his wife Christine of almost 25 years, daughter Michaela and son Ricky. "I believe I was called to be a deacon a very long time ago," says Lawlor. "When I look back at my life journey I can't help but see the gentle, guiding hand of God, leading me along the way. I have a beautiful life and am very happy to soon be serving our Lord and His Church as a deacon." He and his family attend St. Mary Parish in Bethel. He enjoys doing yard work and spending time on the lake with family and friends.

After ordination, he looks forward to spending the summer with his family as he prepares for an active ministry of bringing God's love and mercy to many.

Michael Ronan

Michael Ronan is a parishioner of St. Rose of Lima in Newtown. Ronan grew up in Eastchester and Ridgefield and later moved to Newtown. A lawyer by training, he is the executive director of Kevin's Community Center, a nonprofit medical clinic for adults. He is also in charge of administration and human resources at Jericho Partnership, a wide-ranging Christian nonprofit ministry in Danbury that focuses on at-risk youth and adults and the homeless. Michael and wife Kathy are parents of three adult children, from 25 to 35. When asked about the future, Ronan says, "I'm looking forward to whatever God has in store for me. I can't predict what that is, but I am just trying to be a good follower."

For the six men, their ordination will mark the culmination of nearly five years of study and formation that included driving to St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers after work two nights a week for classes toward a master's in theology, in addition to staying overnight once a month in Bridgeport on Friday and all day Saturday for supplemental courses in homiletics, liturgical practicum and spirituality. ■

Redemptoris Mater Seminary

A seminary committed to the missionary spirit

By **JOE PISANI**

STAMFORD—Three years ago, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano decided to enkindle the missionary spirit in the Diocese of Bridgeport by opening a Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Stamford whose purpose is to prepare priests for missionary work anywhere in the world—from China to Europe and from the Philippines to the streets of Bridgeport.

“I asked for the seminary because my experience had been, when I was in Brooklyn, that the men who are part of the Neocatechumenal Way are deeply devout, they’re enthusiastic and they have a missionary heart. They want to evangelize,” he said. “And that’s ultimately what we are about in the Church.”

Redemptoris Mater (Mother of the Redeemer) seminaries are under the auspices of the Neocatechumenal Way, a 55-year-old community in the

Church, dedicated to Christian formation and the New Evangelization.

Bishop Caggiano invited them to form a seminary that would develop priests who could be sent anywhere on the globe, depending on the need.

“They can be missionaries to the four corners of the Earth, missionaries in different parts of the country and missionaries in our own diocese,” he said. “To be a hero for Christ takes many different forms. You could be the pastor of a parish and really give your life in sacrifice. You can also do it by traveling the world to some distant mission or knocking on doors in Bridgeport. They remind us that we are all called to do that.”

Redemptoris Mater international seminaries were inspired by St. Pope John Paul II and his call for a “New Evangelization.” The first seminary opened in 1987 in the Diocese of Rome, and today there are 127 on five continents.

Since they began, more than

2,000 men have been ordained to the priesthood, and some 1,500 seminarians are in formation worldwide. Even though they have an international character, they function as diocesan seminaries with the same theological formation, except that the young men are also sent out to do mission work for two years.

The Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Stamford opened in January 2016 under the direction of Father Alfonso Picone, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. It was the ninth in the United States. Today there are eight young

men there under the direction of Father Marco Pacciana, who serves as the rector and Father Giandomenico Flora, who is the spiritual director and also rector of St. Margaret’s Shrine in Bridgeport.

“We need priests to spread the Gospel of Christ wherever there is a need,” says Father Pacciana, who came to Stamford a year ago.

A native of Bari, Italy, he grew up in the town of Ginosa, and was introduced to the Neocatechumenal Way at age 19. From then, his life changed. He was led by the Lord to the priest-

hood and a strong commitment to the mission of Redemptoris Mater seminaries.

He said the Neocatechumenal Way is founded on small Christian communities in parishes worldwide. Begun in Madrid in 1964 by Spanish artist Kiko Arguello and lay missionary Carmen Hernandez, the Way has spread to 900 dioceses in 105 countries with 25,000 communities in 6,000 parishes. Its goal is the formation of Christians committed to the Word of God, the Eucharist and strengthening

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Mass celebrates religious



THE ANNUAL LITURGY FOR THE OBSERVANCE of the Consecrated Life and Recognition of Jubilarians was held May 7, 2019 at Saint Luke Church with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano as the main celebrant. Jubilarian attendees pictured with him are (1st Row) Sr. Marie Elena McCormack, SSND, Sr. Maria Varghese, POSC, Sr. Mercita Curley, RSM, Sr. Teresia Spodnik, SSND, Sr. Mary Ann Rossi, CND, Sr. Doris Thibault, OP; (2nd Row) Sr. Mary Anne Foley, CND, Sr. Mary Anne Powers, CND, Sr. Nancy Strillacci, ASCJ, Sr. Leonora Tucker, SSND, Sr. Diane McHugh, SSND, Sr. Donna McHugh, SSND, and Rev. Charles Allen, SJ.

WESTPORT—One of the readings at the Mass celebrating Religious life on May 7 at St. Luke Church was from Revelation 3:20, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.”

A 19th century painting by William Holman Hunt portraying that portion of scripture is well-known and was prominent at the celebration. Jesus is in a garden, standing at a door knocking. The door has no handle and can only be opened from within. The passage and painting remind the Christian that God gives incredible

freedom to each soul and does not force a relationship with any person but waits patiently to be invited into each individual heart where intimacy can develop. This is the work of life: to advance in love and familiarity with God.

This year there were twenty-seven men and women religious jubilarians in the diocese having reached milestones ranging from eighty to twenty-five years in vowed life. When totaled, all the years spent in dedicated service represented by those priests and sisters was unbelievably over 1,500! Those years were spent in prayer, meditation, living in community and varied ministries including school administration, teaching, social work, nursing, catechetics

and outreach to the marginalized. Their adventure with the Lord started with their opening the door.

The future vitality of the Church and the continuation of the diverse charisms of congregations depend on the generosity of the new generations of Catholics when considering vowed consecration as a life option. It is true, every Christian should aim to incorporate the evangelical counsels, poverty, chastity and obedience, in imitation of Jesus in their lives no matter what their calling. However, the total self-gift made by Religious is a witness so needed in a time of relativism.

What matters most is inviting Christ in. ■

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Magnificat Breakfast

‘Saintly’ Life inspires many

By EMILY CLARK

Growing up, Joe Reali lived by the words “God, Family, Football,” borrowing a version of Vince Lombardi’s famous motto. An apparently ordinary young man with many friends and a passion for sports, Reali also acted in extraordinary ways with a powerful devotion to his Catholic faith: displaying an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in his high school locker, serving as a sacristan in his Long Island parish and inviting his teammates to daily Mass.

“Joe lived his life like a football game,” said his mother Lisa Reali. “Every time he brought a soul to Christ, he scored a touchdown. That was his mission in life.”

While contemplating the priesthood, Joe Reali, at age 25, died unexpectedly from a heart condition in January 2015. His story, however, continues to inspire people to live their life with God at the center. It was this message that resonated with the women who attended last month’s Magnificat Prayer Breakfast at Tashua Knolls in Trumbull.

Twice a year, Magnificat: A

Ministry to Catholic Women hosts an event centered on a shared meal, communal praise and worship, intercessory prayer and a personal testimony of one whose life has been deeply influenced by God’s spirit. This opportunity for fellowship allows women to gather and share experiences no matter where they are on their Catholic journey.

“These events are very uplifting, very refreshing,” said Jeanne Burns of Danbury, who was away from the Church for 25 years. “I take advantage of programs like this to get revived. The stories mean a lot to me.”

When Magnificat coordinator Fran Hood first heard the story of Joe Reali, she knew it was one that would inspire this year’s attendees.

“I was taken by him. I couldn’t stop thinking about him,” said Hood. “He was a beloved son and brother. I kept thinking, ‘How can we share his story?’”

It is through Reali’s mother Lisa of Long Island and his sister Luciana Corsello of Trumbull that the legacy of this young man lives on. Details of his childhood

as an altar server, his teenage years as an athlete and his young adulthood as a prospective member of the Knights of Columbus emerged in their testimonies.

Reminding many of the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, another charismatic young man who drew people to Christ, Reali didn’t live to see his membership in the Knights of Columbus realized. In his honor, the Knights of Woodbury, New York created the Joseph Mario Reali Council 16261 and produced a video, shown at the Magnificat breakfast, to keep his spirit alive. Through this and through the memories from his family, attendees saw confirmation of Reali’s commitment to God but also of his commitment to relatives and friends, showing how his secular life was complemented by his life of faith.

“How do you go out to the bars with your friends and then go back and knock on their doors the next morning and make sure they all go to Mass?” recalled family friend Paul Ousey in the Knights’ video.

“In his short life, he made a difference to so many,” said Pat Paniccia, treasurer of Magnificat,



commenting that he drew people back to dedicate their lives to Jesus, including a young man who ran away from home but returned to his mother because of Reali’s guidance and prayer. Selfless acts such as this, born of his great love for all those he met, prompt many to label Reali’s life as “saintly.”

His mother spoke of how her youngest son told people to “respect all women like your mother, no – like the Blessed Mother.” According to her, “the most precious gift God gives to us is the soul of our children.”

In reading excerpts from his seminary essay, Lisa Reali shared with the Magnificat women his love for the Gospel of John and how he lived the message of Fatima.

“What separated Joe from others was his deep faith,” she said, remembering how he prayed the rosary daily and attended Adoration. “He was so proud to be a Catholic.”

She also recalled her son’s connection to their family’s Italian heritage, especially when as a child, he would bake and then deliver zeppole, the St.

Joseph Day pastries, to his neighbors on the March 19 feast day. “It didn’t matter that many of them were Jewish!” she laughed. “That was Joe. He always had a childlike joy and saw only goodness in others.”

Luciana Corsello, Reali’s older sister, said she feels God knew her brother could do more in Heaven than on Earth. “We can all be like him,” she said, “if we do every little act with love.”

Such little acts continue to be realized even after Reali’s death. While cleaning out his bedroom, his mother found a prayer from Saint Mother Theresa that her son had handwritten and kept in his desk. It is this prayer, printed on a card with the double image of Our Lady and Joseph Reali, which the women of Magnificat carried home with them: “The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.”

The good that this young man did in his short life surely will not be forgotten, as his legacy lives on through his family, the Knights of Columbus and all those who witness the inspiring story of a life lived for the grace of God. ■

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FIRST: Please go to C4YSINGS.com and **REGISTER** for your audition. If you can’t make a designated time, please fill out the Registration and then contact mhiggins@diobpt.org for your personal audition time.

Auditions will take place the **WEEK of JUNE 10, 2019** at the 6 rehearsal sites and times mentioned below. It will last no more than 15 minutes. All singers need to prepare *The Star Spangled Banner* to sing. (Words don’t matter, LA LA LA is fine!)

Ability to read music is NOT a criteria.

If you read music, that’s a bonus! If not, and you love to sing and want to be a part of C4Y, come prepared to learn how!

HOPE TO SEE AND HEAR YOU IN JUNE!

WEEKLY REHEARSAL DAYS AND TIMES

Mondays	4:30-6pm	Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center 229 Danbury Rd., Wilton, CT
Tuesdays	2:15-3:30pm	Kolbe Cathedral High School 33 Calhoun Place, Bridgeport, CT
Tuesdays	4:30-6pm	The Catholic Center, Queen of Saints Hall 238 Jewett Ave., Bridgeport, CT
Tuesdays	7-8:30pm	St. Joseph’s High School 2320 Huntington Tpke, Trumbull, CT
Wednesdays	4:30-6pm	Trinity Catholic High School 926 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT
Thursdays	4:30-6pm	Immaculate High School 73 Southern Blvd., Danbury, CT

EDITORIAL

One Extraordinary
Weekend

The diocese comes to life in a special way each spring with weddings, First Holy Communion, ordinations and so many other activities and liturgies that celebrate and deepen the life of faith of individuals and families.

On one recent weekend the deacons held their yearly convocation which affirmed their ministry and role within the diocese; Msgr. Chris Walsh was installed as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bridgeport and 150 couples renewed their marriage vows at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull. There was hardly a dry eye in the Church as couples, many married over 50 years, looked into each other eyes and pledged their love and faith. "You have offered your life fully and completely to your spouse," the bishop told the couples. The installation of Msgr. Walsh was a testimony to his life as a priest and to the faith of the St. Charles Borromeo parish family. He delivered his homily in Spanish and English and the occasion became a festival of joy for all those who participated in the liturgy.

At a time of crisis when the Church faces real challenges, the faith, vitality and diversity of its people tell a different and more encouraging story and offer great hope for the future.

Women Religious

Bishop Caggiano recently visited St. Luke Parish in Westport to join the religious women and men of our diocese for their annual Jubilee Mass. The bishop offered Mass for the jubilarians and celebrated the unique gifts that the members of consecrated life bring to our diocese. It was also an occasion for the bishop to reflect on religious life, particularly the contributions of religious women:

"As I look back on my own life, members of religious life had a profound and lasting effect upon me. The Catholic education that they offered to me and my classmates was superb. However, it was the formation in faith that I received and the integrity of their Christian witness that I saw each day which truly transformed my life. I can remember vividly how impressed I was by the sacrifices that the sisters made, both small and large, for the sake of their students. I also recall the genuine joy that they displayed in everything that they did.

My admiration for them inspired me to imitate what they did and to understand holiness of life to be something that I could attain in my life, even if I did not go off to a foreign land or have to die a martyr for the faith.

As we, the diocesan family, celebrate this special day, let us all give thanks for the gift of consecrated life in our midst and the profound blessing it offers us both in daily service and integrity of witness."

During the month honoring Mary, we join Bishop Caggiano in praising all religious who have played a formative role in the diocese and in the lives of so many families. Special thanks go out to Sr. Nancy Strillacci, ASCJ, of the office of Clergy Personnel, who coordinated the annual Jubilee Mass for religious, and continues to inspire through her prison ministry.

Young People & Faith

The recent release of "Christus Vivit," the apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, is a summons to the Church to more vigorously invest in youth and young adults, especially those on the peripheries and those disconnected from the Church. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, President of the USCCB, said the Church welcomes this teaching from Pope Francis as the fruit of the recent international synodal journey in which the Holy Father and other leaders walked with and listened to young people. "Now more than ever, we must turn our attention to our young people and engage them as 'protagonists' of the Church's mission. Their insights can help us grow as a Church and guide us as we all learn to become better missionary disciples in an intercultural and intergenerational context. We look forward to what comes next, in collaboration with Catholic ministry leaders already working alongside young people." Here in our own diocese, we are also grateful that Bishop Caggiano has consistently worked to "Empower the Young Church" by engaging youth in our parishes and celebrating their talents and gifts as we seek to renew the Church. ■

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Face-to-face formation sessions wrap up

BRIDGEPORT—The Leadership Institute has begun its final round of face-to-face formation sessions.

Face-to-face gatherings were established as part of the introduction to the revised Norms Governing Liturgical Ministries and have been attended by more than 4,000 people throughout the diocese with more than 60 sessions being held since January.

The revised norms offer standards and required formation for those who serve as readers (proclaimers of the Word at Mass), Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), altar servers and musicians.

"It has been a remarkable experience for the men and women who have participated—an affirmation and updating of their role in the Church and an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the faith," says Patrick Donovan, director of the Leadership Institute and coordinator of these forma-



tion gatherings.

Donovan explains that these new norms are an experimentum for a year after their promulgation in order to consider feedback from those participating in formation. He adds that during the Feast of Corpus Christi in June, each pastor in the diocese will preach on the liturgy in order to introduce parishioners to the meanings and reasonings behind

the new norms.

More than 3,000 liturgical ministers are participating in online and offline learning and the Institute will soon turn its attention to the formation of catechists—a number which tops 4,000.

(To learn more about the many resources and events sponsored by the Leadership Institute, including the remaining sessions for liturgical ministers, visit: www.formationreimagined.org.) ■



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

DIRECTOR

FATHER MICHAEL A. BOCCACCIO, to Diocesan Director of Catholic Relief Services. Effective date was April 9. Father Boccaccio will remain Director of the Pontifical Mission Office.

RETIREMENT

FATHER JAMES A. MCDEVITT, from Pastor, Saint Agnes Parish, Greenwich,

to Retirement. Effective date is June 30.

DIACONAL COUNCIL

DEACON WILLIAM TIMMEL, has been appointed to serve as a Member of the Diaconal Council. Effective date was April 24.

ONGOING PRIESTLY
FORMATION COMMITTEE

The following clergy have been appointed

to this newly formed committee:

Father Paul N. Check, *Chair*
Monsignor Thomas W. Powers
Monsignor Kevin T. Royal
Father Gerald R. Blaszczak, SJ
Father Joseph A. Marcello
Father Samuel S. Kachuba
Father Francis T. Hoffman
Deacon Patrick Toole

Monsignor Thomas W. Powers
Vicar General, May, 2019

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Editorial



Where mindfulness meets Catholicism

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.

I am one of those people who reads about four books at once because I can't decide on one. So one can imagine my joy when we receive books in the mail to our office. Something I am doing this year is keeping track of all the books I read to count up the grand total come 2020—so I am always interested in adding another to the list.

Every so often, though, one of the books on my growing list will make a profound impact on the way I think. I recently read

The Mindful Catholic: Finding God One Moment At A Time by Dr. Gregory Bottaro. It was a book that seemed to find me at the exact time I needed it, call it Divine Providence, if you like.

A parishioner of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford with his wife Barbara, Dr. Bottaro formed the CatholicPsych Institute in 2012 to connect Catholics around the world with therapists trained to integrate the faith with the practice.

He has given many talks in the

diocese and has worked directly with our bishop on a number of initiatives. He is currently serving on a newly formed committee for ongoing priestly formation in the diocese.

Being a strong advocate for mental health awareness, I had heard of and read about the practice of mindfulness before but never in the context of my own faith. When I can combine my other interests and passions with my faith, the fruit that is yielded seems to be exponentially more.

In *The Mindful Catholic*, Dr. Bottaro presents mindfulness teaching alongside hundreds of years of Catholic spirituality, evidence which shows that these techniques have huge potential for enhancing our health and wellbeing.

Dr. Bottaro's advice helps the reader to become more mindful and teaches one how to pay attention to the full scope of life in order to have a greater sense of

freedom, joy and peace.

Of the integration of mindfulness and Catholicism, Dr. Bottaro says, "This is a natural integration that comes from the recognition that something about mindfulness actually works." Dr. Bottaro makes the distinction between Catholic-based mindfulness and Eastern-based meditation, saying that many meditative practices seek to empty the mind, while Catholic mindfulness views the mind to be full of reality, allowing one to see thoughts and situations for what they really are.

Having fallen in love with the Catholic view of the human person through the work of Pope St. John Paul II, Dr. Bottaro read Love and Responsibility and later more of his philosophy and saw these writings as essential manuals to understand how we're made and what we're made for. "This foundation provides the perfect stability for building an infrastructure of therapeutic

intervention to help people flourish," he says.

Personally, I had been using mindfulness to combat my own negative self-talk. I would find myself falling into patterns of self-deprecating thoughts, letting them lead me down a path that God never intended me to go.

In *The Mindful Catholic* Dr. Bottaro writes, "God made you with the highest dignity possible and with a destiny for greatness, but we can all be tempted at times by the thought that we aren't that good. This sense is at the very root of why our minds turn against us in so many ways."

Many of the exercises that Dr. Bottaro presents in his book are aimed at bringing healing toward these thoughts and patterns.

He writes, "Thoughts and feelings happen, but they don't have the authority to lay claim to truth. Just because they happen

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



Dad will cry if he wants to—or not

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

Matthew Hennessey is a writer, husband, and father of five. Twitter:@matthennessey

Among the harder things to prepare for as a parent is the raw emotion that pushes up like an oil strike during big family moments. Our Clara's confirmation got me good.

We earned our stripes with Clara. She is the oldest of our five. My wife and I could teach a masterclass covering all-night fevers, tick removal, car-seat vomit, tween drama, sideline pep talks, technology interventions, pop-star crushes, groundings, un-groundings and the rest.

You'd think 15 years of this dad business would've toughened me up. You'd be wrong.

Clara is the pioneer—first to do everything. And at every

sacramental rite of passage I've had to fight off the ugly cry. At her baptism. At her first Holy Communion. When she made confession.

How could I possibly hope to hold it together at confirmation?

The Hennesseys are on a treadmill. The conveyor belt never stops: work, school, study, banjo, soccer, lunch, dinner, bed, up again, out the door, head count, back home, don't forget, wash your hands, tie your shoes, go go go go go.

The questions are future-focused. How are we going to get these kids through high school? What about college? When will the mortgage be paid? Will the car make it another year?

So transfixed by what's ahead. The past gets blurry. Sometimes the present does too. What day is it?

Treadmills break down. Without the conveyor belt moving beneath us, we go at half-speed. For a man of my emotional makeup this is the moment of danger. Call me a mush.

I knew I was in trouble during the procession. The candidates wore white robes, hands clasped like praying angels. The robes were for me what students call a "trigger." White is the color of baptism. It's the color of the cloth draped over the coffin.

Birth. Life. Love. Death. Mom. Dad. Eternity. The rush came fast. It gets me every time. Oh, goodness, it gets me good.

It wasn't my first Holy Spirit rodeo. I knew the pot was boiling over. I took a deep, trembling breath. And another. Our Patrick, age 10, sat next to me, stone-faced, none the wiser, probably his mind was off in the Marvel universe.

For much of the mass I was mostly fine. Bishop Caggiano told us to remember to slow down, to

make one good choice at a time. The right message, compellingly delivered. Teenagers, in my experience, want to get to Heaven but live in a world of easy pleasure and cruel temptation.

Well, we all live there.

I stole a look at our Clara while the bishop homilized. She looked so adult it frightened me. I

to read the prayer of the faithful. In her long white robe she was beautiful, self-possessed, her voice clear and steady.

That's my girl, I thought as the treadmill came to a dead stop. That's my little baby girl.

I should have been ready for what happened next, but of course I wasn't. The boil was roiling again.

Throat closed. Eyes welled. It was coming strong, coming fast. I had to act.

I made

a noise as if clearing my throat. Patrick glanced. I pulled a tissue from my jacket pocket and blew. Fooled you, Iron Man.

"What's the big deal if the boy sees you cry? It's a happy occasion. It's 2019. The Great Depression is over. You don't have to be such a stoic. Dads aren't like that anymore."

To which I say, go pound sand. I can do what I like, when I like. I've earned my stripes. ■

"To be 15 is to feel like a puzzle piece that won't fit. She handles it well. I saw her in that moment as a walking, talking miracle, the way dads do."

imagined her vulnerable, the way dads do. The wolves will come. She'll be a target. I won't be able to keep her safe.

Then, suddenly, she looked young again. So innocent. To be 15 is to feel like a puzzle piece that won't fit. She handles it well. I saw her in that moment as a walking, talking miracle, the way dads do.

Along with another young lady, our Clara took to the lectern

Liturgical Ministries

Frequently asked questions about Liturgical Norms

Since January, 4,000 people throughout the Diocese have attended more than 60 “Face-to-Face” Formation sessions introducing the revised Norms Governing Liturgical Ministries to those who serve as readers (proclaimers of the Word at Mass), Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), altar servers and musicians. In the following article, Dr. Patrick Donovan, director of The Leadership Institute that sponsored the sessions, reviews some of the most frequently asked questions by those who attended the sessions:

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano issued the Revised Norms Governing Liturgical Ministries in December 2018. Current readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and musicians are required to participate in formation, both online and face-to-face.

Now that the grandfathering phase of formation is winding down, perhaps the time is right to reflect on some of the most frequent questions that were asked during the 70+ face-to-face formation sessions, attended by more than 3,000 liturgical ministers.

The Revised Norms Governing Liturgical Ministries include all of us—those who serve in ministry and those who participate as part of the assembly each time we gather for Mass. As you reflect on your own experiences of hearing the Sacred Scripture or receiving Holy Communion, these questions and answers might provide valuable insight.

A more complete list of frequently asked questions appears online at formationreimagined.org/faq-and-pastoral-considerations.

What are norms?

By definition, norms are an authoritative standard. Liturgical norms regulate how the public worship of the Church is to be carried out. In the case of the Holy Eucharist, these norms ensure that the celebration of Mass in our Diocese is in conformity with the universal liturgical law of the Church.

As such, the norms of the Diocese of Bridgeport are based on the teaching and guidance of Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, the Magisterium and the entire prayer history of the



Church, the Bride of Christ.

Why are the norms being updated?

The current liturgical norms of the Diocese of Bridgeport were last revised in 1983. Bishop Caggiano, as the chief catechist of the diocese, felt it was important to review current norms to ensure the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is appropriately celebrated and those who minister within the context of the liturgy are properly formed. Plus, the Fourth General Synod, which concluded in September 2015, mandated that these norms be revised.

When do I reverence the altar and when do I genuflect before the tabernacle?

Because the altar symbolizes Christ, and is consecrated as the place “on which is effected the Sacrifice of the Cross made present under sacramental signs,” it is appropriate for all ministers to bow profoundly when passing before the altar during Mass. “If, however, the tabernacle with the Most Blessed Sacrament is situated in the sanctuary, the Priest, the Deacon, and the other ministers genuflect when they approach the altar and when they depart from it, but not during the celebration of Mass itself.”

There are two types of bows: bow of the head and a profound bow. The bow of the head is simply a slight bend forward of the head. A profound bow is made from the waist. A profound bow is made when crossing in front of the altar and during the Creed at

the words “and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and Became Man.”

Note: The only time that you would not bow to the altar nor genuflect to the tabernacle would be when passing in front of them while holding the Most Blessed Sacrament in your hands or when holding a ciborium or chalice, even if empty.

Can my non-Catholic brother or sister read at my wedding or our parent’s funeral?

A non-Catholic who is baptized may read at the discretion of the presider of the wedding or the funeral, but this is not the common practice. If the presider makes an exception, the person who is to read should be properly prepared. A person who is not baptized may never read at a Eucharistic celebration.

We have young people read at Mass sometimes. Can that continue?

Yes. In the Diocese of Bridgeport, young people under the age of 16 may function as a reader at Masses celebrated with his or her school, during the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, and at parish Masses where a large number of children and young families may be present, provided it is permitted by the pastor or episcopal chaplain on a case-by-case basis. Such instances require that the young person must be properly prepared and competent to exercise the ministry.

tion of difficult words or phrases.

What is the Book of the Gospels and when is it used?

The proclamation of the Gospel is the apex of the Liturgy of the Word, the moment when the teaching of Christ the Lord is proclaimed to the assembly. “The liturgical traditions of both West and East have consistently made a certain distinction between the books for the readings. The Book of the Gospels was always fabricated and decorated with the utmost care and shown greater respect than any of the other books of readings.”

The Book of the Gospels bears such importance that it “is presented to a deacon at his ordination and that at an ordination to the episcopate [it] is laid upon the head of the bishop-elect and held there.” It is used at Mass at the discretion of the priest celebrant, typically on more solemn occasions.

A period of silence is suggested after each of the scriptural readings and after the homily. What is its purpose and how long should this silence be observed?

The period of silence which the liturgical rites encourage during the Liturgy of the Word is meant to foster prayer and meditation: “The dialogue between God and his people taking place through the Holy Spirit demands short intervals of silence, suited to the assembled congregation, as an opportunity to take the Word of God to heart and to prepare a response to it in prayer.” A recommended action for successful implementation of a period of silence would be to begin with shorter periods of about 10-15 seconds before moving to longer periods, such as 30 seconds or more. This will help to eventually establish an appropriate period of time during the Liturgy of the Word for silent prayer and meditation.

Who is a Eucharistic Minister?

The celebration of the Eucharist extends from the opening antiphon to the final blessing and sending forth. There is usually one ordinary minister of the Eucharist, the celebrant. Other ordinary ministers may be present (i.e., a deacon, a concelebrating

Liturgical Ministries

priest), but generally, there is one Eucharistic Minister.

Who is an Extra-ordinary Minister?

Because the Eucharistic Minister (the celebrant) is the ordinary minister of Holy Communion, those who come forward to help distribute Holy Communion are called Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy

himself on Calvary and the one who stands *in persona Christi*—at Mass. Because of this connection, and because we as Catholics worship in an ordered way, that person, the priest, has a different role and responsibility than all of us.

Can the EMHC bless people who come up with their arms crossed?

On occasion, someone will

office of presiding [over a blessing] should be left to him.”

In the Diocese of Bridgeport, an EMHC may (without the Blessed Sacrament or any gesture of a blessing), offer these words: “Receive the Lord Jesus in your heart.” to anyone who comes forward to join in a spiritual Communion.

What should I do when I am distributing the Precious Blood and someone comes up to dip the host into the chalice (which is the practice of intinction)?

“The communicant, including the extraordinary minister, is never allowed to self-communicate, even by means of intinction.” Practically, this means that the person approaching the minister must consume the host before receiving from the chalice.

What are the considerations I must know regarding the distribution of Holy Communion to someone who is gluten intolerant?

A person who has gluten intolerance and who desires to receive Holy Communion needs to discuss their situation with their pastor or chaplain to determine the most appropriate way to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord.

It is important to remember that, when low-gluten hosts are consecrated at Mass, they are to be kept in a separate ciborium or on a separate paten to segregate them from ordinary hosts. Due to the sensitive nature of gluten intolerance, even the slightest contact with a normal host can have difficult—if not disastrous—effects in someone with gluten intolerance.

Why can't laypeople lead a Communion service in the absence of a priest?

Though some parishes have fallen into the practice of allowing EMHCs to lead Communion Services during the week, this practice is not in keeping with the revised norms. Morning celebrations of Mass at parishes are more than the personal reception of Holy Communion; it is to be the act of joining my life with Jesus' Sacrifice that is re-presented in grace during the celebration of Mass. Though there may not be daily Mass every day at your parish, the Diocese of Bridgeport is blessed with more than 80 parishes and finding a daily Mass at a neighboring parish should not be difficult.



Communion. These men and women have a singular responsibility: to distribute Holy Communion.

I thought we were all baptized into the image of Christ. What makes priests special?

Each baptized person is another Christ, *in persona Christi*. We are—all the baptized—called to be the person of Christ to one another. The priest, by virtue of his ordination, is set aside to act *in persona Christi capitis*—that is, *in the person of Christ the head*. When the priest, using the rites and rituals provided by the Church, serves the people in a sacramental way, he stands in the place of Christ the Head of the Church who gave us his Body and Blood by offering his life to set us free. It might be more appropriate to say that Jesus stands in the person of the priest, for it is not the priest that absolves sins, it is Jesus. It is not the priest that says, “This is my Body,” it is Christ who speaks these words through the mouth of the priest.

It is important to remember that there is a direct connection between the one who sacrificed

approach the EMHC with their arms crossed over their chest. For many, this is a sign that they would like a blessing instead of Holy Communion. Perhaps they are seeking a spiritual Communion for personal reasons, perhaps they are not Catholic. Whatever the reason, the fact remains: If the person is in the line of the ordinary minister, a blessing may be offered. It is not required. The purpose of the Communion line, remember, is to *receive Holy Communion*. The blessing of the assembly properly occurs at the end of the Mass. As the body of Christ, the assembly is blessed together before we depart to live the fruits of the liturgy.

Then what is an EMHC to do? Since it is the role of the EMHC to distribute Communion and not to retrieve it or repose it, it is also not the role of the EMHC to offer a blessing. That is reserved for the ordinary minister during Mass. After Mass, we may bless each other (and do). Article 18 of the Book of Blessings notes that even though lay persons may give some blessings, “whenever a priest or deacon is present, the

If you currently serve as a reader, musician, or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and have not participated in formation, you have until May 31, 2019 to be included in the grandfathering phase. Visit www.formationreimagined.org and click Liturgical Norms. You can read the Norms and enroll in online formation. You can also see the list of remaining face-to-face sessions. Pre-registration is not necessary for the face-to-face sessions. If you have any questions, please email Institute@diobpt.org or call 203.416.1657.



Why can't EMHCs go to the tabernacle? I have been doing this for years.

The revised norms require that only the *ordinary* minister go to the tabernacle. As *extraordinary* ministers, it is our job to assist the priest and deacon in *distributing* Holy Communion. Since there is a direct connection between the actions of the priest at the altar during Mass and the Blessed Sacrament that is reserved in the tabernacle, the norms require that the priest retrieve the consecrated hosts. Since the deacon is also an ordained minister whose role it is to assist the priest at Mass, it is appropriate for the deacon to retrieve the reserved Blessed Sacrament.

How is one supposed to receive Holy Communion?

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* asks each country's Conference of Bishops to determine the posture to be used for the reception of Communion and the act of reverence to be made by each person as he or she receives Communion. In the United States, the body of Bishops determined that Communion should be received standing, and that a bow is the act of reverence made by those receiving. These norms may require some adjustment on the part of those who have been used to other practices, however the significance of unity in posture and gesture as a symbol of our unity as members of the one body of Christ should be the governing factor in our own actions.

Those who receive Communion may receive either in the hand or on the tongue, and the decision should be that of the individual receiving, not of the person distributing Communion. If Communion is received in the hand, the hands should first of all be clean, free of bandages and/or gloves. If one is right handed the left hand should rest upon the right. The host will then be laid in the palm of the left hand—as if on a throne—and then taken

by the right hand to the mouth. If one is left-handed this is reversed. It is not appropriate to reach out with the fingers and take the host from the person distributing.

The person distributing Communion says audibly to each person approaching, “The Body of Christ.” This formula should not be altered, as it is a proclamation which calls for a response of faith on the part of the one who receives. The communicant should audibly respond, “Amen,” indicating by that response his or her belief that this small wafer of bread, the wine in this chalice are in reality the body and blood of Christ the Lord.

(Source: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Isn't it friendlier to add a person's name when distributing Holy Communion?

There are many ways we can greet each other by name: when we arrive at Mass, when we share the sign of peace, when we depart. No one, on their own authority (even a priest or bishop) has the authority to change a word in the liturgy (remember from earlier: *we worship in an ordered way*). Therefore, adding the person's name is inappropriate.

What does it mean to “purify” the sacred vessels?

The rite of purification is carried out by a priest, deacon or instituted acolyte. Purification ensures that any remnants of the sacred species are reverently consumed. No altar server or EMHC is permitted to purify the sacred vessels.

Are there guidelines for taking Holy Communion to those unable to attend Mass?

Yes. The Norms Governing Liturgical Ministries includes specific information for those who are engaged in this ministry on behalf of the parish. In addition, there are books available from The Leadership Institute that include all the prayers and readings for this important ministry. ■

Ignatian Center for Spirituality

Bishop Caggiano honored for lifetime service

By **JOE PISANI**

FAIRFIELD—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was recently honored by the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality with its Bowler Award in appreciation of his “lifetime of service exemplifying the spirit of St. Ignatius Loyola.”

More than 200 people gathered at Fairfield University on April 12 for the dinner and award ceremony honoring the bishop.

In accepting the award, which is named after Rev. James Bowler S.J., founder of the center, Bishop Caggiano said, “The Murphy Center is one of the shining lights for the renewal that we are working for and praying to have in our midst here in the diocese.” He praised Father Bowler for “his remarkable vision and work.”

Rev. Gerald Blaszcak S.J., director of the center and vice president for Mission and Identity at Fairfield University, said, “We are grateful not only for Bishop Caggiano’s enthusiastic support at our founding, but for the close collaboration we have enjoyed in his efforts to strengthen the spiritual lives of all the faithful of the diocese, to make available to individuals, parish communities,

to clergy, religious and laity, the rich resources of Ignatian Spirituality... We honor him for his unflagging 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.”

He referenced Bishop Caggiano’s installation Mass six years ago, when he said the church must build bridges to those seeking God, to the poor, the sick, the lonely, the disabled, the unborn, those who live in fear, distress or may have given up hope in life. “We thank you for your tireless dedication to that task,” Father Blaszcak said. “We thank God that with you as our model and inspiration, Fairfield University and the Murphy Center have been privileged to collaborate with you and the Diocese of Bridgeport in building bridges.”

In accepting the award, Bishop Caggiano, a graduate of Regis High School, said, “I stand before you as a product of Jesuit education, and for that I am deeply grateful.” Recalling the motto of the Jesuits, “Ad majorem Dei gloriam” (“For the



BISHOP FRANK J. CAGGIANO WAS RECENTLY HONORED by the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality with its Bowler Award in appreciation of his “lifetime of service exemplifying the spirit of St. Ignatius Loyola.” (l-r) Rev. James Bowler S.J., founder of the center, Rev. Gerald Blaszcak S.J., director of the center and Vice President for Mission and Identity at Fairfield University, and Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

greater glory of God”), he said, “Hearing that phrase caught my imagination and has formed me ever since. It helped give me a compass in my life.”

“I cannot imagine the full renewal of our diocese without a thriving Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality being at its heart,” he said. “So imagine how grateful I am for the hundreds and soon to be thousands of people whose lives have been completely rearranged by grace because they have come to this center, allowing that compass who is the Lord to touch them, enlighten them, empower them, lift them up, give them hope, give them direction and lead them to glory. That is what we are about, and that is what we are celebrating tonight. It is not one man. It is all of us, finding that safe harbor who is Jesus Christ.”

Mark R. Nemecek, PhD, president of Fairfield University, praised Bishop Caggiano and stressed the “shared mission, vision and purpose” of the university and diocese.

“There is no doubt the world needs the transformative power of a Jesuit education, an education which cultivates the pursuit of truth grounded in faith and reason,” he said. “Fundamental to this effort is the work of the Murphy Center and our dedication to Ignatian spiritual formation across the generations. We at Fairfield are blessed to work so closely with Bishop Caggiano not only in offering spiritual direction

Father Kinnally said, “Bishop Frank’s support of the Center for Ignatian Spirituality speaks to his desire that each of us develop a closer relationship to Christ through prayer. The center provides the resources and relationships necessary to navigate a complicated world by placing God at the center. Such a place is essential in our part of the world, where we are restless and sometimes don’t realize that we are longing for God.”

Deacon Toole, who assisted Father Bowler in developing the center, said it works toward the goal that Bishop Caggiano has called us to embrace, which is to evangelize one person at a time.

The Murphy Center offers spiritual 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, it also trains spiritual directors who can assist in the discernment of God’s direction in their lives.

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

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We stand with Christ

Lay leadership is the heart of Foundations in Education, Charity and Faith

By **JOE PISANI**

Editor's note: The \$75 million We Stand With Christ capital campaign has raised more than \$65 million and is the most successful campaign in the history of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

The campaign has designated 50 percent of the funds raised, an estimated \$37.5 million, for parish needs. The remaining 50 percent will be invested in Foundations in Education (\$12.5 million), Foundations in Faith (\$15 million) and Foundations in Charity (\$10 million).

Charity and Foundations in Faith, three non-profit initiatives begun by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano as a result of the diocesan synod to address the needs of the Church in Fairfield County in the areas of education, charity and pastoral ministries.

The foundations are made possible through contributions to the "We Stand With Christ" capital campaign, which will provide them with funds to support their missions into the future. At the heart of those foundations

Family Services in Stamford, Malta House and Good Counsel Homes in the tristate region.

"Serving on a board is wonderful because you can make meaningful decisions that result in action, but as a board member you can't serve effectively unless you're actually in the trenches too," he says. "Being at New Covenant House with the mothers who are suffering and looking in their eyes, you realize that Christ wants you to help them." That requires making our-

director of Foundations in Education, which awarded \$2.5 million in tuition assistance for the 2018-2019 school year to nearly 1,400 students—approximately one in four.

The foundation is committed to strengthening and transforming Catholic education by supporting innovation in academic and extra-curriculum programs, fostering opportunities for professional development of school leaders and providing tuition assistance to families in need. All

Childhood System Development Specialist at Cooperative Educational Services and is an adjunct professor at Western Connecticut State University.

Coleman understands the importance of a good education. His daughter went to St. Rose of Lima School and then Immaculate High School before going on to Howard University and George Washington University Law School.

"I got on the board because I support quality education and



Foundations in Education

What follows are the stories of trustees who serve on the independent lay boards and who will oversee the three Foundations and shepherd the funds entrusted to them.

Whenever Tom Kolenberg of Stamford reads the morning paper or watches the evening news and sees the unrest and division that afflict our country, he comes to one conclusion. Our true hope lies in the Gospel.

So while political leaders wrangle and debate, Kolenberg says he wants to bring the world closer to Christ and make it a better place for the hungry and suffering, for the impoverished and neglected in society. That is why he joined the board of Foundations in Charity, which has as its mandate helping put faith into action by providing services to the needy and vulnerable.

"I want to embrace and live the Gospel and change the outcome as much as I can," he says.

Kolenberg is one of nearly 40 lay trustees who are on the boards of Foundations in Education, Foundations in

are three independent lay boards, dedicated to their missions and committed to overseeing the funds entrusted to them.

Bishop Caggiano has pointed to the importance of lay leadership in the foundations, emphasizing the professional expertise they bring, along with their commitment to their faith and a heartfelt desire to serve and further the Church's mission in Fairfield County.

"In an age when the Church is seeking to engage lay leaders in more meaningful ways, serving as a director in these foundations allows competent and dedicated lay leaders to participate in a meaningful way in the ministries of the Church," Bishop Caggiano said. "For that reason, I am deeply grateful to all the women and men who have volunteered to serve as directors in these foundations."

Kolenberg is a first Vice President of Merrill Lynch in Stamford and he has served on boards for a variety of organizations, including the I Have a Dream Foundation, Catholic

selfes small, he says, just as the Creator of the Universe did when he washed the dirty feet of the Apostles.

The Gospel parable that most inspires him is the rich man and the beggar Lazarus, who sat at his gate, longing for the scraps that fell from his table. When they died, the angels took Lazarus to Heaven, but the rich man went to Hades where he was tormented. "Remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony," Abraham told him.

"The rich man's greatest sin was his neglect of the poverty and starvation right at his doorstep," Kolenberg says. "Instead he went about his life of luxury and paid no attention to the suffering around him." By giving only a portion of his wealth and setting it aside for the needy and neglected, the outcome would have been different. That's what we are called to do, Kolenberg says.

Since 2016, Holly Doherty-Lemoine has been executive

this is done in conjunction with her 18-member board.

"They bring a great level of expertise in many different areas, in all facets of management as well as educational and financial expertise," Doherty-Lemoine says, noting that the board includes a former college president, a superintendent of schools, a corporate CEO, an expert in early learning, the founder of a venture capital firm, a former hospital president and executives from companies like Morgan Stanley.

"I can't say enough about my board," she says. "This is a lay board making decisions. We work very closely with them, and they are great advisers and are instrumental in decision-making in the areas of tuition assistance, innovation and leadership grants and donor-provided programs."

One of those trustees is George Coleman, who for 24 years held leadership positions with the State Department of Education, including Acting Commissioner of Education. He currently serves as an Early

definitely appreciate options being available to children and families," he said. "And I appreciate the fact that a good faith-based education with attention to religious teaching and morality are also cultivated in a constant way."

Foundations is working to advance a better Catholic education for future generations, he believes, by looking at areas in the system that needed investment, from preschools to high schools, along with the professional development of teachers. He has high praise for his colleagues on the board, who come from a wide range of professions and share the commitment to improving Catholic education and making it available to as many students as possible.

"I have been very fortunate in my career to be associated with high-quality leaders in the work I do, but I have to tell you that this board the bishop put together is phenomenal," he said. They are exceptional in their devotion to the cause of Catholic education,

➤ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 18*



Foundations in Faith



Foundations in Charity



St. Margaret Shrine, an 'oasis of peace' in the city

BRIDGEPORT—Eight years ago, when Deacon Don Foust became administrator of St. Margaret Shrine, with its largely Italian community, he confessed to them: “I have no, absolutely no Italian blood in me and for that I am imperfect...but I am married to a woman who is Italian on both sides, so I want you to keep in mind that I have some goodness in me.”

The congregation was won over by the humor of a man whose ethnic heritage is Irish, German and Native American. Today, St. Margaret Shrine has a multicultural community from many different ethnic backgrounds, including Hispanics, Vietnamese, Haitians, Irish, Italians and others, all of whom are united in faith.

Their fellowship and love of the diocesan shrine has also demonstrated itself in other ways. Although the shrine has experienced financial challenges over the years, it turned a corner and has had one of the most enthusiastic responses in the We Stand With Christ capital campaign.

“Within the first week of the campaign, we met our goal of \$196,000,” Deacon Foust said. “Then, we had a ‘wish’ goal of \$500,000 and people continue to be generous. With more than \$405,000 we are on our way to meeting it.”

The \$75 million We Stand With Christ campaign has raised more than \$65 million, making it the largest and most successful campaign in the 64-year history of the diocese. With the public launch of We Stand With Christ, parishioners are being asked to make a pledge that will benefit the long-term needs of churches and diocesan ministries.

The 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 Brian Young of New Canaan and Father Reggie Norman, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima.

The campaign has designated 50 percent of the funds raised, an estimated \$37.5 million, for parish needs. The remaining



ST. MARGARET SHRINE, which will be celebrating its 77th anniversary this year, attracts more than 350 people from the surrounding communities for its four weekend Masses. Deacon Don calls it “an oasis of peace” for prayer, meditation and daily Mass. (l-r) Deacon Don Foust, Sherry Varrone, Deacon Tom Masaryk and Father Giandomenico

50 percent will be invested in Foundations in Education (\$12.5 million), Foundations in Faith (\$15 million) and Foundations in Charity (\$10 million).

St. Margaret Shrine, which will be celebrating its 77th anniversary this year, attracts more than 350 people from the surrounding communities for its four weekend Masses, one of which is in Italian. Deacon Don calls it “an oasis of peace” for prayer, meditation and daily Mass.

There have been a number of renovations and additions in recent years, including outdoor shrines to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of LaVang and St. Pio of Pietrelcina, along with a Veterans Memorial and one to the children who died at Sandy Hook. There is also a Neapolitan “Presepio,” or Nativity scene, carved into a hillside cave with figures depicting life in 18th century Naples.

Deacon Foust, who was ordained 20 years ago, previously served at Blessed Sacrament Church and Holy Rosary Church in Bridgeport. For more than 50 years, he was an educator and coach in the Norwalk school system and for several years at

Stamford Catholic High School. He and his wife Natalie Foust (née Imbimbo) have four children and ten grandchildren.

St. Margaret Shrine, which is located at 2523 Park Avenue, is also served by Father Giandomenico Flora, who is the shrine rector and spiritual director of Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Stamford, and Deacon Tom Masaryk, an artist who teaches at St. Joseph High School and who was responsible for restoring the outside shrines that had fallen into disrepair.

Deacon Foust, who met with almost 100 donors, also credits his secretary Sherry Varrone as a driving force behind the success of the campaign.

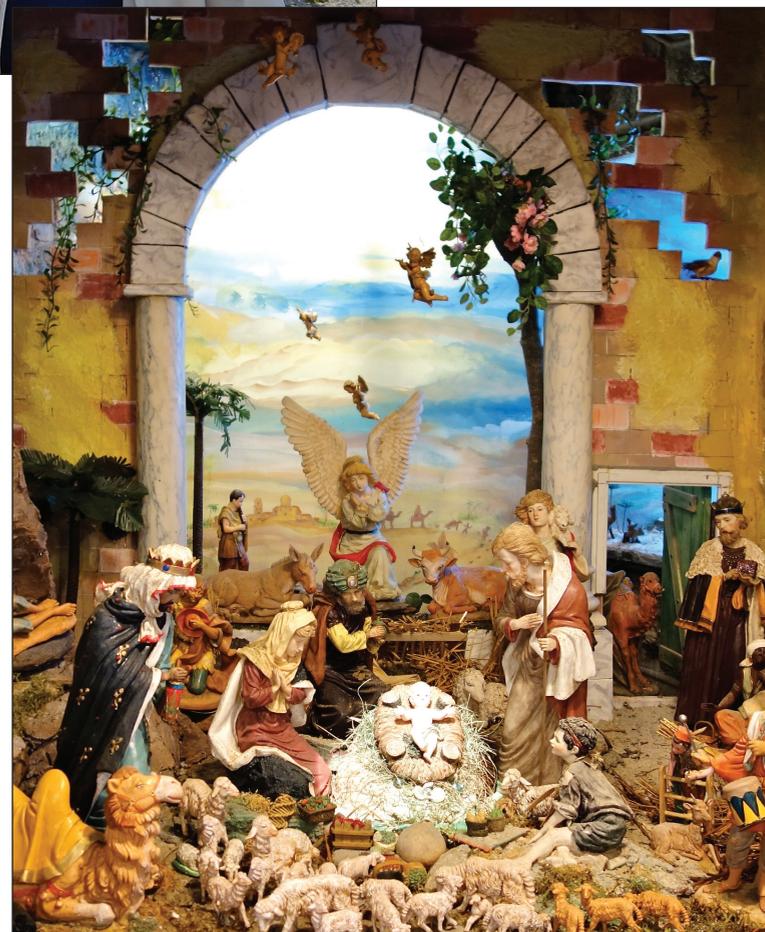
“What has happened in coming to St. Margaret’s, I would call a love affair between the people and myself,” Deacon Don said. “Amazing things have happened through the generosity of the people and their love of the shrine.”

With shrines from all over the world, including Italy, Portugal, Mexico, Vietnam and Cuba, he says, “Our international exposure has attracted a lot of people and with that we have a positive cash flow. Many volunteers have

two national Italian parishes, St. Raphael and Holy Rosary, and began an Italian Mass at the shrine.

The shrine, which is dedicated to St. Margaret of Antioch, a 4th century 15-year-old martyr, was started in 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when the pastor of St. Raphael, Father Emilio Iasiello, decided to build an altar to the Prince of Peace on a site he had purchased for a chapel to serve parishioners in the North End of the city.

In the years that followed, wayside shrines, grottos and terraces were added, including a depiction of the Crucifixion and a replica of Michelangelo’s Pietà.



helped us, especially with the annual St. Anthony Feast the second weekend in June.”

There is a great devotion to St. Anthony in the St. Margaret community, and thousands of people visit his chapel each year, seeking his intercession for themselves and others.

The Italian community has been a moving force at the shrine, Deacon Don says, ever since former Bishop William Lori closed

Deacon Foust said the capital campaign will help finance a number of necessary restoration projects at the shrine, including the repair of the waterfall, which comes from a 200-foot-deep natural spring on the property. In addition, Father Flora hopes to restore the altar in the church and do some interior renovations. A reserve fund to help families send their children to Catholic schools will also be established. ■



Parish volunteers drive capital campaign forward

By **JOE PISANI**

Kenn Devane was recently in Boston to watch his daughter Heather run her third Boston Marathon, and in the middle of the race, he got an email from a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Seton whom he had been trying to meet for weeks to discuss the We Stand With Christ campaign.

The fellow agreed to sit down and talk about giving to the capital campaign. Kenn had a good day. So did Heather. She ran a 3:06 race and will be competing in the New York City Marathon in the fall.

Kenn, along with hundreds of other volunteers, are fundamental to the \$75 million We Stand With Christ capital campaign, which has raised more than \$65 million, making it the largest and most successful campaign in the 64-year history of the diocese.

With the public launch of We Stand With Christ, parishioners are being asked to make a pledge that will benefit the long-term needs of churches and diocesan ministries.

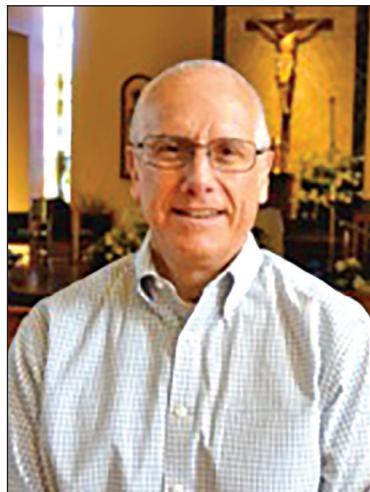
The campaign is led by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and a 26-member executive committee with the support of priests, deacons, religious and lay leaders, whose co-chairs are Brian Young of New Canaan and Father Reggie Norman, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima.

The campaign has designated



KENN AND MAUREEN DEVANE

50 percent of the funds raised, an estimated \$37.5 million, for parish needs. The remaining



MICHAEL MOLLIKA

50 percent will be invested in Foundations in Education (\$12.5 million), Foundations in Faith (\$15 million) and Foundations in Charity (\$10 million).

What follows are stories of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make the campaign a success. They talk about their faith, their parishes, their involvement and their commitment to pass on a legacy for future generations of Catholics who will be worshipping at their churches for years to come.

Kenn and Maureen Devane have been parishioners at St. Elizabeth Seton in Ridgefield since 1984, when they moved here from Manhattan. Kenn played in the folk group, Maureen taught religious education and their children were altar servers. Now, both of them are on the volunteer committee for the capital campaign because they realize its importance to their parish and to the diocese.

"I have been a parishioner there a long time, and I have as many questions about the Church as other people do," Kenn says. "And while I'm not a holy roller, I am someone who understands the peace that church can offer, and the more I meet people, the more I come to understand that we are not in this alone. This is really all about community.... We may not share anything else, politically or otherwise, but on Sunday morning, we share a roof together and we worship together, and that is the best thing about having a common faith."

Kenn is also cognizant that

the campaign is an important investment for future generations and praises Bishop Caggiano for addressing parish needs in addition to diocesan initiatives in education, charity and faith formation. "Over the table when I talk to parishioners, I explain why I am there. I am there to personalize the campaign for them. If we don't have the church, where do we go to have a physical place, where we can worship our religion with our friends, neighbors and strangers who believe in our faith. That is worth sustaining and that is worth passing on to the future. That is our legacy. Whether it's a new roof or a new generator or more importantly, the foundations that will continue our ministries, we are really making an investment."

Michael Mollica and his wife Paula have been parishioners at St. Mark Church in Stratford for more than 35 years, and the parish is a fundamental part of their



CAROL CALANDRA

lives.

Michael says that even though they both were raised Catholic, there was a period in their early years when they fell away from the Church.

"I don't know what drove us back, but we became very active and felt there were a lot of things that needed to be done, and we wanted to be part of it," he says. Today, he is not hesitant about telling his family members and friends they're missing something vitally important if they don't worship at Mass.

Michael, who is chairman of the volunteer committee, is excited about surpassing the goal that was established for St. Mark's. He said, "This was a real team effort on the part of folks put together by Father Birenda. They did what they had to do, went out and made calls. Everyone worked very hard."

When Father Birenda Soreng asked him to help with the campaign, Michael did some self-reflection.



DR. JOHN MURPHY

"I thought about it and realized I wanted to contribute as much as possible because we have been blessed," he said. "And with everything going on in the Church, this is the absolutely best time to do this because we are doing what we do as Catholics—feeding the poor, helping the homeless, giving scholarships, taking care of retired priests and many other things. If we don't do this, then we are letting this scandal define us."

Michael credits Bishop Caggiano for his transparency and openness and reviving the diocese...and for focusing on the long-term needs of the parishes. St. Mark's has plans for improvements to the parish hall and repairs on the church building, along with a new roof for the parish center and air conditioning units.

"When I look at my life," he says reflectively, "I couldn't picture being anything other than a Catholic. The Church grounds my life."

Carol Calandra of St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton is a

member of Bishop Caggiano's campaign executive committee. From the beginning, she understood how the campaign was structured and why the bishop was so passionate about it. Being a partner and group CFO at Ernst & Young in Manhattan, she also has an intimate knowledge of finance and believes, "This campaign is a fabulous idea. It's really about taking care of parishes and our foundations."

There is a personal interest for her and her husband Conrad because they were married in St. Lawrence's and their children received the sacraments there.

"It means a great deal, and we want to make sure it is vibrant for future generations," she says. "We have an opportunity to stand together for our faith community."

With funds from the capital campaign, the parish wants to hire a youth minister, invigorate its ministries, pay off the mortgage and pave the parking lot. At the same time, Holy Trinity School, which is on their campus, benefits from assistance provided by Foundations in Education.

"This gives us an opportunity to renew the parish as the center of our Catholic community," she says. And that's a good thing.

Pat Llodra and Dr. John Murphy are co-chairs of the committee for St. Rose of Lima in Newtown. A former first select-



PAT LLODRA

man, Pat has been a member of the parish for almost 50 years and active in everything from religious

▶ **CONTINUED ON PAGE 18**



LAY LEADERSHIP FROM PAGE 15

their efforts to raise funds for new programs, their ability to raise consciousness in the diocese about the importance of the Catholic schools and their willingness to conceptualize a vision for the future.

But what most inspires Coleman is the role Foundations in Education plays in reaching the poorest parts of Fairfield County.

"They are reaching out to schools and families in Bridgeport, Stamford and Norwalk, and when I see the acknowledgement of the bishop and his willingness to invest in these areas, I am absolutely inspired...and that is when my faith is most vibrant," he says.

As a young man, Coleman received a Catholic education. However, he notes, "When the Church had to retreat from the

urban centers in the 60's and 70's, it left a tremendous void. When we think about the minorities and the number who depended upon the alternative of Catholic education, there is a sense, I think, the loss had a lot to do with the stagnation in those communities."

Foundations in Education provides him "a lesson in Christian ethics that I am so attracted to."

Kelly Weldon of Our Lady of Fatima Parish is assistant to the chairperson of Foundations in Faith, which was established to further the diocese's mission to support its pastoral ministries and programs in religious education, evangelization, support for priests, deacons and seminarians along with special-needs ministries.

Foundations in Faith succeeds the Faith in the Future Fund, a not-for-profit endowment fund

created in 1996 as a result of a fundraising campaign with a goal to support both education and pastoral ministries of the diocese. Faith in the Future has supported these ministries and is poised to grow and continue this work as Foundations in Faith.

Weldon, who coordinates the grant process for the John Paul II Fund for religious education and youth ministry, works with a board of 13 trustees who helped establish criteria for the grant applications.

"I was impressed at the level of depth they embraced when it came to the grant review process," she said. "They were eager to get involved when it came to looking very closely at each application and they also wanted to understand what the parishes needs were. They are keen on understanding how we can build on them to foster innovation."

Last October, when Bishop

Caggiano asked Lorraine Carrano if she would be interested in serving on the board of Foundations in Faith, her immediate response was "Why me?" And he told her. Carrano, who has had a lifetime of service to the community and Church, received the St. Augustine Medal in 2016 for her service and dedication.

And the mission, the bishop told her, was something that has been a priority in her life—revitalizing parish life and pursuing the goal that Pope Francis has articulated of evangelizing and bringing people back to the Church one person at a time.

"The potential is huge for Foundations in Faith to help a lot of parishes that don't have funds to get the programs they want," she said. "And when people give to this foundation, it will stay there and enable parishes to do things they would normally not be able to."

Carrano is a graduate of St. Vincent's School of Nursing and Sacred Heart University. She had a diversified nursing career in hospital inpatient, critical care and outpatient settings as well as in the community as a school nurse. She also served as corporate vice president of Mission and Ethics at St. Vincent's Medical Center and Health Services and is an affiliate of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

She and her husband Tom, who have two daughters and three grandchildren, live in Trumbull and are members of the St. Margaret Shrine community, which was her parish when she was growing up in the North End of Bridgeport.

Today, they are still active and help with many programs and events, including the annual St. Anthony Feast fundraiser. Carrano also serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and is a member and officer of the Altar Guild.

She is particularly excited about the initiatives and programs that John Paul II Fund can support to revitalize a parish and help keep teenagers engaged in their Catholic faith after they make their confirmation...or bring back young people in their 20s and 30s who have fallen away.

"You have to be willing to accept some of changes going on because it is an evolution of the Church," she said. "But the

secular world continues to influence our people, and we need to pull them back and keep them grounded with a connection to the Church." And that is a goal she hopes to achieve by her participation as a trustee on the Foundations in Faith board.

Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, understands firsthand the stress that fundraising can have on an organization that does charitable work, which is one of the reasons he stands firmly behind the mission of Foundations in Charity.

"This is an absolutely great idea because if we do it right, it will take the fundraising pressure off of Catholic Charities, which can be a problem," he says. "A lot of the directors of our programs have to be involved in fundraising, and that is not their skill base. What we are hoping for is a \$10 million endowment for Foundations in Charity, which will fill in the gaps and let us do some exciting things."

During his career, Barber had had a number of senior executive positions with GE, NBC, CNBC and other companies. In 2004, he was named president of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, one of the largest private non-profit human services providers in Connecticut with 30 programs that offer food, housing, behavioral health, adoption, immigration and family support services to the needy and vulnerable of all faiths.

As he likes to say, "We don't do what we do for Catholics. We do what we do because we are Catholics."

He is also excited about working with the board of Foundations in Charity, who he describes as "very smart people who are committed and energetic."

"They will review where the money is most needed and provide appropriate oversight," he says.

Barber's colleagues credit him with having "a keen corporate administrative eye" after having spent almost 30 years in GE in nine different businesses.

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

VOLUNTEERS FROM PAGE 17

instruction to the parish council and fundraisers.

"I got to know Monsignor Weiss when I became first selectman, and there were a lot of opportunities to talk with him about social services and outreach programs," she recalls. "He recognized the role of local government, and we both wanted to move the community forward in compassion."

This partnership between the two intensified after the tragedy at Sandy Hook during which they collaborated to help the community recover and create what Pat calls "a culture of compassion and kindness" with projects such as a food pantry and opportunities for financial and emotional assistance. Eventually, Msgr. Robert Weiss enlisted Pat to help with the capital campaign.

"The campaign has been incredibly successful and that is a response to Monsignor, who is so honest and so loved by the parish," she said.

They say that politics is local and in many ways so is the practice of our faith, Pat says. "Catholics have great respect for their local churches... We have heard that the Church hierarchy is addressing

the abuse crisis and we have a better, more honest future ahead of us, and we're willing to trust our local pastors who have served us well."

The campaign was hard work, but they involved as many people as possible and made sure their message was clear. They wanted a church that would meet the needs of future generations; however, for her and her colleagues it was more than just meeting the brick and mortar needs, it was also about outreach ministries in education, charity and faith.

"All the people I worked with and talked to realized that St. Rose is a Catholic presence in Fairfield County, the diocese and the world, and we are all connected," she said. "We don't stand alone. We stand with Christ."

Dr. Murphy, President and CEO of the Western Connecticut Health Network, and his wife Nancy have been members of St. Rose for 30 years, where their four children received the sacraments and attended school.

"I remember being there on some of the happiest days of our lives as well as 9/11 and 12/14," Dr. Murphy recalled. "That church is part of who we are and a very important part of the community."

As a hospital administrator he understands the importance of

capital campaigns.

"In my own professional life, I realize fundraising is critical to our ultimate success, and the same is true for a parish," he said, pointing out that within the past three decades there were no major renovations to the church. We Stand With Christ allowed the parish to pursue a vision that Msgr. Weiss would not have otherwise been able to accomplish, and the response of the parish has been overwhelming.

"It is our church, our community and our turn," Dr. Murphy said. "We need to step up. This is a team sport that requires active participation not only from the pastor but also other members of the clergy, along with people willing to sit on committees, people willing to speak at Mass and people willing to write checks. When all that comes together, it is a very powerful message and a very powerful effort."

Dr. Murphy says the campaign involves much more than the needs of the parish: "We are at a critical moment in the life of the Church. It is up to us to remember the Gospel and try to live a holy life and recognize that maybe we all need to fall in love with the Church again." ■

Divine Mercy Sunday

'Become Believable Messengers'

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

BRIDGEPORT—Mercy is not simply teaching and preaching the truth, it is about becoming “believable messengers” who represent the living presence of God’s love in the world, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said at the Divine Mercy Mass at St.

other diocesan priests including the leaders of the diocesan seminaries and vocations program.

On a cold and rainy afternoon, the service began with the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water.

“Water is the instrument of Mercy and the great gift that comes to us through Baptism,”

watched as the disciples ran and hid for fear of their lives, and bickered with each other.

“It would take 42 days until the fire of the Holy Spirit came upon them. Empowered in courage and on fire with the Spirit, they became messengers of God’s mercy and converted the entire world,” the bishop said.



Augustine Cathedral.

“We must become the presence of Christ in a broken and wounded world by standing with our sisters and brothers and making God’s love real to them in their hour of need,” the bishop said to the hundreds who gathered at the Cathedral for the Mass and the offering up of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The Divine Mercy celebration was hosted by the Vietnamese community at its regularly scheduled Sunday afternoon Mass. The bishop concelebrated the Mass with Father Augustine Nguyen, episcopal vicar for Vietnamese,

said the bishop before walking down the center aisle to sprinkle the Holy Water. “How blessed we are as recipients of the very Mercy of God who will cleanse us and purify us in this Easter season.”

In his homily, the bishop said that Thomas the Apostle may have been slow to believe the Resurrection but he did not doubt the risen Lord when he saw him “face to face.”

He said that initially Thomas and the other disciples did not understand Christ’s sufferings, and were not prepared to be witnesses to the risen Lord. Thomas

“We must become transparent and hope that others see Jesus face to face in you, in me, in us. That is the great gift of God’s mercy,” he said.

After his homily, the bishop presided over the admission of seminarian Jim Divasto to Candidacy for Holy Orders. Divasto will begin his theological studies in the fall and hopes to be ordained in four and a half years.

“In this moment of crisis in the life of the Church, we are called now more than ever not just to be teachers of the truth. We must be men of integrity and beyond reproach in Christ. We must live what we believe so we become believable messengers in a world that doesn’t want to believe in God’s presence and does not believe the Church is credible,” he said.

Following Mass, the bishop led the offering up of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. “For the sake of his sorrowful Passion,” the bishop repeatedly intoned. “Have mercy on us and on the whole world,” the faithful responded.

After the service, many stopped to say a prayer at the outdoor shrine donated by the Vietnamese community. A reception followed in the Kolbe Cathedral gymnasium.

SACRED RELICS FROM PAGE 4

Throughout the all-night vigil, which immediately followed Mass and lasted well into the morning, people from all over Connecticut and beyond came out in large numbers, pouring into the church to pray in the presence of the heart, which is still intact—perhaps miraculously—though Vianney died 160 years ago. “Many of the people who were there were from outside our parish. We were delighted to welcome them,” observed Father Joseph Marcello, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish. “The turnout on Monday and especially through the night was clear evidence that people are searching for the truth and recognizing holiness in our midst. It was so encouraging, and a very bright light in the midst of the shadows of the scandals which have caused such pain to everyone who loves Christ and the Church.”

“St. John Vianney is one of the most consequential figures in the long history of the Church,” said Father Joseph Marcello. “He was filled with pastoral charity, and today is held up by the Church as a model of what it is to be a faithful, effective priest, motivated as he was by love for God, love for his people, and a complete readiness to sacrifice himself in any way for the salvation of souls. Though he died 160 years ago, his priestly ministry continues to bear astounding fruit in the life of the Church. None of us at St. Catherine’s will ever forget the visit of his incorrupt heart. I hope and pray that the visit will be the source of many graces and blessings for our parish and our diocese in the months and years to come.”



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Youth News

Brave rally calls youth to be vigilant

NORWALK—On Saturday, May 4, one hundred middle school students from twenty-one parishes around the Diocese of Bridgeport and New York gathered at All Saints Catholic School in Norwalk for the first Middle School Youth Rally. The theme of the day was BRAVE—Be Ready and Vigilant Every day.

The day opened with prayer and music provided by the band from St. Rose of Lima in Newtown. Nationally renowned

speaker and musician Steve Angrisano led the participants in ice breakers, singing and dancing to “Lean on Me,” and spoke about how God works through each of us to build one another up, challenging participants to be bold even when it may not be the “cool” thing to do. Emma Ryder, the coordinator of The Face of Prayer and emcee for the day said, “As we were breaking for lunch, one of the participants exclaimed ‘That guy is awesome!’ and then asked me where the line was for confession. It was amazing to see the participants so enthusiastic and enjoying the day within the first few hours.”

The day continued with lunch, an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and games led by Rodd Blessey, coordinator of Fan the Fire youth event at St. Rose of Lima, includ-



ing a relay race and a water balloon toss. Angrisano continued speaking to the participants about friendship and the deep love of Christ. He told each participant that they have special gifts given to them by God and it's up to

them to do God's work in their unique way because no one else can. He left them with the task of being courageous witnesses of Christ's love to one another each and every day.

Father Eric Silva, chaplain

at St. Joseph's High School in Trumbull, spoke to the participants about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the power God has to work in our hearts. He then brought the Blessed Sacrament into the auditorium for adoration. The band played music as Father Silva processed through each row of the auditorium. Rose Talbot-Babey, coordinator of Religious Education for the Diocese of Bridgeport said, “It was beautiful to see our young people kneel and be present before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It gave me great hope that our young Church is alive and well!”

The day's events were coordinated by the Office of Faith Formation and a small committee of youth ministers including Rodd Blessey, Jenna Donovan and Shari Garcia.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

St Joseph High School - Trumbull, CT 2019 College & University Acceptances

Academy of Art University
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Albertus Magnus College
Albright College
American International College
American University
Anna Maria College
Arizona State University
Assumption College
Auburn University
Baruch College
Bentley University
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Bryant University
Bucknell University
Butler University
California College - San Diego
California State Polytechnic University
California State University
Canisius College
Case Western Reserve University
Castleton University
Catholic University of America
Central Connecticut State University
Central Michigan University
Champlain College
Chapman University
Chestnut Hill College
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
College of Mount Saint Vincent
College of New Jersey
College of New Rochelle
College of the Holy Cross

College of Saint Rose Colorado
Columbia College Chicago
Concordia College
Curry College
Dartmouth College
Dean College
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
East Carolina University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Eckerd College
Elmira College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emmanuel College
Emory University
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida International University
Florida Southern College
Florida Southwestern State Colleges
Fordham University
Framingham State University
Franklin & Marshall College
Franklin Pierce University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Gettysburg College
Global College at LIU
Gordon College
Hawaii Pacific University
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith C.
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Longwood University
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Loyola University of Maryland
Loyola University of New Orleans
Lynn University
Manhattan College
Manhattanville College
Marist College
Marquette University
Marymount Manhattan College
Marywood University
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Mercy College
Mercyhurst University
Merrimack College
Messiah College
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University

Mississippi State University
Mitchell College
Monmouth University
Montana State University
Montclair State University
Morgan State University
Mount Saint Mary College
Mount St Mary's University
Muhlenberg College
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New Mexico Military Institute
New York University
Newbury College
Niagara University
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Saint Anselm College
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Leo University
Saint Michael's College
Salem State University
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Stevens Institute of Technology
Stonehill College
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Whittier College
Wichita State University
William Peace University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University
York College of Pennsylvania

Catholic Charities

Morning Glory Breakfast Program to hold Walk-a-thon

By AMY ZAJAC

DANBURY—Join Morning Glory on Saturday, June 1 for the Sixth-Annual Morning Glory Breakfast Program Walk-a-Thon. The event takes place at Meckauer Park located at 16 Shelter Rock Road in Bethel, Conn., starting at 9:30 am. All proceeds benefit the Northern Fairfield County Programs of Catholic Charities. Be one of the first walkers to register and attend, and you will receive a Morning Glory backpack with freebies and coupons to area businesses.

The average homeless person walks three to five miles a day. The Morning Glory Breakfast Program is asking you join them in raising funds to help the homeless and end hunger by taking a walk in their shoes.

Morning Glory Breakfast

Program serves a hot and healthy meal to the hungry and homeless of the Danbury area. Operating out of 15 Spring Street in Danbury, the program is conve-



niently located near the homeless shelters, so as to lessen the burden on clients. The program provides a hot breakfast in a safe and warm environment to the neediest in the area, and we work in collaboration with other agencies to

provide education and referrals to clients in order to help end their homelessness. Currently, a multitude of agencies and programs use Morning Glory as a location to

reach out to the hardest-to-reach populations. Since opening in October 2007, our program has served over 300,000 meals. There is no cost associated with meals or engagement with agencies; guests are only asked to sign in when they arrive. All participation in services with visiting agencies and programs is voluntary.

(To register for the event online visit: www.givegab.com/campaigns/morning-glory-breakfast-program-walk-a-thon.)

Breakfast Success

By ELLEN
McGINNESS

New Covenant Center's 15th Annual Celebrity Breakfast was a record-breaker! More than 250 people turned out at



Woodway Country Club in Darien on April 24 to show support for NCC's mission of feeding the hungry and helping those in need. Upwards of \$140,000 was raised in just two hours' time.

Celebrity Breakfast co-chair and NCC advisory board member Nils Dahl opened the event by thanking everyone and acknowledging (pictured above) Laure Aubuchon and Paul Harinstein, the recipients of the Founder's Award, as well as Bobby Valentine, the keynote speaker.

The pair worked together on the capital campaign drive, which raised over \$1.7 million for the renovation of the current 8,200 square foot facility, which is now New Covenant's home.

"We are blessed to have such dedicated and generous supporters of New Covenant Center," said Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities. "Without them, we could not fulfill our mission of feeding the hungry in lower Fairfield County."

Keynote speaker Bobby Valentine, executive director of athletics at Sacred Heart University and a well-known baseball legend, regaled the audience with stories his early years in little league all the way through his major league baseball career. Valentine admitted that he was lucky throughout his life, meeting the right people at the right time and seizing on those opportunities. But his main message was simple. "I am just here to give us all some perspective that when you are lucky, don't take credit for it—give thanks for it. Make sure that you let other people know that you are lucky by giving them something."

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

SPIRITUAL TIMES FROM PAGE 7

than a century and examined the behavior of families where the faith remained strong in their children in later life.

Donovan said that for the faith to remain vibrant in young people, the Church must 1. Continue to accompany the family of newly baptized children in their faith journey 2. Ensure that young people continue their religious education after confirmation and 3. Develop meaningful programs that prepare couples for marriage and sustain them.

He said there are five fundamental practices that characterize a home in which children grow up to be faithful adults: the parents pray with and for their children and talk with them about God; provide "silent homilies," such as sacred objects and sacramentals on display in their homes; practice a living faith; celebrate ordinary moments in family life such as graduations and getting a driver's license and encourage family members to share illuminating stories about their lives.

Donovan also encouraged the practice of having meals together and said children who ate with their family four to five times a week were three times more likely to stay active in their faith and community.

Bishop Caggiano later celebrated Mass with the deacons and their wives. Deacon Smythe, who delivered the homily, told about his conversion to Catholicism. He said he suffered from a speech impediment, which caused him to be mocked by his classmates and in later life was an obstacle to pursuing a call to the diaconate. However, the Lord lifted him from the fear of stammering, he said, and the Holy Spirit gave him the courage to enter formation.

In 1993, he made a Cursillo and as a result "came to believe that Jesus loved me, warts and all." More than a decade later, he and his wife Marianne gave a talk at a Cursillo day of reflection and afterwards, the facilitator approached him and said, "Every time I saw you today, I heard the word 'deacon.'" He knew he could no longer ignore the call. At 60 years old, he started formation, and was ordained after four years in 2011. ■

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Foundations in Education

Foundations Spring Gala bids up Catholic Education

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

DARIEN—More than 250 guests provided extraordinary generosity, while Catholic school students delivered the inspiration at the Spring Gala of Foundations in Education held recently at Woodway Country Club in Darien.

The evening began on the right note when members of the select choir of Saint Aloysius School in New Canaan, under the direction of Alexander Patrie, sang “I Choose to Believe” at the reception before dinner.

Student speaker and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School 8th grader Joshua Dixon delivered the main course with a talk about the value of Catholic education, which brought the audience to their feet in a standing ovation for the young man who overcame many challenges, including the loss of his mother when he was 8 years old, to receive a Catholic education.

He said that his life and his studies fell apart after his mother’s death to cancer. He attended

five different schools in the two years after her passing before his older sister enrolled him at St. Thomas in Fairfield.

“I am a different person mentally and spiritually than I was before I got to St. Thomas,” said the 13-year-old who will be attending Fairfield Prep in the fall and hopes to be an architect. “It has brought balance to my life and I’ve grown in faith.”

Proceeds from the evening are expected to exceed \$1.3 million for the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund, which provides more than \$2.5 million in aid to nearly 1,400 Catholic elementary school students throughout the diocese each year.

“If you believe, you see miracles,” Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said in referring to the performance of St. Aloysius students. “My message tonight is that we should look upon the miracle of Catholic education, a work of love unfolding in the lives of the students entrusted to us.”

The bishop thanked donors and the Foundations in Education board of trustees for supporting “the mission

to strengthen and transform Catholic education by supporting innovation, professional development and scholarship assistance.”

“Doing things the same way is not good enough anymore,” the bishop said. “I’m deeply grateful for all of you who joined us to transform one school, one program and one child at a time.”

Foundations in Education Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine said that “tuition assistance brings students to our schools and innovation keeps them here.” She thanked the bishop for his vision to “make Catholic education more vibrant and more accessible to all those who seek it. He is the driving force and why we’re here tonight.”

Thomas McInerney, vice chair of the Foundations in Education board of trustees, said that when he visits Catholic schools he is impressed by the innovation and leadership and the “remarkable transition” underway. McInerney, who is a major donor to Foundations, said that the students have “embraced person-



MORE THAN 250 GUESTS provided extraordinary generosity at Foundations in Education’s Annual Spring Gala held at Woodway Country Club in Darien. Proceeds from the evening are expected to exceed \$1.3 million for the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund, which provides more than \$2.5 million in aid to nearly 1,400 Catholic elementary school students throughout the diocese each year.

alized learning” and it’s changing their lives.

Mr. McInerney and Bishop Caggiano recognized the evening’s honorees: Barbara and R. Bradford Evans for their philanthropic giving and service on the Board of Trustees; the faculty of St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Brookfield for its role in introducing multi-age personalized education; and Fairfield University for its institutional partnership with diocesan schools.

In his brief remarks Bradford Evans said he and his wife Barbara, a former elementary school teacher, are strongly committed to educational choice for parents, particularly for those who are financially challenged.

“Financial aid is the first priority of Catholic education. It all starts there with helping parents to have a choice,” he said.

Fairfield University President Mark Nemeč accepted the award on behalf of the school’s elementary and secondary education programs that have assisted diocesan schools in transforming the curriculum and adopting new teaching techniques.

Dr. Nemeč said the university is committed to assisting in the formation of young people during a time of exponential change, when the young themselves often have the skills to lead older people. He said the university’s support is based on its “Jesuit values of finding God in all things and helping people to live their lives more profoundly.”

Pam Fallon, education director and leader of St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Brookfield, accepted the honor on behalf of the faculty members who led the transition to a multi-age personalized learning model which has

revived the school and become a model for other programs throughout the diocese.

Mrs. Fallon said the new program has empowered students and exceeded expectations. “The teachers learn to teach differently and the students learn how to learn differently,” she said of the personalized learning approach.

Immediately following the recognition ceremony, celebrity auctioneer Patrick Tully drove up bidding during the live auction with his energetic, humorous and skillful style, as guests raised their paddles on a variety of donated items including dinner with New York Giants owners Frank and Lynn Mara and quarterback Eli Manning, golf and vacation destinations and other items.

Through the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund and its special initiative, Leaders of Tomorrow, Foundations in Education strives to make transformational Catholic education more affordable for families, regardless of their financial circumstances.

In this past year, Foundations in Education awarded over \$2,540,000 in Bishop’s Scholarship Fund tuition assistance to 1,380 students at diocesan elementary schools throughout Fairfield County, with the Leaders of Tomorrow program awarding \$201,250 to 44 elementary school students. In its effort to support teacher’s creative projects or initiatives by providing funding \$125,000 in the Innovation and Leadership Grants to 19 diocesan elementary schools.

(For more information on how to support Foundations in Education, call Holly Doherty-Lemoine at 203.416.1642. Online: www.foundationineducation.org.)



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Technology Collaboration Day

All Saints School: the future is here

By PAT HENNESSY

“We’re always looking to be better, always ready to do more,” said Beth Cuthbertson, technology coordinator of All Saints Catholic School in Norwalk. “It’s exciting to see what we can bring back to our classroom, what else we can do for our students.”

She and All Saints’ Library Media Specialist Eileen D’Andrea were attending Education Technology Collaboration Day on March 21 at Fairfield University’s Dolan School of Business. During the day, which was hosted by the Graduate School of Education-Allied Professionals, dozens of exhibitors from around the state, along with representatives from educational technology organizations such as Apple, CTETL and CECA/CASL, shared ideas for using technology in the classroom.

“It’s a chance to show off what they’ve done in the classroom,” said Jay Rozgonyi, Fairfield University’s associate vice provost for Innovation and Effectiveness, whose remarks opened the day. Rozgonyi, who is also director of the Center for Academic Excellence information technology services, urged exhibitors and visitors to “mingle, chat, talk, network.”

Diocesan schools were well represented at the day, both as exhibitors and as technology-savvy visitors. “This gives me a lot of ideas,” said Sister Lauren Zak, ASCJ, the technology director of the St. Raphael Academy Campus of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, home to students in Pre-K through third grade. “Because all of the exhibits are staffed by teachers, I can ask, ‘Hey, how do you do this?’ and they can walk me through a particular activity.”

“It feels good,” she added,

“when I can say, yeah, we’re already doing that.”

Kathryn Cioffi, diocesan director of Educational Technology and Innovation, seconded that observation. “What strikes me is that we at the Diocese of Bridgeport are already teaching kids to code and using technology and robotics. We are on the forefront of what schools are doing—including both public and private schools,” she said.

One example of the innovative use of technology in the classroom was demonstrated by third-grade teacher Joanna Zachos of St. Mary School in Bethel. “Our literacy writing notebooks are sketchbooks,” she said, showing an image by an impressionist European artist on the notebook. “When students are asked to home in on details in the images, which can be of rural, urban or suburban communities, they expand their vocabulary and

bring that information to their social studies class. In science, when we studied solids, liquids and gases, they could see them. Then I asked my students to free write a creative writing story about them.”

One of the results: a creative story about being trapped inside a bubble. St. Mary’s recently won Honorable Mention in fiction at the 2019 UCONN Student Writers Contest.

The most popular exhibit at Technology Day, hands down, was the robotics exhibit by Assumption Catholic School in Fairfield. The cheerful, brightly blinking Sphero SPRK+ robot “Ozo” rolling about the counter drew scores of interested teachers.

“I could write my name in cursive and it could follow



A STEADY STREAM of visitors were drawn to the robotics exhibit of Assumption Catholic School. Students from kindergarten up can write code to control the robots.

that across the floor,” boasted Assumption’s principal Steve Santoli, demonstrating its antics.

Even more impressive, teacher Debra Shea described a project by Assumption’s second graders in which the youngsters made

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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To learn more about Foundations in Education, please contact Holly Doherty-Lemoine
at holly@foundationsineducation.org.

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Regina Pacis Academy

Honor Roll for Catholic values

NORWALK—Recently, Regina Pacis Academy in Norwalk was recognized as a Catholic Education Honor Roll School. The national Honor Roll program is directed by the Cardinal Newman Society and, while it has recognized over 300 high-performing Catholic high schools nationwide since the program's inception in 2004, Regina Pacis Academy is one of the first elementary schools to receive this recognition—and the first elementary school in Connecticut to do so.

Regina Pacis Academy engaged in a thorough internal and external review of its comprehensive program offerings before being awarded this status. It has received specific recognition for its strong integration of Catholic identity throughout its efforts, including the integrity of its mission and the strength of its community and rich spiritual life. The Honor Roll also recognized the school's efforts at integral formation of the minds, bodies and spirits of its students as well as its comprehensive academic program which seeks to instill a Christian vision of the world and human wisdom and culture.

"The Honor Roll is a helpful



IN THE SPRING of 2014 our then newly appointed Bishop of Bridgeport Bishop Frank Caggiano came to bless Anchor Academy (Regina Pacis) and Cardinal Newman Academy. It was a day of joy; the culmination of nine years of prayer, hard work and the generosity of many people.

tool for families and benefactors in recognizing the quality of a Catholic elementary or high school," said Patrick J. Reilly, president of The Cardinal Newman Society. "It is external validation that a school is both focused and successful in meeting the high calling of Catholic schools to serve the well-being and salvation of students and to serve the common good."

Dr. Denise Donohue, coordinator of the Honor Roll, stated, "We are very pleased to have

Regina Pacis Academy join in the nationally recognized ranks of excellence; this is a select group. The school has well demonstrated they are successful in meeting the key principles that guide Catholic education."

Kimberly Quatela, principal of Regina Pacis Academy remarked, "It is great affirmation for Regina Pacis Academy to be recognized by the Catholic Education Honor Roll—and to specifically be recognized for our authentically Catholic, distinctly classical edu-

cational philosophy. This distinction confirms our commitment to the mission, and the renewal even, of Catholic education. I applaud the leadership, administration, students, parents, teachers and staff for their hard work in assuring a strong Catholic identity permeates all that we do in preparing our students to be future leaders in both society and the Church."

Regina Pacis Academy is an independent, Catholic classical school located in Norwalk, Connecticut, serving students in grades K-8, offering an academically rigorous curriculum from the classical tradition for all who desire to attend. Families hail from towns across Fairfield County and surrounding areas. The mission of Regina Pacis Academy is to achieve academic excellence by providing a Roman Catholic Classical education taught by teachers loyal to the Magisterium.

(For more information on Regina Pacis Academy visit: www.reginapacisacademy.org. For more information on the Catholic Education Honor Roll contact: honorroll@CatholicEducationHonorRoll.org or visit: newmansociety.org/catholic-ed-honor-roll.)

TECHNOLOGY
FROM PAGE 23

yellow construction paper "bees" to top off the palm-sized bots and devised computer code to send their bees on paths to collect from pots of "honey" spread across a board.

Another robot, Jimu, has arms and legs and, given the appropriate commands, can dance. Assumption students work with the robots starting in kindergarten. "Even the little kids can build Jimu, make it dance and drive it," said Shea.

Funds for the robotics came from an innovation grant by Foundations in Education.

During Technology Collaboration Day, teachers did indeed, "mix, mingle and network." They brought home a kaleidoscope of new ideas and new programs to explore with their students. It may be that, somewhere out there right now, a math teacher is teaching students the code to make dice on a 3D printer. In diocesan schools, the future is already here.

(For more information, go to www.dioceseofbridgeportcatholicschools.com, email schools@diobpt.org or call 203.416.1638)

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Sports

Kenney documents Fairfield's Class of '68

By DON HARRISON

In a distant yesterday, Art Kenney was among a dozen or so student athletes who lifted Fairfield University basketball to the heights—both literally and figuratively. The Stags, once a little-regarded small college program, were able to challenge Holy Cross, Boston College, Villanova, St. Bonaventure, Fordham and others among the establishment for supremacy in the East.

Fast forward 50 years. Kenney has stepped up once again, this time as the innovator-editor-compiler-patron of the Class of 1968 NARRATIVES project. This 627-page anthology contains personal stories from more than 150 members of the class, documenting personal milestones from 48 military veterans, six Peace Corps volunteers, achievers in medicine, education, law and other professions, as well as tributes to several faculty members and the late George Bisacca, athletic director, coach and “father of Fairfield basketball.”

“The project began with a group of guys prior to our 50th class reunion (May 18-20, 1968),” explains Kenney, an affable 6-foot-8 redhead who played professional basketball in Italy and France for eight years prior to launching a successful career

on Wall Street. “I called every guy I had a phone number for and gathered e-mail addresses for many others. I must have sent thousands of emails.”

Kenney financed NARRATIVES himself, estimating that he put up “several thousand dollars” for printing (15 hard-cover books), thumb drives, binders, postage and incidentals. “It took almost a year to put it all together. The return to me, the satisfaction,” he says, “was absolutely priceless.”

Some highlights from the Class of '68: Dr. Robert J. Wicks, a Marine Corps officer who became a world-renowned psychologist, educator and healer, received the papal medal for service to the Catholic Church from Pope John Paul II.

“Who knew that a kid from Fairfield University's Class of '68 would be called to serve in so many ways,” Wicks wrote. “I know I didn't, but I do know one thing. Fairfield was the perfect preparation for it all.”

The Class valedictorian, Father Daniel G. Madigan, S.J., spent nearly two years with Mother Teresa at Kalighat, the home for the destitute and dying she created in Calcutta. Two other classmates, Dr. Kenneth Kearns, a gynecologic oncologist

and a former member of the Yale faculty, and John Toner, who served two years with the Peace Corps in Ghana, Africa, and is a selectman in Greenwich, are Knights of Malta.

The volume contains tributes to three Gold Star recipients, Edward F. Brady III, Richard A. Marfurt Jr. and Joseph P. Zale, all U.S. Army, who lost their lives in Vietnam. A memorial scholarship was established in Marfurt's name in 2003. Three of their classmates, Brian Burke, Douglas Johnson and David McCue, survived the conflict and were awarded purple hearts.

In NARRATIVES, Johnson shares his tale of suffering life-threatening wounds from two mortar strikes—“Upon examination by a medic, which included my vital signs, the last words I remember hearing were ‘no pulse and no blood pressure’”—but he survived, thanks to the skills of an Army surgeon named Lt. Col. William Sullivan. Doug became an attorney, a high school youth minister at his church, a husband, father of three and grandfather of 10.

Another class member who served in Vietnam, Anthony J. Palumbo Jr., became a successful attorney in Phoenix. He died on April 16, 2018 while completing the final leg of the 550-mile pil-



ART KENNEY '68 playing for Simmenthal in the Italian Professional League.

grimage, Camino de Santiago, in northwestern Spain. His narrative is included in the volume.

Two of Kenney's basketball teammates, Billy Jones and Pete Gillen, also distinguished themselves in athletics after graduation. Jones, a 6-4 guard who captained the '68 Stags, was drafted by the Philadelphia 76ers and played professionally in the Eastern League. Gillen became a winning head coach at three colleges, Xavier, Providence and Virginia, and led all three institutions to the NCAA Tournament. He's now a college basketball analyst with the CBS Sports

Network.

Among the notable Fairfield Prep graduates in the university's Class of '68 are Dr. James McCormick, a pulmonary disease specialist in Lexington, Ky., and Brian Morris, who graduated from the Fairleigh Dickinson's School of Dentistry and maintained a successful practice for 36 years.

NARRATIVES is included in The Library of Congress collections and in the Vietnam Memorial archives. It is also available for Fairfield alumni and students, in print and electronic format, at the DiMenna-Nyselius Library on campus. ■

SJ students sign letters of intent

TRUMBULL—St. Joseph High School announced the names of four senior student-athletes who have signed National Letters of Intent. With the addition of 4 new student-athlete signings, the Class of 2019 celebrates 20 signings total, a new record for the school.

The National Letter of Intent is a binding agreement between a prospective student-athlete and an NLI member institution. The following St Joes Seniors will participate:

Emily Fedor – Track –
Central Connecticut State University – Division I
Sierra Clark – Soccer –

American International College
Division II
Kyren Jones – Football –
Utica College – Division III
Dori Grasso – Soccer –
Manhattanville College –

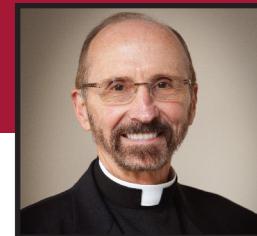
Division III
Student-athletes, their families, and coaches came together recently in St Joe's Health & Wellness Center to sign their letters of intent. ■



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Vocations

SEMINARY FROM PAGE 8

the Church. In the Diocese of Bridgeport, there are 15 communities in five parishes.

Pope Benedict XVI said, "The Church has recognized the Neocatechumenal Way as a special gift inspired by the Holy Spirit."

Father Pacciana says that post-Christian society faces many of the same challenges that confronted the early disciples in the

their lives who found help in the Church, in the Sacraments and the World of God," he said. "God helped me minister to the suffering in the missions despite the difficulty to communicate in other languages."

He sees the same role for the young men at Redemptoris Mater. "I am glad to be here since the beginning," he said. "I

wherever the Lord sends me," he says. "Coming to America has been a new experience for me."

Barairai comes from a family with three sons and one daughter, and his mother always prayed that one of her sons would become a priest.

"I believe this is an answer to her prayers," he says.

Commenting on Redemptoris Mater, Bishop Caggiano said, "I



pre-Christian age.

"We are training men to go out into post-Christian society, when people have often abandoned the practice of the faith or no longer believe in God," he says.

Father Flora, the seminary's spiritual director, is a native of Calabria, Italy. As a seminarian, he went to different parts of the world and worked with missionary priests in Estonia and Turks and Caicos.

"I saw people struggling in

have seen the action of God in the opening of this seminary."

Father Pacciana points out that the process for the approval of a Redemptoris Mater seminary can take years. However, Bishop Caggiano's request was approved within two weeks, which to him is a sign that God wanted it here.

Teitati Barairai has been at the seminary for seven months discerning his vocation.

"I want to be a missionary

am delighted that the diocesan priesthood is expanding to include these men. Some people see them as outsiders, but they are actually priests of Bridgeport, and even if they go on mission, they will come back to Bridgeport. I am also delighted that St. John Fisher Seminary and Redemptoris Mater are growing closer and closer together, and the young men are becoming comfortable with each other and growing in fraternity." ■

Sr. Carolyn Cossack

ENFIELD—Sr. Carolyn Mary Cossack died at St. Joseph's Residence, Enfield Conn. on April 30, 2019.

Sister was born September 24, 1934 in Rington Penn., the eldest of five children, one of whom (Edward) pre-deceased her. She is survived by her brother Peter Cossack and her sisters Helen Fisher and Sr. Angela de l'Immaculée, Little Sisters of the Poor. She also has four nieces: Tracey Smith, Therese Engle, Melinda Evans, Melissa Fesig and one nephew, Edward Cossack. Her two great nieces are Stephanie Engle and Stacie Yocum and there is one great great nephew, Matthew Yocum.



SR. CAROLYN MARY COSSACK

Sister Carolyn Mary spent most of her long life serving the Lord as a religion teacher and evangelizer, in the IHM Sisters, and later, as a member of the Sisters Minor of Mary Immaculate. She is remembered for her fervor, devotion and joy generously shared with anyone who knew her. To speak with her, one felt the love of God and his care.

Her last years were spent at St. Joseph's Residence, Enfield, Conn. Even there, she took a lead in the Legion of Mary and was a constant encouragement for the staff, other residents and friends who loved her dearly and confided their concerns to her prayers. Her last active assignment before retiring was at Holy Name of Jesus in Stamford, Conn. ■

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT MAY 26—JUNE 29

MAY		
26	Msgr. William Loughlin	2014
27	Rev. Joseph F. Sohovich	1957
28	Rev. John P. McNerney	1969
29	Msgr. John J. Barney	1973
	Rev. Harry Holbrook	2005
30	Rev. Adelard A. Jalbert	1960
31	Rev. Dennis A. Szocs, O.F.M.	1985

JUNE		
1	Rev. Msgr. Jean C. Tetreault	2003
2	Rev. Thomas M. Ford	1992
3	Rev. Michael F. Blanchard	1982
	Rev. Richard J. Grady	1993
	Deacon Kenneth Stroud	2016
5	Msgr. Peter P. Dora	2017
	Msgr. John Hayes	1964
6	Rev. Thomas J. Hanley	1954
	Msgr. Edward J. Howley	2012
7	Rev. James J. Dennis	2003
8	Msgr. Bernard S. Scanlon	2004
9	Msgr. James G. Lengen	1999
	Rev. James J. O'Malley	1996
13	Deacon Anthony LaBua	1988
14	Msgr. William F. Kearney	1974
15	Msgr. John H. Landry	1967
19	Rev. Robert S. McBride	1982
	Msgr. Frank Wissel	2014
20	Msgr. John J. Bumstead	1996
21	Rev. Albert D. Talbot	1962
22	Rev. Xavier Renda	2009
24	Rev. Frankln J. Corrigan	1974
	Msgr. William A. Genuario	2015
25	Rev. Albert A. Tomasko	1978
27	Rev. J. Barry Furey	2012
28	Rev. John J. Draper	1966

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Nuestra Voz

Homelía por una Misa de Instalación como Parroco (5 de mayo 2019)

Meditación sobre Juan, capítulo 21: ‘Simón, ¿me amas?’

POR MONSEÑOR CHRIS WALSH

Este capítulo 21 del Evangelio de San Juan contiene una línea que es, por mí, una de las líneas más conmovedoras de todas las lecturas del tiempo de Pascua. Y no es la línea citada arriba, que el Señor repita tres veces: “Simón, hijo de Juan, ¿me amas?” No, es la línea al principio del evangelio, aparentemente sin importancia: “Simón Pedro les dijo a sus compañeros: ‘Voy a pescar.’” (Jn. 21:2).

¡¿De verdad?! La semana pasada, vimos unos versos antes, al fin del capítulo 20 en el evangelio de San Juan, cuando los apóstoles se reunían en el cenáculo en el día de la Resurrección – y otra vez, ocho días más tardes – como el Señor Jesús se presentó en medio de ellos y les concedió el don de la paz, del Espíritu Santo, y el poder de perdonar los pecados. ¡Este es el evento de Pentecostés por San Juan, estre-

chamente vinculado al misterio de la cruz y la resurrección! Y Jesús les dio también a los discípulos en este momento la gran comisión: “Como el Padre me ha enviado, así también los envío yo.” (Jn. 20:21).

Entonces, esperamos que, al igual que en el día de Pentecostés en el relato de San Lucas en los Hechos de los Apóstoles, veremos a los Doce aquí en San Juan, llenos del Espíritu Santo, predicando la buena nueva audazmente en Jerusalén. Que oiremos San Juan describiendo los apóstoles bautizando y perdonando los pecados de la muchedumbre, según la misión que Cristo les había dado. Si hubieran encontrado al Cristo resucitado, a menos pensábamos que los discípulos se habrían hallado juntos, rezando fervientemente en el cenáculo.

Pero, ¡¿ir de pesca?! ¿En el mar de Galilea, de vuelta con sus barcos y sus redes? Es como si Pedro



y los demás seis discípulos en el evangelio de hoy hubieran perdido la esperanza, hubieran decidido volver a su antigua forma de vida. Entonces Jesús no les dice hoy, en la orilla del mar, cosas exaltadas como en las dos primeras apariciones del Señor resucitado en el cenáculo en Jerusalén. No: “Paz sea con Uds., reciban el Espíritu Santo.” No: “A los que perdonen los pecados, se quedarán perdo-

nados.” Más bien, sencillamente, personalmente, tomando a Pedro a un lado, preguntándole: “Simón, hijo de Juan, ¿me amas? ¿Me quieres?” Y entonces, “Apacienta mis ovejas.”

Esta es una gran causa para la reflexión en este día en lo cual Monseñor Caggiano me instala como su décimo quinto pastor en la parroquia de San Carlos Borromeo. En mi opinión los

períodos de mayores problemas en la historia de la Iglesia tienen lugar cuando nuestro amor por el Señor nos falla, como el amor del Pedro hoy. Y por esa razón, dejamos de cuidar el rebaño de Señor, la Iglesia de Jesucristo. En mi opinión los períodos de mayores problemas en la historia del sacerdocio, de obispos y presbíteros y diáconos, tienen lugar cuando dejamos de amar al Señor más que a los demás. Y por esa razón, no amamos suficiente al pueblo de Dios, que es el Cuerpo de Cristo.

Hermanos míos muy queridos, en este día de mi instalación como su párroco, no me presento a Uds. como el candidato lo más atractivo, o lo más dinámico, o el más sano. Pero yo les pido, sencillamente y sinceramente, por favor rueguen por mí, que sea yo, sí, un párroco por San Carlos que ame al Señor, y que ame a Uds., su rebaño, más que lo demás. ■

Rosario: Pasaporte seguro para llegar a Jesús por María

POR MARICARMEN GODOY

DARIEN—Son las cuatro de la tarde y en forma silenciosa toman sus puestos en la capilla del Convento de Santa Brígida las siete monjitas que viven y trabajan en esta casa de retiro espiritual; e inicia bajo un estricto recogimiento el rezo del Santo Rosario, que por ser mayo el mes dedicado a esta práctica, las religiosas confeccionaron un primoroso altar en honor a la Virgen.

Sor Fabiola, nativa de Jalisco-México, por pedido de la hermana superiora, una monjita de origen hindú, se encargó de narrar cómo sus hermanas de convento reparten los tiempos para rezar, orar y trabajar en la Casa Hogar de Huéspedes, que no es sino un espacio para que peregrinos ansiosos de encontrar paz se refugien bajo las paredes del convento y desde ahí se conecten con la espiritualidad; mientras las religiosas los atienden en su alimentación y vivienda bajo el carisma de su comunidad que es la hospitalidad.

“Rezar el Rosario es una devoción que deja grandes satisfacciones espirituales”, dijo

la superiora del Convento, y a esta frase la hermana Fabiola le añadió cómo un sacerdote les ha contado a ellas lo que significa el rezo mariano: “Rezar el Rosario

oraciones con los huéspedes o vecinos de Tokeneke Trail enclavado entre el sector que se conoce como Long Sound de Norwalk, por estar a la orilla de uno de los



DURANTE LAS HORAS recreativas las monjitas “brigidianas” bordan, confeccionan rosarios, brazaletes, aretes y pulseiras. Otras veces, ven juntas la televisión y leen libros religiosos; mientras trabajan el silencio y el rezo del Rosario les hace compañía.

es como colocar en una nube mucha lluvia y luego dejarla ir. ¡Nunca sabes en dónde esa nube volverá a verter su agua (llover)”, o sea, ese es un misterio de Dios que sólo él sabe cómo utilizará tus oraciones”, repuso.

Las religiosas que inician el Santo Rosario dentro de la clausura conventual, comparten sus

brazos del océano Atlántico.

La faena del Rosario es parte de la Constitución Eclesial (ley) de las religiosas de Santa Brígida, y acorde a este mandato ellas deben rezar en todas sus casas conventuales alrededor del mundo a las 4 en punto de la tarde; pero eso no las exime de rezar u orar durante todo el día.

Razón de que, la hermana Fabiola, traía consigo como si fuera una pulsera un Rosario y mientras trabajaba en el mostrador rezaba y rezaba una y otra vez.

“Monjita! ¿Por qué reza tanto?, le dije, mientras observaba como las otras religiosas limpiaban la mesa del comedor, ponían el servicio de cubiertos y otras barrían y pasaban el trapeador; e igualmente, rezaban y rezaban las Ave María.

Ella, con una sonrisa graciosa respondió: “¡ Ah!, ¿pero es que tú no rezas?, ¡hay que rezar!, “mijita” ¿porque si no cómo dices ser Hija de Dios?”. Y también quiero recordarles que sólo se llega a nuestro Señor a través de María, por eso es necesario rezar para que ella intervenga por nosotros los pecadores”, repuso.

La hermana Superiora, en cambio, indicó que rezar el Rosario es parte de la devoción mundial que la misma Virgen ha pedido que hagan cuando se ha aparecido a personajes que han revolucionado el Misterio de María y sus apariciones terrenales. Por ejemplo, a los Tres Pastorcitos de Fátima, al Santo Juan Diego en el Tepeyac de México, o en la Gruta de

Lourdes.

Para los católicos no es difícil entender que rezar el Rosario es parte de la devoción y una forma de pedir a la Virgen su intercesión. Muestra de esto, la monjita Superiora expuso que a nivel secular cuando hay plantones en las calles frente a las clínicas que practican el aborto, hay legiones de devotos que están objetando esta práctica pero lo expresan rezando el Rosario. Además están pidiendo a la Virgen compasión por las mujeres que toman esta decisión y también por los nonatos.

A las 6:15 am se levantan, realizan el oficio de la Lectura, a las 6:40 am rezan los Laudes, tienen media hora de meditación antes de la misa que inicia a las ocho de la mañana. Luego desayunan, trabajan en los quehaceres y a diez de la mañana hacen la adoración al Santísimo. A las 11:45 rezan la “Cesta” e inmediatamente al mediodía almuerzan. A las cuatro rezan el Rosario, vuelven a sus oficios; y a las 8 de la noche realizan las oraciones nocturnas conocida como las “Completas”. ■

Column: Thomas Hicks



Timeless Moments

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

They seem to bob into consciousness without announcement or connection—images of people and places. A multitude of figures and scenes, fragmented recollections, show up at unexpected moments. There are faces of strangers I sat beside on a train and exchanged a few words with; the face of someone I took shelter with under the same awning in a rainstorm; there's the haggard face of an alcoholic panhandler; there's the quiet girl who sat at the next desk in the fifth grade. Thomas Merton referred to this phenomenon and suggested that these images are of people who are in some kind of trouble and

we are being called to pray for them. Interesting.

So many images suddenly flame to life and insinuate themselves in my life. They are fragmentary recollections. Lost times and forgotten scenes suddenly return: my mother pulling down the blinds at sunset; suddenly for a moment I'm back in my Aunt May's kitchen. There are so many images from the past that pass through my mind and show up at unexpected moments: a seagull with a broken wing, frost on a windowpane, the look of a street at twilight, a scene of Manhattan weather. I'm carried back to the dead people I knew. Momentary

recollections like these seem to dot my being.

I have many recollections of scenes that belong to childhood. As I get older, my childhood self seems to become more accessible to me. The recollections are usually delicious moments, for example, the shore where childhood played. They are bright memories of kind people and lovely places. They are remembered with love and with a longing for a happiness I wish I could regain.

For oft...they flash upon that inward eye...

And then my heart with pleasure fills

And dances with the daffodils (Wordsworth, "I Wandered Lonely As a Cloud")

A frequent recollection is myself, a small boy, crossing a street, alive and going somewhere.

But there are also dark memories of old unhappy far off things. There are the sudden remembrances of things that made me feel scared and lonely, old failures and old hurts.

These sudden fragments that float in and out of my mind can both brighten and darken my life. There are recollections of sounds: feet on a stairway; a clanging bell; the clip-clod of a horse; a train whistle; the calling of a voice through the autumn dark; a voice calling from the foot of the stairs; the barking of an old dog. When I was little my older brother often followed me and kept shouting "Tommy wait!" I often recall that. All these recollections stir something in me, vague and

tender.

There are fragmentary memories of fragrances, for example, the sweet, dry fragrance of talcum powder that clung to a girl. There are fragmentary memories of touch. After all these years I can still remember, and almost feel, the pressure of my father's hand on the small of my back, guiding me across the street.

As someone said, the night is never alone, it remembers. It is often at night that peculiar memories pop up out of nowhere.

It is extraordinary the things I remember – so many seem like trifles. It puzzles me that I remember these impressions. Why were these things stirring to be remembered? Why do these scenes revive, or are awakened? Why are they remembered when they are? Why are some things engraved in memory? Do they arrive from "deep down"? Are they there for some purpose? I expect psychologists might have some answers.

In a way, they can evoke in me a sense of reverence. St. Augustine wrote about the reli-

gious significance of memory. Maybe these unbidden memories that suddenly form and dissolve mark places in one's life where we were to hear the "more" that runs through it all. Life is holy ground. It is possible to see the presence of the sacred in the realities of the everyday. One can find meaning in the briefest and most unexpected moments. Maybe there is something like playing jump rope going on. You can miss the split second where entry is possible and you've flubbed up everything. Maybe we keep missing entries.

Do some of these memories involve moments of transcendence? There are holy sparks in every occasion. Are these recurring memories calls to listen to our lives? The co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, Bill Wilson, expressed it this way: "Life gives us moments." There are moments of illumination, when the most ordinary objects and commonplace events shed the shackles of matter-of-factness and enter the realm of mystery. T.S. Eliot wrote in Little Gidding of "the timeless moment." ■

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Column: Joe Pisani



The Divine Healer

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

In 2002, a prison chaplain contacted Father Larry Carew about working with an inmate who had been sexually abused by a priest. When Father met Tom, he had unruly hair and a long beard and seemed like “a wild man” consumed with anger.

He counseled him several times and shared a few minutes of prayer. Then, after a month, he decided it was time to engage in deeper healing prayer. As their session began, he told Tom to invite Jesus into the places where he hurt and give the Lord permission to remove whatever needed to be removed, including his self-consuming anger.

Even before Father finished his instructions, he saw an immediate change. “Tom’s face took on this peace,” he recalled. His eyes were closed and he was out of touch for 15 minutes. When he finally came out of that deep prayer, he said, “Jesus spoke to me in my heart and told me, ‘Tom, everything is going to be OK.’”

They continued to pray that the Lord would liberate him from despair and anger and infuse heavenly hope in his heart.

“The next time we met, I told him to let Jesus free him from the inner wounds that the abuse caused, from lies he came to believe about himself, such as he deserved what happened or that he didn’t deserve to be happy like other people or that maybe he brought it on himself,” Father said.

Once again, Tom immediately went into deep contemplative prayer for 20 minutes. For a second he opened his eyes and momentarily looked over his shoulder. When he came out of this state, he told Father, “My eyes were shut, but I could see us praying together. I could see

us holding hands and I could see something else — I could see Jesus standing right behind me. He had his hand on my shoulder and he was praying, too. He was praying that I would be healed.”

Father explained, “That was why Tom had opened his eyes and looked over his shoulder ... because he wanted to see with his earthly eyes what he was seeing with his spiritual eyes.” He wanted to see Jesus in the flesh.

Within a few months, this angry, wounded, depressed man changed. He smiled, he cracked jokes and he interacted with the other inmates and staff.

“It was such a clear example that the Lord wants to heal these wounds,” Father Carew said during a homily he gave at a Mass of Hope, Healing and

Reconciliation at St. Joseph Church in Danbury. In his prison work, he witnessed other dramatic instances in which Jesus intervened to heal those who had been sexually abused.

“These stunningly powerful stories of how Jesus healed tragically traumatized victims of clergy sexual abuse catapulted me into a whole new level of faith in what our risen Lord is willing and able to do in the present,” Father said. “It is not enough to believe in what Jesus has done or even what he has promised to do for us in Heaven. When he proclaimed himself to be the Resurrection and the Life, he wasn’t just talking about a future reward of being raised from the dead on the last day, he was saying, ‘Get in the habit of asking me — The Resurrection and The Life — for resurrection surprises in the here and now.’”

That is a message for everyone, Father says. “All of us need healing from this tragedy. Anytime we sense the weight of his kind of discouragement, we need to invite the Lord into places within us where this darkness has descended. Then, we need to give him permission to replace it with a fresh hope, a peace and a courage.”

Tom later wrote a message for the people who were taking Father Carew’s healing workshops for abuse victims titled, “Disregarding the Shame, Reaching Out for the Joy,” which hundreds have attended.

His words offered testimony

of divine healing, and his message simply said, “Stay open to Jesus. He will get you past the abuse you suffer. There is no sin of mine that he hasn’t forgiven. I had to let him help me forgive my abuser. He will do the same for you.”

A YOUNG WOMAN’S VOICE FROM PAGE 11

doesn’t mean we have to obey them, respect them, or let our lives be run by them.”

By learning to focus on the thoughts and feelings that are coming in a particular moment, one can be made more aware of oneself, letting the thoughts and feelings lead them to the discovery of truth.

One of my greatest challenges, and a topic that Dr. Bottaro deals with extensively in *The Mindful Catholic* is seeing myself as God sees me. He writes, “Learning how to practice mindfulness in a Catholic context is a way to recognize the dignity God created you with and take care of yourself accordingly...your happiness is directly connected to you becoming more of who God made you to be.”

Dr. Bottaro explains that mindfulness is ‘awareness of the present moment with acceptance and nonjudgement,’ and that applies to our view of ourselves. The author describes the merciful gaze of God, saying, “This is the foundation of the gaze with which God looks at us. This is the gaze we need to look at ourselves with.”

Changing my negative self-talk is something I have to work on every day. But with practices like mindfulness and the roots of my faith, as Dr. Bottaro writes, I can “step out of the thought stream, watching the negative thoughts float by as if you are sitting on a riverbank watching leaves float by on the water.”

(For more information on Dr. Bottaro and the CatholicPsych Institute visit: www.catholicpsych.com.)

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Sacred Heart University

Over 2,200 graduate at weekend commencement

FAIRFIELD—More than 2,200 Sacred Heart University students received diplomas recently at two separate commencement ceremonies at the Webster Bank Arena. The SHU class of 2019 includes 1,122 undergraduates who earned bachelor's and associate's degrees and 1,152 graduate students who earned master's degrees, professional certificates and doctorates.

In his opening remarks to undergraduates, president John J. Petillo, encouraged students to take action and not just sit back and wait for life to unfold. "The barometer of your life well lived goes beyond simply wealth and comfort. Attain them if you can, always remembering you also need to be responsible in using them in service for others," Petillo said. "Infuse your life with action. Don't simply wait for it to happen. Be insistently curious; curious about who you are, what you are becoming, and why."

Entrepreneur, inventor and philanthropist, Brian Hamilton '87, delivered the keynote address to undergraduates. He also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, degree.

In his speech, Hamilton pro-



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY HOSTED Undergraduate Commencement at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport on May 12, 2019. Celebrating are, from (l-r) Student Government executive board members Sarah Kosha, Nicholas Piselli, Abigail Black and Lauren Petrozzi. PHOTO BY TRACY DEER-MIREK

vided students with four pieces of advice. He stressed the importance of serving others. "It has taken me years to learn that you are never going to get happiness by serving yourself. It is almost as if we are engineered in reverse—by seeking things for yourself, you are guaranteed to be unhappy," he said.

He told the graduates to find a vocation they love. "This seems so obvious, but sometimes the obvious things in life are true.

I've been lucky in life to become an entrepreneur—something that I really enjoy. I've interviewed and worked with hundreds if not thousands of young college graduates, and it makes me sad to think some of you will be in jobs that you don't enjoy. By the way, part of enjoying your job is being around people you want to emulate," he said.

The entrepreneur ended his speech by telling the students that fun is allowed in life and they

should seek it often. "It's like anything else in life, it has to be a goal or it tends to get put on the back burner," Hamilton said.

After Hamilton's speech, Petillo presented an honorary degree to Matthew Galligan, a student who passed away from cancer. His parents and brother, also a SHU student, picked up the diploma.

It was then time for the much-anticipated conferral of degrees. Sacred Heart has a commencement tradition—if a graduate's immediate family member is an alumnus, faculty or staff member he or she can process with the graduate on stage to assist with the awarding of their diploma. It is a tradition many graduates took part in over the weekend.

Nicole Cardarelli, student government senior class president, excitedly addressed her peers after degrees were handed out. "We all never thought this day would come, our parents crossed days off their calendar as we watched the countdown at Red's. Now that graduation is here, I am both happy and sad to see it go because it means leaving behind professors, staff members and friends who have shaped me and my fellow students' lives for the better," she said.

Before Cardarelli led the class of 2019 in the traditional turning of the tassel she told her peers that their "reign" is over and it's up to the next class to step into their shoes and start their own countdown. "As we embark on our own journey, whether you are going to grad school, starting a new job or taking

a gap year, I wish you all the luck and hope that you never forget your days at Sacred Heart. One of my favorite quotes is 'in life you make the small decisions with your head and the big decisions with your heart.' Remember to always go with your 'sacred' heart."

Keynote speaker Mary Healey-Sedutto, executive director of Hope for a Healthier Humanity, addressed the graduates and also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, degree. She echoed Petillo's comments about giving back.

"We are here today because we already know how important education is. We all know that diplomas and graduate certificates are often useful in opening doors and positioning us for greater opportunities, but something that is often unrecognized is the intrinsic relationship between education and hope," said Healey-Sedutto. "Education often gives us the tools to realistically and tangibly chart our course and navigate from where we are to where we want to be, and lacking this pathway to access can easily allow us to slip into hopelessness."

Healey-Sedutto encouraged the graduates to foster education among people who weren't fortunate enough to have the same opportunities as them. "Even though many of us may have struggled to achieve the goals we set for ourselves, we did not give up hope, and so again, I ask that you take a moment on this special day of celebration, and consider how you can spread your light on those in greatest need."

As the second-largest independent Catholic university in New England, and one of the fastest-growing in the U.S., Sacred Heart University is a national leader in shaping higher education for the 21st century. SHU offers more than 80 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and certificate programs. More than 8,500 students attend the University's eight colleges and schools: Arts & Sciences; Communication, Media & the Arts; Computer Science & Engineering; Health Professions; the Isabelle Farrington College of Education; the Jack Welch College of Business; Nursing; and St. Vincent's College. www.sacredheart.edu

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Bits and Pieces

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ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA IN RIVERSIDE will be holding a series "Reflections on Religious Identity within the contemporary world." One-hour presentation will begin after Mass by **11:45 am** in the Lucey Parish Hall. Light refreshments will be served before and ALL are welcome! On **Sun., May 19 at 11:30 am** the presentation will be on Vietnam: Hallowed traditions, a hard-won independence and a vibrant people striving to main-

Project Rachel Ministry presents five upcoming Entering Canaan retreat dates:

ENTERING CANAAN DAY OF PRAYER AND HEALING — **Sat., June 29;** Diocese of Bridgeport; email: projectrachel@diobpt.org call: 203.416.1619 or text 475.231.9210.

ENTERING CANAAN FOR MEN — **Sat., July 13;** Paterson, NJ; contact info below

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A SIBLING THROUGH ABORTION — **Aug. 16-18;** Stirling, NJ; contact info below

RETREAT DAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ABORTED A CHILD BECAUSE OF AN ADVERSE DIAGNOSIS — **Sat., Sept. 28;** email: lumina@postabortion-help.org or call: 877.586.4621.

tain its identity in the throes of globalization.

VILLA MARIA SCHOOL will be holding a Celebration of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters 125th Anniversary at the **11:30 am** Mass at Holy Spirit Church in Stamford on **Sun., May 19** followed by a presentation and brunch in the Holy Family Hall. On **Wed., May 22 at 12:30 pm** and **Thurs., May 23 at 6:30 pm** students will be "rolling out the red carpet" for their annual performance. Students will perform songs, play different instruments, share the history of some of the songs, etc.

THE ST. FRANCES X. CABRINI COUNCIL 4096 of the Knights of Columbus and are having their annual Memorial Day Remembrance Mass on the Sunday before Memorial Day, **May 26 at the 11:30 am** Mass at St. Andrew Church in Bridgeport.

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH in the Lordship section of Stratford will be con-

ducting a free 10 week program beginning **Wed., May 29**. The group will meet every **Wed.** from **6:30-8 pm** in the Parish Center. If interested call Janet Gillick, certified facilitator at: 203.377.4817 or call the Parish Center at: 203.377.4863.

AN AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION: Discovering the Spiritual Graces of Later Life will be presented by Barbara Lee at St. Jude Parish in Monroe on **Thurs., May 30** from **11 am-3 pm**. Mass and light lunch are included. A \$5 donation is requested. RSVP to Kathy Clark at 203.261.0707 or loonsovergranby@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS OF GREATER DANBURY will gather on **Thurs., May 30, at 7:30 pm** for Ascension Thursday Mass at St. Joseph Church in Danbury, followed by a social at a local eatery. Please email us at: catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com to be placed on our email list and to ask us any questions you may have.

FAIRFIELD PREP invites all alumni from classes ending in 4 and 9 to attend Reunion Weekend on **Fri., May 31-Sat., June 1**. Sign up for all or any of the great events happening. Register online at: www.fairfield-prep.org/reunion.

A RETREAT DAY FOR BUSY WOMEN, entitled, "Angels of the Lord, Reflecting upon Angels in Scripture, Tradition and in the writings of the Saints" will take place on **Sat., June 1** from **9 am-3:30 pm** at Convent of St. Birgitta in Darien. This day retreat will be led by: Fran Fraleigh Karpiej, OFS, director of Sharing Christ Ministry. A total payment of \$60 is required with each registration. We have a limit of 45 ladies. Hot lunch included, served by the Sisters. For registration and info, contact Fran via email at: paxjc@aol.com or phone at: 203.452.7040.

THE CONNECTICUT CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE IS LOOKING FOR LEADERS! On **Sat., June 1** at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell there will be a training day for those wishing to serve as Parish Captains in promotion of the conference, which will be held on **Oct. 19**. For more info email: ctcatholicmensconference@gmail.com or visit: ctcatholicment.org.

THE MORNING GLORY BREAKFAST PROGRAM WALK-A-THON is being held

on **Sat., June 1** at Meckauer Park in Bethel, beginning at **9:30 am**. All proceeds benefit the Northern Fairfield County Programs of Catholic Charities. To register for the event online visit: www.givegab.com/campaigns/morning-glory-breakfast-program-walk-a-thon.

JOIN THE NIGHT VIGIL at St. John the Evangelist in Stamford on **Sat., June 1** from **7-9:30 pm**. RSVP to Fr. Joe Gill at: Frgill@diobpt.org if you are able to help and plan to come and meet at **6:15 pm** at St. John's on **June 1** for a brief training beforehand.

THE INNER-CITY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON will be held at the Belle Haven Club in Greenwich on **Wed., June 5** from **11:30 am-2 pm**. The luncheon will benefit the neediest families and individuals of Fairfield County. For tickets and tables to the Luncheon featuring Holly Holden, or to donate, visit www.innercityfoundation.org.

ROSARY FOR LIFE will be held at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Shelton on **Wed., June 5** at **7 pm**.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL FAIRFIELD will be holding its 3rd Annual Bacon and Brew fest on **Sat., June 8**, from **11-4 pm** on the school campus. Visit the Bacon and Brewfest website at ndbaconandbrew.com for a list of beer and food vendors and to purchase tickets. Contact tmarzik@notredame.org or 203.372.6521 for more information.

ST. FRANCIS IN WESTON is hosting it's Lobsterpalooza on **Sun., June 9** at **5 pm** at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall. Deadline for orders is **June 6**. To place order RSVP to Kim DelCorso: kdelcorso@stfrancisweston.org or 203.227.1341. For menu details go to: www.stfrancisweston.org/events/lobsterpalooza.

THE SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS will be hosting their 20th Anniversary Joy and Gratitude Annual Dinner on **Sun., June 9** from **5-9 pm** at the John Barone Campus Center of Fairfield University. Tickets can be purchased at www.501auctions.com/saintcatherinecenterdinner or for more info visit: StCatherineCenter.org, call: 203.540.5381, or email: info@stcatherinecenter.org.

THE ORIGINAL ST. ANTHONY FEAST will take place at St. Margaret Shrine in Bridgeport on **Fri., June 8**, from **6-11 pm**, **Sat., June 9** from **2-11**

pm and **Sun., June 10** from **12 noon-10 pm**. Please join us for delicious Italian food and family friendly fun. On **Sun., June 10**, we will have our special outdoor Mass at **11 am**.

DIACONATE DISCOVERY EVENINGS will be held on the **second Thurs.** of each month through Sept. from **7-8:30 pm**. St. Marguerite Parish: **June 13**.

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., June 15** at **9:30 am** with celebrant Fr. Russ Augustine. After Mass, 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.

CATHOLIC SCOUTING AWARDS CEREMONY will be held at the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist on **Sat., June 22** from **6:30-8:30 pm**. For more information contact the Office of Faith Formation at 203.416.1670. or email officeoffaithformation@diobpt.org.

ST. ANDREWS CHURCH is holding its Annual Car Show on **Sat., June 22** (rain date **Sat., June 29**) 10 am to 3 pm. Open to all pre-1994 cars and

motorcycles. Classics arrive at **9 am**, gates open at **10 am**. For more info contact Steve at: SFD1944@optonline.net or Sue at: 203.374.8118.

ST. MARGARET SHRINE'S VETERAN'S MEMORIAL deadline for donating a Veteran's Brick, in order to ensure installation by our 2019 Veterans Mass, is **Sat., Aug. 10**. 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 or email artfalco@optonline.net.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO is being held **Mon.-Sat., Dec. 2-7, 2019**. The price is \$1,695 and includes round trip airline tickets, airline taxes/fuel surcharges, hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, sightseeing, transportation to JFK, tips to tour guide and bus driver). For reservation contact Fr. Marcel at Christ the King Church: 203.434.7208 or email: marcel-saintjean@gmail.com.

EVENING VESPERS are sung at **4:45 pm** before the **5:30 pm** Sunday Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. A missa cantata Mass will be presented on Thursday evenings at **6 pm** at St. Patrick Church in Bridgeport. For further info call 203.368.6777 or visit www.thecathedralparish.org. ■

POSITION OPENING

Associate Director of Ministry Services

School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province

Responsibilities

The department of Ministry Services of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province, has an opening for a full-time associate director. Ministry Services provides support and education for individuals serving with the School Sisters of Notre Dame within the Atlantic-Midwest Province. This position supports the director in the overall function of the department especially in the formation for new lay leaders (CEO's and selected other categories of sponsored ministries, province staff, administrators of Continuum of Care Centers) and the orientation of new employees in the province.

The position will remain open until an appropriate candidate has been identified.

For a detailed position description and more information on SSND visit the Atlantic-Midwest Province website of the School Sisters of Notre Dame www.amsnd.org.

Applications should be sent to Liz Klein, HR Director for the Atlantic-Midwest Province at lklein@ssndba.org



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Atlantic-Midwest Province



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