



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

NOVEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 36, NUMBER 10 | THANKSGIVING ISSUE

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Leaders of Tomorrow

'Your future is bright'

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—October 24 marked Foundations in Education's third annual Leaders of Tomorrow Breakfast Reception at the Catholic Center. A record high of 53 students were honored this year.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano thanked all in attendance for being there, saying, "we come here to celebrate the great gift of Catholic education, which brings us all together."

"You are here because God wants you to use everything you have been given to change the world," the bishop said to the students.

He thanked them and encouraged them, "Never take for granted the gift God has given you in the education you are receiving."



LEADERS OF TOMORROW—Holly Doherty-Lemoine, executive director of Foundations in Education, congratulates one of the young honorees at the Leaders of Tomorrow breakfast reception held recently at the Catholic Center.

be the best possible version of themselves through Catholic education," said Patricia Zaccone,

the Foundations in Education and the generosity of its donors. "My wish is for your kindness



"Your future is bright and there are many doors that will be opened to you. And when I and the rest of us here grow old and we pass on the leadership of our country and our Church to you, it will be in the best of hands," said the bishop.

The bishop commended Foundations in Education on its great work, thanked and applauded the board and its members, and expressed sincere gratitude to the generous donors.

"As a sponsor and a donor, you are investing in the goals and dreams of these students to

director of school finance and Leaders of Tomorrow sponsor, speaking of the importance of Catholic education.

This year's Leaders of Tomorrow student, Liz Arantes, who is in the fourth grade at St. Andrew Academy in Bridgeport was able to share her experience in Catholic schools.

"I think learning about the Catholic faith helps us to be kinder, more respectful toward each other and our teachers and helps build our school community," Arantes said, thanking all

to spread so others might be inspired to be kind too, and that this opportunity can be available to more children like me."

Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) represent students from diocesan elementary schools who were identified by their principals as students of strong academics, good character and leadership potential.

Sponsors of Leaders of Tomorrow help subsidize the cost of a Catholic elementary school tuition, providing a life-enhancing gift that helps transform the lives of our students. ■

School Name	Leader of Tomorrow	Grade
All Saints Catholic School	Ella Trudeau	7
All Saints Catholic School	Chloe Wilberg	4
All Saints Catholic School	Phoebe Wilberg	4
Assumption Catholic School	Julia Bassetto-Oliveira	7
Assumption Catholic School	Alana Davis	7
Assumption Catholic School	Madison Jelks	2
Assumption Catholic School	Gabrielle Latibeaudiere	6
Assumption Catholic School	Lorenzo Porzio	8
Catholic Academy of Bridgeport		
St. Andrew Academy	Liz Arantes	4
St. Ann Academy	Joshua Kalangala	1
St. Augustine Academy	Kelly-ann Antoine	8
St. Augustine Academy	Destiny Diaz	5
St. Augustine Academy	Katherine Rodriguez	8
St. Raphael Academy	Frederick Ansah-Saforo	2
Catholic Academy of Stamford	Valerie Alvarez	6
Catholic Academy of Stamford	Melyssa Dorlean-Moise	3
Catholic Academy of Stamford	Nathalia Echeverria	6
Catholic Academy of Stamford	Isabella Quintero	3
Greenwich Catholic School	Milena Lencyk	4
Greenwich Catholic School	Quinn Lombardo	6
Holy Trinity Catholic Academy	Abigail Aufiero	4
Holy Trinity Catholic Academy	Roberto Lopez	5
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Academy	Allison Edouard	8
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Academy	Briggyste Interiano	1
St. Aloysius School	Maya Ruszczyk	6
St. Catherine of Siena School	Maddux Vargas	5
St. Gregory the Great School	Sergio Gonzalez	4
St. James School	Conner Lilliedahl	6
St. James School	Adrianna Ralabate	1
St. James School	Samantha Roman	6
St. James School	Shyanne Roman	8
St. Joseph Catholic Academy	Cameron O'Rourke	7
St. Joseph Catholic Academy	Spencer O'Rourke	7
St. Joseph School-Danbury	Arthur DaSilva	7
St. Joseph School-Danbury	Kendra Pires	2
St. Mark School	Avani Jacobs	5
St. Mark School	Savanna Schwartz	3
St. Mary School-Bethel	Hugo Araujo	7
St. Mary School-Bethel	Christian Coogan	3
St. Mary School-Ridgefield	Lilianna Kalbfus	3
St. Mary School-Ridgefield	Morgan Manfro	3
St. Peter School	Eliana Castillo	3
St. Peter School	Erick Saldana	4
St. Rose of Lima School	Emily Braun	7
St. Rose of Lima School	Paige Keane	4
St. Rose of Lima School	Kolbe Ortega	K
St. Theresa School	Natalia Crumb	7
St. Theresa School	Sophie Castro	5
St. Theresa School	Richard Tuozzoli	7
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School	Kori Garber	5
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School	Aaliyah Gonzalez	8
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School	Moriah Powell	3
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School	Victoria Powell	K

ON THE COVER

ST. AUGUSTINE MEDALS—
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Sheelah Brown of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull were among the 165 recipients of St. Augustine Medals at the recent prayer service and awards ceremony held at St. Augustine Cathedral.
(Photos by Amy Mortensen)

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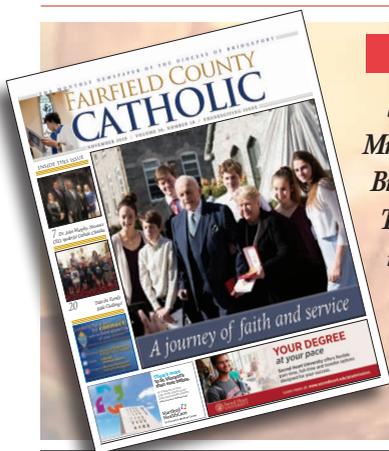
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All Souls Day Masses

‘We are people of Hope’

By JOHN GROSSO, JOE PISANI, KATHY-ANN GOBIN

St. Mary Putnam Cemetery, Greenwich

“We come here not simply to pray for our sisters and brothers who stay here for a time, a resting place until their resurrection in glory, but we come here to pray for one another as our pilgrimage continues,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in his All Souls Day Mass homily at St. Mary Putnam Cemetery in Greenwich.

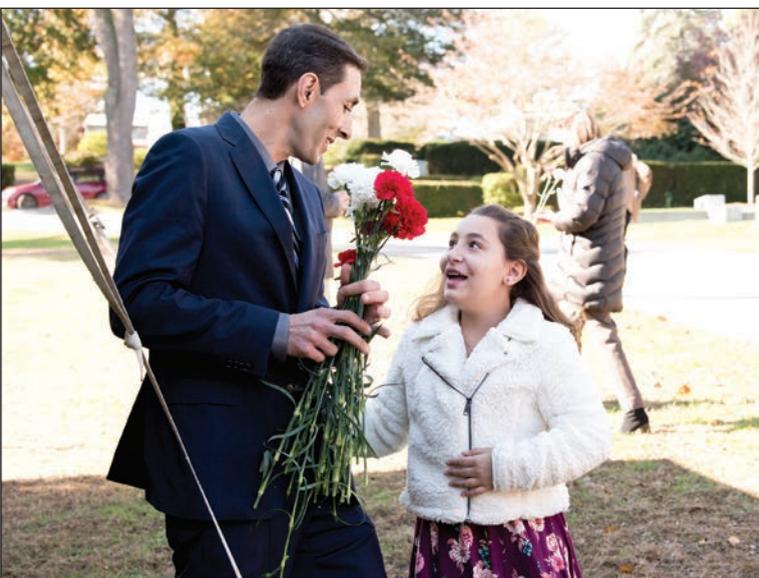
More than 1,000 turned out to remember their loved ones in prayer at the six All Souls Day Masses celebrated in diocesan cemeteries around Fairfield County including Danbury, Stratford, Norwalk, Greenwich and Trumbull.

All the Masses were held under a large heated outdoor

dead will rise from these graves?”

“The scripture tells us that we are a people of hope. We gather here in hope. And what is hope? It is the virtue that allows us to believe that heaven is our final destination. And it is for you, and for me and for all who believe

of St. James Church told the several hundred people who had gathered at St. Michael Cemetery for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, “The Church is asking us to pray in a very special way for all the deceased, for all those whom we



tent and despite the cold and the wind, drew both young and old.

More than 225 people gathered in Greenwich on a beautiful late autumn morning for the All Souls Mass celebrated by the bishop and Father Ian Jeremiah, pastor of St. Michael Parish.

In his homily, which was streamed live on the diocesan Facebook page, Bishop Caggiano noted that: “We do not celebrate Mass everyday here, but on this most special day we come to remember that this ground is holy ground.”

“All of this ground is consecrated, so that all who lie here, lie here only for a time. For do we not believe as Catholic Christians that the day will come when Christ returns in his glory and the

in the only savior the world will ever know,” said the bishop.

Mass attendees were gifted with long stem red and white carnations, which many placed on a nearby grave to remember a loved one.

The bishop concluded the Mass by thanking all who worked to make the morning such a success and acknowledged the new Cemeteries team recently put into place.

The Mass was followed by a small reception celebrating St. Mary Putnam Cemetery’s 100th anniversary.

St. Michael Cemetery, Stratford

STRATFORD—Newly ordained Father Peter Adamski

knew but also for all those who have died.”

It was a very special occasion for Father Adamski, who was ordained last June at 65 years old. During Mass, among those he prayed for was his late wife, Kathy, to whom he was married more than 40 years.

“This was a very special Mass for me today to be here for the first time on All Souls Day as a priest, remembering not only the soul of my beloved wife, Kathy, but to be here in this sacred space among all these faithful departed, was so moving for me, so moving,” he said. “I thought about it for the past few days—what it would be like to be the celebrant at Mass on All Souls Day. It touched me profoundly. I am so thankful to God that he has graced me with my priesthood. I thank him so many times a day for my priesthood. I know that I was created to be this priest, to minister to this flock, and despite the cold that I felt in my hands today, when I held Jesus in my hands, they were warm. They radiated the love of God.”

“Praying for our loved ones expresses our ongoing communion with them. We commit all who have gone ahead of us to God, who also accompanies us on our journey of life. Our communion in the Church keeps us in fellowship with all who have died.”



St. Peter Cemetery, Danbury

DANBURY—Father Peter Towsley, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, presided over the All Souls Day Mass at St. Peter Cemetery in Danbury.

During his homily, Father Towsley shared several stories with the faithful gathered under a white tent amid the hundreds of weathered gravestones honoring lives of the past in the decades-old cemetery.

He relayed the story of how St. Monica implored her son Augustine, who had finally come to conversion as a Christian and was conflicted about where to bury his

“You and I are faithfully doing that today,” he said as he invited the congregation to say out loud or silently, the names of those they came to remember in prayer.

A touching personal story shared by Father Towsley included one from his departed mother who he said prayed for her mother (his grandmother) for years after her passing and one day heard the message, “I’m ok. I’m resting in peace because of you.”

“We come here with love in our hearts to remember those in faith,” he said, concluding with words of a prayer for the departed from Passionist Father Antonio



mother at the end of her life, to not worry about where she was buried but to “remember me at the altar of the Lord,” as many gathered had come to remember loved ones.

Rungi, prayed by Pope Francis during the Angelus address of Nov. 2, 2014, “...may none be afraid to meet you after their earthly pilgrimage.”

We Stand With Christ

An extraordinary demonstration of generosity

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano announced that more than \$30 million has already been collected in the We Stand With Christ diocesan capital campaign which recently passed \$100 million in pledges.

“We already have 30 percent of the pledge money and the campaign is on schedule,” he said. “This means we can fulfill the vision of We Stand With Christ, which is to create parishes for future generations and establish foundations for education, charitable works and pastoral ministries. In addition, many parishes have completed their capital projects and others are scheduled to start.”

Donors are encouraged to begin activating their pledges and making payments to the We Stand With Christ capital campaign, so they will be able to get credit for the 2019 tax year. According to the campaign office, payments may be accelerated and



“WE STAND WITH CHRIST” THANK YOU—Brian Young of New Canaan, co-chair of the executive committee of the “We Stand With Christ” Capital Campaign, has joined Bishop Caggiano, pastors and others who appear in the new “Thank You” video that premiered at receptions for capital campaign donors in the past month.

as soon as the pledges are paid, the parishes and foundations will be able to put the money to work.

Now that the redemption phase has begun, the campaign office has set up systems to make payments. Organizers stress that there will be a cost savings if

donors fulfill their pledges electronically, which will help the campaign save on printing, postage and processing fees. Donors will be able to select the frequency and mode of their reminders to make payments. The redemption phase of the campaign will con-

tinue over the next five years.

The campaign, which began in January 2018, has reached 135 percent of its original goal of \$75 million and has been the most successful in the 65-year history of the Diocese of Bridgeport. It represents the efforts of 72 parishes; nine others will start fundraising in 2020.

“This is an extraordinary demonstration of generosity and leadership and support of the mission of the Church during a difficult period,” Bishop Caggiano said. “To date, \$101.5 million has been pledged, which is a true indication of the overwhelming generosity of the faithful in the diocese.”

Bishop Caggiano thanked the 14,500 people who have made pledges, the pastors and hundreds of volunteers whose efforts have made the campaign so successful.

The campaign has received 10 gifts of \$1 million or more, 100 gifts of \$100,000 plus and 700

gifts of \$25,000 plus. The average gift at this point of the campaign is \$7,000.

A number of parishes have completed work on projects that were made possible by the capital campaign. Bishop Caggiano said there are many stories of the wonderful impact the campaign has had.

Of the ten parishes that performed the best in achieving their goal, five were in Bridgeport. On average, the 12 Bridgeport parishes reached 110 percent of their goals—better than any city in the diocese.

The campaign has designated 50 percent of the funds raised for long-term needs of parishes, and the remaining 50 percent will be invested in diocesan ministries—Foundations in Education, Foundations in Faith and Foundations in Charity, three lay-run non-profits committed to

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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2019 Red Mass

Climate change is spiritual issue for Catholic youth

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

FAIRFIELD—Climate change is a moral and spiritual issue that has galvanized Catholic youth on college campuses and has the ability to bring young people who identify as “nones” back to the Church, said Jose Aguto, associate director of the Catholic Climate Change Covenant in Washington, D.C., at the recent Red Mass Breakfast held at Fairfield University.

“The issue is a source of great vitality and spirituality. Catholic youth want to work for climate change in a faith-filled way,” he told the men and women who had gathered for breakfast in the “Dogwood” Room of the student center.

Members of the Jesuit community of Fairfield University joined Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in celebrating the Red Mass honoring members of the legal profession in the Egan Chapel.

“We’re in a crisis of epic proportions,” Aguto said to 100 lawyers and others who gathered for the Annual Red Mass. “The Church must bring the same strength to the environmental issue that we have brought to pro-life and immigration,” he said. “Our moral power can turn the nation’s consciousness toward climate action.”

Aguto, who has worked on climate and energy issues with Native American communities and Catholic environmentalists, said that *Laudato Si*, the 2015 encyclical by Pope Francis,

received a “tepid reception” by many Catholics and is a seldom discussed topic by Church leaders.

Aguto, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Mary in Alexandria, Virginia, said that Pope Francis views climate change as a moral issue because it is already having an impact on the poorest and most vulnerable people around the globe.

He said the two previous popes, St. John Paul II and His Holiness Pope Benedict, have

Americans believe climate change is occurring and 53 percent understand it to be a man-made problem as a result of burning of fossil fuels. Yet the climate debate in the U.S. has people locked into opposing sides, and there is a need for Catholics to have open discussion. “Pope Francis has a desire for us to be in dialogue in faith. We as Catholics should be able to talk about it. We must be humble and patient.”

Aguto said when Pope Francis



A FAMILY CELEBRATION—John Altieri of Fairfield, recipient of the 2019 St. Thomas More Award, is surrounded by family members at the Red Mass breakfast.

spoken out about our responsibility for environmental stewardship. “It was John Paul II who coined the term ‘ecological conversation,’” Aguto said. “And his holiness Pope Benedict has consistently taught our obligation to care for creation.”

He cited recent research that found that 67 percent of all

met with oil and gas executives, he asked a question, “What kind of world do you want to leave to your children and grandchildren?” “The challenge is moving the national and collective conscience toward climate action and the Church can be a leader,” Aguto said.

During the breakfast Attorney



RED MASS SPEAKER—Jose Aguto of the Catholic Climate Covenant meets with Bishop Caggiano and Anne McCrory, chief legal and real estate officer of the diocese, at the breakfast where he discussed the commitment of young people to the issue.

John L. Altieri, Jr. of Fairfield was presented the 2019 St. Thomas More Award by Chief Legal Officer Anne McCrory for his distinguished legal career in which he used his litigation talents to protect human rights, freedom of speech and the environment, often on a pro-bono basis.

In particular Altieri was recognized for his work as former chairman of the board of Malta House in Norwalk, a residence for homeless, pregnant and parenting single mothers. Along with his late wife, Maudie, Mr. Altieri helped to guide and develop the Malta House program and to lead the effort to move Malta House to its new location in the former convent of All Saints School in Norwalk. He is a member of St. Pius X in Fairfield.

“He is being honored for what he has done to give back. He is an example of what giving back is all about. His service has been a gift to the Church and it is a gift to know him,” said Anne McCrory, chief legal officer of the Diocese of Bridgeport who

presented the award along with Malta House founder Michael O’Rourke.

In accepting the award Mr. Altieri said, “I have so much to be thankful for. Maudie and I never thought of what we were able to do it as a sacrifice. For us, there we so many blessings, so much joy.”

In his Red Mass homily the bishop said, “The challenge for both civil and Church law is to be fair and just, and be ‘blind to privilege.’”

“So much divides us into camps, status levels and the hierarchy between haves and have-nots.” All we do must harken back to equality. We are all equal in the eye of God and we are all have-nots without him.”

The bishop thanked all the legal professionals in attendance and reminded them of their sacred duty to work for justice.

“You come here as legal professionals and also as people of faith. Your vocation is important and also sacred because God is the supreme lawgiver,” the bishop said. “We pray for you.” ■

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DONORS FROM PAGE 4

Catholic education, faith formation and Catholic Charities of Fairfield County.

The We Stand With Christ campaign is led by Bishop 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 three diocesan foundations that will receive funds

from We Stand With Christ are Foundations in Education, Foundations in Faith and Foundations in Charity. Each is overseen by a lay board and a third-party accounting firm that will provide a system of checks and balances.

There are nearly 40 lay trustees on the boards of Foundations in Education, Foundations in Faith, the three non-profit initiatives begun by Bishop 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 campaign, which will provide them with funds to support their missions into the future. At the heart of those foundations are three independent lay boards, dedicated to their missions and committed to overseeing the funds entrusted to them. ■

Catholic Charities

'We are children and grandchildren of immigrants'

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

DANBURY—Dr. John Murphy, CEO of Nuvance Health, delivered a powerful and inspiring talk on the need to care for the poor and immigrant population at the Sixteenth Annual Fall Celebrity Breakfast to benefit Catholic Charities.

Almost 400 guests and friends of Catholic Charities turned out for the breakfast at The Amber Room Colonnade. The event raised more than \$65,000 for the behavioral health and social services provided by Catholic Charities to people of the greater Danbury area.

"The leaders of Catholic Charities know and face the same reality they confronted 150 years ago—private charity alone will not meet the needs of the mil-

report of "The Association for Improving Conditions of the Poor" that referred to the children of Irish Catholic immigrants as "accumulated trash."

"The Children's Aid Society began breaking up Irish families by removing tens of thousands of children from their homes. It was around this time that Catholic child-caring institutions emerged and Catholics learned to leverage their position in charity to win a voice in local, state and national policy making."

He said Catholic Charities not only provides services but its staff are "advocates and justice workers" for the poor, regardless of their faith

Dr. Murphy, a Fordham University graduate, said that the United States spends 20 percent



16TH ANNUAL CELEBRITY BREAKFAST IN DANBURY—(left to right) Nancy Murphy, vice chair of the charities; Dr. John Murphy, CEO of Nuvance Health; Jon Vaccarella, president of the board of Catholic Charities; and event co-chairs Anthony Giobbi and MaryAnn Murtha. The event raised 65,000 for programs in great Danbury area.

work for and support Catholic Charities."

Dr. Murphy completed his talk by saying "Jesus Christ was born poor, lived poor and died poor. The Church cannot be any

different," he said

Anthony Giobbi and MaryAnn Murtha served as co-chairs of the event. Msgr. Robert Weiss, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown,

delivered the invocation and Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton expressed words of gratitude for those who support the work of Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities of Northern Fairfield County's program include the Behavioral Health Clinic located at 405 Main Street in Danbury; The Family Loan Program to cover auto, rental and childcare expenses; the Morning Glory Breakfast Program located at Dorothy Day Hospitality House at 15 Spring Street; the Homeless Outreach Team; Community Support and Recovery Pathways, 24 Grassy Plain Street, Bethel; and New Heights psychosocial recovery programming for adults with mental illness, 64 West Street, Danbury.

(For further information contact Catholic Charities of Northern Fairfield County at 203.743.4412 or online at www.ccfairfield.org.)



lions," he said, adding that only shared public and private responsibility and an acceptance that the poor "belong to all of us" will address the challenge of poverty in America.

In his featured talk, Dr. Murphy, who leads a new health system with seven hospitals (including Danbury and Norwalk hospitals in Fairfield County) serving 1.5 million people in Connecticut and New York, said social services provided by Catholic Charities and other organizations play a critical role in overall health and social wellness.

He added that Catholic Charities is part of a long tradition of standing up for the poor and the immigrants that began to arrive in this country in the 19th century.

"Most of us are the children or grandchildren of immigrants and Danbury has long been home to wave after wave of immigrant families. It is the most diverse city in Connecticut and the eleventh most diverse city in the nation with 31 percent of its residents being foreign born," he said.

He cited a 19th century annual

of its GDP on healthcare but only 10 percent on social services, less than half of other western nations. The gap between the two has led to repeat emergency room and hospital visits, which are costly and a poor use of resources.

"Housing, assistance, counseling, case management, homeless outreach and immigration services are precisely the kinds of service that we know are crucial to improving the health of a community," Dr. Murphy said

"Dr. Murphy captured the essence of what makes Catholic Charities so relevant, noting the critical role that it plays in filling the gap for so many people who are underserved, whether that gap is caused by hunger, addiction, immigration status or mental illness," said Anne McCrory, chief legal officer and a member of the Catholic Charities board.

"His unique view as the leader of a large hospital system connected the work of Catholic Charities in improving outcomes for many of those with significant health challenges. His words were an inspiration for those who



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Redemptoris Mater

Seminary honors Nuncio

By JOE PISANI

STRATFORD—The President of Catholic University told more than 400 people at the Redemptoris Mater Seminary gala that in the fight over religious liberty, the goal of Catholics should not simply be to win court battles but to evangelize their opponents.

“We cannot practice or proclaim the faith in a crouched position,” John H. Garvey said. “In our battles about religious liberty, we should aim not simply to defeat our antagonists in the courts or to carve out government concessions that leave us alone. Our goal is to make them disciples.”

Garvey, an ardent defender of Catholic principles in higher education and in public life, said he was not suggesting that fights in the political sphere should be abandoned.

“But when the society we live in increasingly finds our religion abhorrent, we are less likely to win in court, and we are farther than ever from converting our antagonists, so our aim should not be our freedom, but their conversion,” he said.

Garvey and Archbishop Bernardito Auza, who served as Permanent Observer to the

United Nations, were honored by the Stamford seminary.

Father Marco Pacciana, the rector, praised them as men of strong faith known for upholding Catholic values in a secular world.

“Archbishop Auza upholds the values of the Catholic faith, and his work at the United Nations is very important when you consider everything that is going on in the world,” Father Pacciana said. “And President Garvey is a man who gives witness to the Catholic truth in the world of higher education.”

During the event, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano announced that an anonymous donor had given \$100,000 for the seminary. He praised the seminarians and Father Pacciana for his “great leadership.”

“These seminarians are growing in faith, and they are growing into young men of diligence and zeal because they are following your example and good guidance, so continue to do your great work,” he said.

Archbishop Auza, who on October 1 was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra, said that in this new role he will be 17 minutes away from where the Neocatechumenal Way began in

1964 on the outskirts of Madrid among the poor.

A native of the Philippines, he was ordained in 1985 and has been a member of the Holy See’s diplomatic corps since 1990, serving as nuncio to Haiti, in the nunciatures in Madagascar, Bulgaria, and Albania, and in the diplomatic section of the Secretariat of State in the Vatican.

“The [Neocatechumenal] Way is not a stranger to me,” Archbishop Auza said. “I have known it for many years and have been a guest at so many of your seminaries.”

Redemptoris Mater (Mother of the Redeemer) seminaries are under the auspices of the Neocatechumenal Way, a 55-year-old charism in the Church dedicated to Christian formation and the New Evangelization.

Archbishop Auza also pointed out that in the 441-mile corridor from Washington D.C. to Boston, there are six Redemptoris Mater seminaries and said that the United States and Spain have the most with nine each.

He stressed the importance of the missionary role of the seminaries and the Neocatechumenal Way and said, “This mission has become more urgent in our



SEMINARY GALA—Archbishop Bernardito Auza, who served as permanent observer to the United Nations and John Garvey, president of Catholic University, flank Bishop Caggiano at the Gala for the seminary. More than 400 people attended the event held at Vazzy’s in Stratford.

times, and that is why it is very important that we wake up to this call and respond as effectively as we can. It doesn’t mean a new message. It means a new method, expressing our faith with a renewed enthusiasm and joy for the Gospel.”

He added, “In you, we see the missionary zeal that characterized the Apostolic Church. In our time, many would say that the Church has lost its ardor and zeal for proclamation, that its life has been diminished....May your ardor and freshness spread like wildfire and burn us all in Spirit and embolden us just as it did the Apostles at Pentecost.”

Redemptoris Mater international seminaries were inspired by St. Pope John Paul II’s call for a “New Evangelization.” The first seminary opened in 1987 in the Diocese of Rome, and today there are 127 on five continents and in cities such as Denver, Manila, Philippines, Brasilia, Brazil, and Medellin, Colombia. The first one to open in the United States was in Newark in 1990.

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.

Four years ago, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano opened the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Stamford to prepare priests for missionary work anywhere in the world—from China to the streets of Bridgeport.

Father Marco said 11 seminarians from seven countries are being formed for the Bridgeport Diocese and that four new men will be coming for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

In his comments, President Garvey cited a speech by U.S. Attorney General William Barr at the University of Notre Dame

earlier this month, which was widely criticized in the secular media. Barr said that “moral values must rest on an authority independent of men’s will. They must flow from a transcendent Supreme Being.” He criticized society’s turn toward what he called “macro-morality.”

“The new secular religion teaches a macro-morality gauged not so much by private conduct but rather whether you are committed to political causes and corrective actions,” Garvey said.

“The reaction to growing illegitimacy is not sexual responsibility but abortion,” he said. “The reaction to drug addiction is not temperance but safe injection sites. The solution to the breakdown of the family is that the state set itself up as an ersatz husband for the single mother and an ersatz father for children.”

Among the critics of Barr, one columnist called the speech a tacit endorsement of theocracy and another said it was the language of witch hunts and pogroms and “sounded remarkably like America’s most unhinged religious zealots.”

“That I think is an overreaction,” Garvey said. “The attorney general was merely suggesting that we practice chastity, temperance and fidelity, and I think that would be a good idea. It is not an endorsement of theocracy.”

Garvey, who became the 15th president of the Catholic University of America in 2010, is a nationally acclaimed expert in constitutional law, religious liberty, and the First Amendment. He has authored and co-authored numerous books, including *What Are Freedoms For?*; *Religion and the Constitution*; and *Sexuality and the U.S. Catholic Church*.

As president, he has emphasized that a Catholic approach to scholarship enriches every school and discipline. He is a prominent voice in the media on issues such as higher education, culture, law, Catholicism and religious liberty. ■

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Gene and Susan Goodman

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Catholic Relief Services

CRS brings hope to Afghanistan

GREENWICH—Sarita Hanley, a board member of the Catholic Relief Services foundation, saw the devastation in Haiti after an earthquake claimed 300,000 lives, and she has traveled to Iraq, Ethiopia, Egypt and Lebanon to witness global humanitarian efforts firsthand.

On Wednesday, she brought a message of hope to Fairfield County about what the Church is doing to help the poorest and

million children were receiving a primary education, from grades one to six. Today, in cooperation with government initiatives, 8 million are being educated. At first, the challenge was to get villagers to understand the importance of education for girls. Today, the challenge is meeting the demand.

“The main barrier to education is remoteness,” he said. “In many of the communities where

16-year-old girls who had gone through the program and were applying to the university to study medicine and education.

“They said that without the CRS program, they never would have gotten a primary education

and would be still living at home, married, unable to read or write, and never have had an opportunity in life,” he said.

Although Catholic Relief Services, which is based in Baltimore, is a Christian orga-

nization working in a Muslim country, there is community acceptance, O’Loughlin said, adding that assistance is provided to the needy, regardless of race, creed or nationality. Of his staff of 380, all but 10 are Afghans. ■



A MESSAGE OF HOPE—Lennie de Csepel, a parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena, who has been supporter of CRS for 40 years; Conor O’Loughlin, CRS representative in Afghanistan; and Sarita Hanley of Stamford, a board member of the CRS Foundation at a recent presentation at the Riverside Yacht Club.

most vulnerable people of the world, including children in war-torn Afghanistan.

“Thousands upon thousands of people I have seen have benefitted from CRS, which is involved in helping and aiding the poorest of the poor in 114 countries,” she said. “Their lives have changed, and I want to tell the world.”

Hanley of Stamford and Lennie de Csepel, a parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena who has been a supporter of CRS for 40 years, hosted a presentation at Riverside Yacht Club, featuring Conor O’Loughlin, the organization’s representative in Afghanistan, where a community-based education program has helped more than 36,000 children since 2003. Some 6,000 are educated daily, more than half of them girls.

“For ordinary citizens in Afghanistan, there is hope,” O’Loughlin said. “Sometimes the perception is that of hopelessness, but there is another side to the story. What CRS is doing is preparing future generations for the future.”

When CRS arrived in the country, only 1 million out of 12

we work in marginalized areas, parents won’t send their children, particularly their girls, 10 or 15 kilometers away to government schools because it’s not safe.”

CRS is working with the Ministry of Education to integrate its classes into the formal system. These efforts are concentrated in five provinces in the central highlands of the mountainous country, some 10,000 feet above sea level in villages of about 400 people, where there are no public services and little or no electricity, he said.

O’Loughlin told the story of a 10-year-old girl named Marzal, who was the first girl to receive an education in her community. She was also the first person in the village to read and write.

CRS supports 300 classrooms, which are set up in donated spaces. All the school supplies, heating and teacher salaries are paid for by CRS, which is backed by private donations and aid from the United States and Great Britain. The cost to fund a classroom of 20 students for one year is under \$10,000 or an average of \$500 per student.

O’Loughlin recently met three

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EDITORIAL

Youth in Action

Bishop Caggiano is eager to hear young peoples' ideas on how best to re-energize the teen Catholic faith experience. "We need to listen to their voices and give them space and resources to design programs and projects that will resonate with them," said the bishop, who is challenging teens in our diocese to propose a project that involves collaboration, evangelization and mission work.

On September 25 the bishop announced the creation of "Youth in Action," an innovative grant opportunity sponsored by Foundations in Faith, one of the three new foundations created by the We Stand With Christ capital campaign. Two \$5,000 grants will be awarded; one to a Catholic High School and one to a high school-aged parish youth group in the diocese. The funded projects will begin in January 2020 and continue through the calendar year. For more info visit www.foundationsinfaith.org/youth-in-action-grant.

Gospel of Life

Bishop Caggiano was invited to speak at the Cornerstone Catholic Conference Greater Tacoma Convention Center on October 18-19. "United for Life & Justice" was the theme of the conference, where he had the opportunity to speak to more than 800 people on the critical topic of the "Gospel of Life." In his talk, "Keeping the Faith by Daring to be Different," he challenged young people to seek the truth. The following reflection originally appeared on Bishop Frank Caggiano's Facebook page. Follow the bishop for daily reflections and weekly videos.

"I was deeply impressed by the spirit and enthusiasm of those who participated, especially the young adults who attended. I have often warned against the phenomenon of 'false choices' in life. A false choice is the decision to pick one aspect of the truth, while leaving other aspects, equally important, to the side. Such a tendency is powered perhaps by a deeply felt passion for a particular cause or pastoral work.

When I spoke to the gathering, I challenged my listeners to avoid making false choices when dealing with the Gospel of Life. While it is a central part of that Gospel to protect life at its conception and at its natural death, it is also important that we value life at all its stages, especially when challenged by poverty, sickness, discrimination, racism, lack of drinkable water, unemployment, disability, social isolation, mental illness, lack of education, homelessness—just to name a few critical issues of our modern world.

It is a daunting task to embrace the fullness of the Gospel of Life and strive to be faithful to it. However, in our broken world and during this challenging moment in the life of the Church, it is the task that God has asked us to fulfill. Let us pray for heroic courage so that we can learn how the Gospel of Life will transform our church and the entire world."

In Thanksgiving

Recently the bishop was joined by hundreds of faithful to offer a very special "Thank you" to this year's St. Augustine Medal recipients. As reported in this issue, 165 men and women came forward, many of them couples, to receive awards from the bishop for a lifetime of service to their parishes. "You sacrificed and did not look for something in return. You learned that only the Sacred Heart of Jesus can bring us joy and peace," the bishop said at the prayer service. Congratulations to all recipients. Your service challenges and inspires us!

As we prepare for Thanksgiving with our family and friends, we should also be grateful for the many people throughout the diocese who are taking steps now to ensure that no one is left out or left alone on Thanksgiving Day. Volunteers and staff at Catholic Charities houses of hospitality in Bridgeport, Stamford and Danbury are preparing to serve their traditional Thanksgiving meal to the poor, elderly and homeless, while many of our parishes, schools and ministries are collecting canned goods and stocking their own food pantries to help feed families. Many thanks to them and others who will work on Thanksgiving to make sure no one is hungry or forgotten.

In this season set aside for personal and national gratitude, we have much to be thankful for in the life of the diocese and in our own lives. We wish all readers and their families a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. ■

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Tickets on sale now for Arise and Shine Christmas concert



BRIDGEPORT—C4Y's annual Christmas concert has become one of the most anticipated and joyous events of the year. The concert features the 100-member diocesan youth choir under the direction of Mary Bozzuti Higgins, who will perform a plethora of seasonal Christmas songs, ranging from classics to new and challenging arrangements. This concert is a great way to ring in the Christmas season, and brings together the whole diocesan family in celebration!

(Tickets are \$22 for general admission and are available for purchase at www.quickcenter.fairfield.edu.)



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

PAROCHIAL VICAR

FATHER MICHAEL J. V. CLARK, newly ordained to the Diocese of Bridgeport, to Part-time Parochial Vicar of Saint Thomas More Parish, Darien and Part-time Episcopal Chaplain to Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford. Effective date was October 12.

FATHER BRUCE F. ROBY, from Chaplain to the Newman Center of Western Connecticut State University, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish/Saint Benedict-Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Stamford.

Effective date was November 1.

CHAPLAIN

FATHER AUGUSTINE NGUYEN, from Parochial Vicar, Church of the Assumption Parish, Westport, to Chaplain to the Newman Center of Western Connecticut State University. Effective date was November 1. Father Nguyen will reside at Saint Joseph Parish in Danbury and remain Episcopal Vicar for Vietnamese Catholics.

DEACON

DEACON ROBERT McLAUGHLIN,

from Our Lady of Grace Parish, Stratford, to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield. Effective date was October 1.

DIACONAL COUNCIL

DEACON DONALD ROSS, has been appointed to serve on the Diaconal Council to represent the deacons of the Queen of Martyrs Deanery. Effective date was October 11.

*Monsignor Thomas W. Powers
Vicar General
November, 2019*

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Editorial



A Season of Change

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've always had a natural inclination toward fall. It is a season of change. A change that we can see in the leaves and feel in the air.

It is almost as if through the changing of the seasons God permits change. Welcomes it, even.

But how often both our bodies and our hearts resist change. We get sick at the transition of the seasons and we hold onto things that might not be for us until we

are almost forced to let go.

The recently canonized St. John Henry Newman once said, "To live is to change and to become perfect is to change often."

Maybe that is why it often seems so hard, but is ultimately so necessary (as the most important things often are.) Because being perfect isn't something we can attain this side of heaven, so change needs to be constant, growth continual.

In the past year, I have witnessed my own changing. In my personal life as well as my spiritual life. Some changes were hard and I resisted them, but some seemed to be the natural progression of things. And it was through these changes that I realized how much God calls us more and more to be our authentic selves, as we continue to grow and change throughout our lives.

I feel like, as humans, we have an innate desire to be accepted for who we truly are. The more I talk with people, the more I realize we all want to be welcomed. We seek this sense of belonging in our families, schools, parishes and communities.

But it is often amongst these same groups that we struggle to feel accepted. Or rather, we feel we are welcome the way they remember us to be, but not as we have become. Because it is in

human nature to resist change.

But I hear him say, "my child, it is okay that you've changed. Look at the leaves on the trees. They go from green to gold. Look at the tides, they roll in and out."

We are not the same as we once were, but God does not expect us to remain the same.

Things take time. Change takes time. Healing takes time. As with the gradual transition between each season. We should give ourselves the same respect as we do nature, saying, "for everything there is a season." We should look at change with the same anticipation as we do the excitement of the start of a new season, full of

hope for the fullness of days to come.

But in the same way, we need to give ourselves the time to heal from past hurts, to grow into new roles, to accept change. To wait when waiting is needed, to wel-

come action when it is not anticipated.

Maybe time is ultimately what we need when it comes to change and growth.

Because nothing happens overnight but rather slowly, patiently, with the care of a creator.

If the seasons can change, maybe we can too. Maybe it can become almost as natural as the transition from summer to fall, fall to winter, winter to spring. ■

"We should look at change with the same anticipation as we do the excitement of the start of a new season."



Nobody told me there'd be socks under the radiator

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

Once upon a time, young people went to work at the age of five. Little hands milked cows and bigger hands chopped wood. Sometimes they put the money they earned in a coffee can on the kitchen counter. It wasn't a perfect system, but it had its merits.

Then childhood was invented and the kids learned the phrase that pays—"I'm bored."

Let there be no confusion: I grew up soft. No sweat shops or severe discipline were involved in the making of this man. No walking five miles barefoot in the snow either. But life before the current age of infotainment phantasmagoria was lo-fi and conducted com-

pletely offline.

We may not have worked our fingers to the bone but we did know how to keep ourselves occupied.

I'd be thrilled if my children could entertain themselves. Wouldn't it be fabulous if all Mrs. Hennessey and I had to do was keep the homefires burning while providing our sweet baboos with three hots and a cot? But that's not what's up, at least not right now.

For the foreseeable future we are running a high-touch daily scheduling service for five underage clients. And they are demanding clients.

The 15-year-old gets up early to catch the train. It's pitch-black when she leaves for school and

ice-black when she returns. All is darkness except her beautiful face, illuminated as it is by the glow of her phone. She exchanges important messages with other teens who rise and shine at 5:53 am. We get a grunt and a smile as she packs her monster bookbag. It's that season of life for her.

The 13-year-old is in many ways the most unusual case because of her special needs. I won't lie: These can be puzzling. Sometimes it's like a school dream where you are sitting down for a test on an unknown subject.

In some ways, though, she is easier to please than the others. Cue up the Food Network's "Kids Baking Championship" on the iPad and she can be happy in her room for hours.

The 11-year-old is a boy, so his main interests are in running, jumping, and falling down—the kinds of things you don't need an iPad to do. But he is homeschooled, the curriculum for which doesn't assemble itself, and his calendar includes a fair number of online classes. Add in banjo, Gaelic football, scouting, a newly chartered

weekly club for Catholic boys, and our Paddy doesn't have much downtime.

Neither do his parents, but that's another story.

The six-year-old doesn't need much other than a steady stream of things to do. Give her an art project or a doll to play with and she's happy. But then give her another one. And another one after that. She's adorable when she's busy, something like the opposite when she's not.

The little guy is three. He is an everlasting gobstopper of play-with-me-now. My wife and I sent him to pre-K just to get him out of the house for three hours. He's an absolute joy. We love him so much we could eat him. But he still sleeps most of the night in our bed and there's only so many knees to the gut a middle-aged man can take.

A family is a living thing. It changes and evolves and develops along entirely unpredictable lines. Actually, when I think about it, we aren't one family, we are many.

The dinner table conversation isn't the same when Clara is at track practice or Patrick is at

Boy Scouts. The vibe is different depending on how many car seats are filled on the trip to Costco. The dynamic of the whole group isn't the same as the dynamic of its individual parts or the combinations they make.

Sometimes we split up for Mass; I take three kids at 9 am and Ursula takes the remaining two on Sunday evening. The job of chaperoning the older kids lends itself to reverent prayer.

I know it's my solemn obligation as a Catholic parent to take the little ones to Mass, but some days, honestly, I'd rather fight hostile ferrets for a stale slice of French bread.

It's all worth it. Every last boo boo and every last dirty sock under the radiator. The tears, the frustrations, the midnight fevers and the petty disputes over who was actually playing Hungry Hungry Hippos and who tried to grab it away.

That stuff is just as much a part of the family life as the laughter and the hugs. You gotta lean into it. You gotta stay awake for all of it.

One thing's for sure: You'll never be bored. ■

Priestly Ordination

Keep your eyes fixed on God

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

DARIEN—“It is a blessed day for all of us as you have come forward to say yes to this great calling that God has given to you,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano to the newly ordained Father Michael James Vian Clark, ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, October 12 at St. Thomas More in Darien.

“It is a testimony to your humility that you have lived this great adventure of your life to get to this point,” said the bishop in his homily. “You have always followed His lead.”

Bishop Caggiano said, “Michael’s fidelity and journey reminds us that every single one of us is a pilgrim on a journey that the Lord leads us on.”

“As we gather here in faith and as you begin to live this next chapter it is going to be your life in ministry that will lead many other pilgrims to Christ and to glory,” the bishop addressed Father Clark. “You, Michael, will be a guide to many on their pilgrimage.”

The bishop reflected that we live in a time of great challenge in the Church but he encouraged

Father Clark to “seek heroic holiness” in his life. “Because it is only the light of holiness that will lead others to know who He really is,” said the bishop.

The bishop complimented Michael on being a man of great faith and great generosity, adding, “For those who have more, more is expected. But the Lord will be there to help you face any challenges that may come your way,” the bishop said. “Continue to be who God has asked you to be and you will bring many to Him.”

“Christ will allow you to be His vehicle so He can break into this world in the most intimate way possible,” said the bishop.

“For you have been chosen to be sacrificed in sacrifice, to lead others to sacrifice, for the one Lord who has sacrificed Himself to set us free,” the bishop addressed Father Clark.

“I have come to know you as a simple, humble man,” said the bishop. “Continue to lead in that way so that others may follow you without fear.”

The bishop quoted the newly canonized St. John Henry Newman, saying, “If we are called to great ends then we are

intended for great hazards.” He encouraged the newly ordained priest, “Do not let the challenges disturb you, you have Christ to be your advocate every moment of your life. Keep your eyes fixed on the great ends God has in store for you.”

The principal concelebrants of the Mass were Father Paul Check, Father John Connoughton, Father Marco Pacciana, Father Peter Lenox, Father Anthony Doe and Msgr. Paul Murphey. Deacon Timothy Bolton and Deacon Gauthier Vincent were also part of the ceremony. Patricia A. Catino and Lisa L. Von Stuelpnagel brought up the gifts and Liz C. Sweeney and Barbara J. Ferrone were readers. The Seminarians of the Diocese of Bridgeport were servers at the Mass and music was provided by the ensemble Tolle Lege and David J. Hughes, director and organist, along with the St. Thomas More parish choir and Galen F. Tate, director and organist.

Father Clark celebrated his first Mass at St. Joseph Church in South Norwalk on Sunday, October 13 at 10 am. Father Peter Lenox concelebrated the



SAYING “YES” TO A GREAT CALLING—Bishop Caggiano congratulates Fr. Michael Clark after his ordination at St. Thomas More Church in Darien, where he has begun his first assignment.

Mass, along with Msgr. David P. Charters and Father Anthony Doe.

At the end of the Mass of Ordination it was announced that

Father Clark’s first assignment will be at St. Thomas More in Darien, which was met with much applause from the congregation.

Aspirants admitted to candidacy

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—On Saturday, October 26 at 9:30 am at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport five aspirants were admitted to candidacy for ordination as deacons by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

The bishop addressed the men, explaining that for those discerning a call to ministry, it is a “sacred conversation.”



The bishop described this conversation: “When you hear the whisperings or the rustling of a Lord that is calling you, when you look and seek what His will might be for you.” Addressing the aspiring deacons, he said, “You my brothers have done that. And how fortunate we are that you said yes.”

“What a blessed day it is that the conversation has come together to this sacred home. That all involved in this great discernment recognize that the Lord is asking you to take the next great step,” the bishop said.

“For just like gold, as we are taught in Sacred Scripture, is put into the heat of the fire so that it can be purified, so too brothers you now need to be purified ever more deeply. This will cost much and much will be given in return,” the bishop addressed the five candidates.

The bishop encouraged the men, “In the months ahead, the Holy Spirit is going to invite you to purify your heart, to purify your mind, to fill it with the truth that is Jesus Christ...and by doing that, it will allow you to proclaim in word, in witness, in truth without you getting in the way, a truth that the world desper-

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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2019 Saint Augustine Medal of Service

Recognizing *the* volunteers, *the* mentors
and the prayerful servants *of our* diocese



(SAINT AUGUSTINE MEDAL PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

Service ‘Surrenders the Heart’ to Jesus

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

BRIDGEPORT—“Discipleship is a journey of the heart,” Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said at the St. Augustine Medal of Service prayer service and awards ceremony.

Hundreds filled the Cathedral on a beautiful Saturday afternoon for the service, during which the bishop conferred medals on 156 men and women throughout the diocese. People came forward individually and as couples to be recognized for their service—often over a lifetime—to parishes, schools and diocesan ministries.

Recipients were accompanied by their pastors as they received their medals, which bear the likeness of St. Augustine on one side and the Seal of the Diocese of Bridgeport on the other.

The conferral of medals became an inter-generational celebration as nearly 100 members of the diocesan youth choir under the direction of Mary Bozutti Higgins, sang hymns of praise during the prayer service.

Speaking directly to the awardees, the bishop said that in an increasingly “divided, cold and hard world when many are tempted to close their hearts to others, the medal represents your choice to serve, to be a conduit of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to others.”

The bishop said that all hearts get broken over a lifetime as a result of suffering, pain or loss, but “surrendering your heart to the Lord Jesus is the path to eternal life.”

“Thank you for your service, courage, generosity and witness,” the bishop said in his homily. “I’m sure like all of us you have been tempted to be hard of heart, but you continued to work in service. You sacrificed and did not look for something in return. You learned that only the Sacred Heart of Jesus can bring us joy and peace.”

After the prayer service that included song and the reading of Psalms, the bishop blessed the medals before presenting them to recipients.

“Confer within these men and women the gifts of Your Spirit that they may continue to service Your Church in strength of will and sincerity of heart. Bring

us all one day into the peace of Your kingdom,” he prayed.

Al Barber, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities, read the names of the medal recipients who came forward to receive the medal and be photographed with the bishop. Patricia Hansen, the director of development operations and Patricia Zaccone, director of school finance, delivered the readings.

After the ceremony, recipients celebrated with family and friends at a reception held in the Kolbe Cathedral High School gymnasium, where they proudly displayed their medals for well-wishers.

The bishop also thanked Elizabeth Auda, executive assistant to the vicar general and the episcopal delegator for administration of the diocese, for her efforts in planning and coordinating the prayer service.

The St. Augustine Medal of Service was instituted in 2005 to recognize the “unsung heroes” who unselfishly give of their time and talents to build up parish communities.

(For further information contact Elizabeth Auda 203.416.1636, email: eauda@diobpt.org.)

2019 Saint Augustine Medal of Service



SAINT MARY PARISH, BETHEL:
MR. ROBERT & MRS. DEBRA NELSON —
Nominated by Reverend Corey V. Piccinino, Pastor



SAINT MARY SCHOOL, BETHEL:
MRS. ELEANOR MCCLELLAN —
Nominated by Mrs. Kate McDonald, Principal



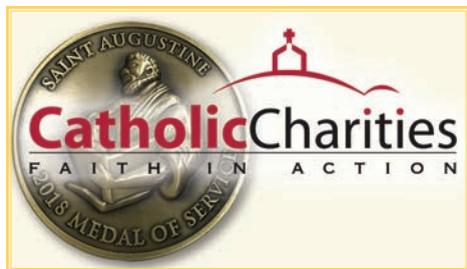
BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, BRIDGEPORT: **MS. ISIDRA GONZALEZ AND MS. DEBORAH SIMMS** — *Nominated by Reverend Joseph J. Karcsinski, Parochial Administrator*



CATHOLIC CHARITIES, BRIDGEPORT:
MR. GEORGE ALBERTO —
Nominated by Mr. Al Barber, President



CATHOLIC CHARITIES, BRIDGEPORT:
MR. TONY GIOBBI —
Nominated by Mr. Al Barber, President



CATHOLIC CHARITIES, BRIDGEPORT:
MR. JOSE RIVERA —
Nominated by Mr. Al Barber, President



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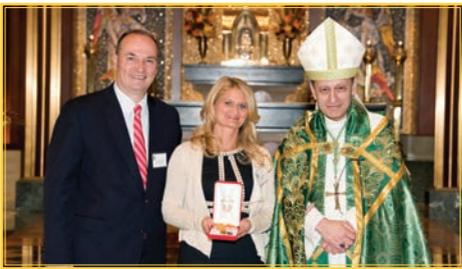


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Bible Challenge

Families Encounter Scripture and Christ

By EMILY CLARK

BRIDGEPORT—What do the letters INRI on the Crucifix stand for? In Hebrew, what does “Amen” mean? Who was the first canonized saint from the U.S.? If you have accepted The Leadership Institute’s Family Bible Challenge, you know all these answers—and more.

Now wrapping up its third session, this Challenge has engaged over 2,100 families throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport and beyond with a goal of connecting the faithful with sacred scripture. Through biblical passages, reflection questions, videos, and online trivia, participants are embracing the

Challenge’s motto of “Encounter Scripture. Encounter Christ.”

Patrick Donovan, director of The Leadership Institute, said interest in this program has “grown exponentially” since the first session began last spring. “There is a strong desire of people to learn about their faith,” he said. “We want people to open their Bibles.”

Following the success of Seasons 1 and 2 which focused on Lent and Pentecost, respectively, Season 3 has aimed to educate participants on Women in Scripture, which has provided an opportunity for parents like Brenner LeCompte and his wife Kristen to be more intentional in passing on the faith to their young

children.

“My older daughter loved the animated video of the Book of Ruth,” said

LeCompte, of St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield. “This has been a great opportunity for us. Our kids see that faith is not just one hour on Sunday.”

With a goal of engaging both families and individuals in the Bible, The Leadership Institute sends an email each Sunday with a passage to read and discuss. Quizzes on the material follow on Wednesday. The success of the online trivia, Donovan said, prompted the addition of Catequizez, a new site with less Bible-oriented and more general questions such as those on the Old Testament, the Mass and the Saints.

“I have heard that some families are doing the quizzes at dinner,” said Donovan. “They tell me that no electronics are allowed at the table except on Wednesdays when they do the quizzes.”

These moments for discussion and reflection, whether at dinner, before bedtime, or while in the car, have allowed more

time for bonding and togetherness for those participating, such as the Medeiros family from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Danbury. Pedro Medeiros said he and his wife Hady enjoy reading scripture with their children.

“When we have a busy day and are caught up with work and chores, this gives us a moment when everything can stop and we can read together as a family,” said Medeiros whose five-year-old likes looking at the pictures that accompany the questions. “It keeps scripture close to us, and that’s the best part.”

In addition to these activities, The Leadership Institute held several trivia nights last spring and has been partnering with Catholic high schools to encourage students to assist with writing future questions. Also benefitting from the Family Bible Challenge are religion classes at diocesan elementary schools, such as those at St. Thomas Aquinas School in

Fairfield. Winnie Shay, a sixth and seventh-grade religion teacher, began printing out the reflections last spring.

“I want to be sure my students know how to use their Bibles,” said Shay, who feels these questions and passages are helping them learn their faith. “It’s definitely been enriching.”

As a gift from the American Bible Society, the diocese received 7,500 Bibles in both English and Spanish which have been distributed to those who registered for the Challenge with extra ones going to school children. Maria Ortiz of St. Peter’s Church in Bridgeport said she likes the option of reading passages in both languages.

“Sometimes I read the Spanish version and sometimes the English one. I get to read them twice!” said Ortiz, one of many who is doing the Challenge alone. “I am learning so much more about my Catholic faith. There is

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



FAMILY BIBLE CHALLENGE—Young people from St. Joseph Parish in Shelton proudly display their bibles, while Fr. Michael Dogali (center) look on. In addition to taking the Family Bible Challenge, many young people also participate in trivia nights designed to encourage questions and interest in the bible. The project is sponsored by The Leadership Institute.



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Foundations in Education

2020 honorees to be recognized at Gala

BRIDGEPORT— Foundations in Education, a non-profit organization created to assist the Diocese of Bridgeport's ongoing mission to support Catholic education in Fairfield County, announced its 2020 Gala Honorees—recognizing generosity in support of Catholic education and excellence in Catholic teaching and leadership.

The 2020 Honorees are Lynn and Frank Mara and Dr. Julia M. McNamara. Foundations in Education will celebrate the honorees at the 5th annual Spring Gala on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at Woodway Country Club in Darien.

"Each year, we have the privilege of recognizing honorees who are true partners in our mission," remarked Foundations in Education Executive Director, Holly Doherty-Lemoine. "This



FOUNDATIONS HONOREES—Bishop Caggiano, pictured with Lynn and Frank Mara of Greenwich at an earlier event. The Marras and Dr. Julie McNamara will be honored at the 5th Annual Spring Gala on Thursday April 23, 2020 at Woodway Country Club in Darien.

Dominic, Providence College and Malta House of Good Counsel. He is a board member of the Giants Foundation and served on the committee for Foundations in Education 2019 Gala.

Lynn is also the product of an all-Catholic education, graduating from Marymount College in 1982. She is an artist who was recently accepted into the Silvermine Art Guild in New Canaan. She attends daily Mass at St. Paul Catholic

Church, where she is also a Eucharistic minister, a member of the parish council and former CCD teacher. Along with her husband's philanthropies, Lynn supports Boys Hope, Girls Hope and is a small group leader of Walking with Purpose, a Bible study group for women.

Lynn and Frank have four sons, Sean, Jack, Frankie and Owen, and one daughter-in-law, Kaitlin Kelly. The sons all attended Greenwich Catholic School and Iona Preparatory School. Lynn said, "Catholic education was the greatest gift our parents gave to us and we believe it's the best gift we could give our children as well."

Dr. Julia McNamara's career in Catholic education began when she served as a teacher in elementary and high schools where the focus was always on the Dominican tradition of seeking truth and communicating the immense value of learning. After

administrative team at Albertus Magnus College, where she served as professor of French Language and Literature and as dean of students. In 1982, the college's trustees selected her to serve as president of Albertus, the position which she held until her retirement in 2016, at which time the trustees voted to confer on her the honorary title of president emerita.

Since her retirement from Albertus, Dr. McNamara has continued her voluntary services as a trustee on the board of Foundations in Education, Inc. where she chairs the committee on innovation and leadership, as a trustee of Anna Maria College in Massachusetts, as a trustee of St. Martin de Porres Academy in New Haven and as chair of the first-ever Capital Campaign for Dominican Academy in New York City, her high school alma

mater where, she says, her love for learning began.

The annual Spring Gala is Foundations in Education's premier fundraising event. Gala proceeds benefit Foundations in Education, including Bishop's Scholarship Fund and Innovation and Leadership Grants. This year alone, Bishop's Scholarship Fund awarded 1,456 students nearly \$2,800,000 in tuition assistance so they may experience transformational education based on Christian values and character formation at Catholic elementary schools throughout the Bridgeport diocese. Foundations will be funding grants to educators in the amount of \$150,000 for innovative and leadership initiatives within diocesan Catholic schools, thus benefiting students further.

(Please visit www.foundationsineducation.org for more information.) ■



DR. JULIA MCNAMARA

year's honorees have impacted thousands of children and their collective contributions may be felt across the Diocese of Bridgeport and region."

Frank and Lynn Mara are longtime supporters of the Diocese of Bridgeport, and have been active parishioners at St. Paul Catholic Church in Greenwich, since they were married in 1987.

After graduating from Fairfield University in 1982, Frank joined the New York Football Giants, Inc. as the assistant to the president and then worked in the college personnel division. Currently, he serves as vice president of community relations for the New York Football Giants. He has served on the board of Iona Preparatory School (where both he and his four sons attended) and is an active supporter of many charitable organizations including the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Sisters of Saint

completing her academic studies at institutions which included Ohio Dominican University, Middlebury College in Vermont and Yale University, she was invited to join the faculty and



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St. John Henry Newman

Celebrating canonization with Great Mass in G Major

By JOE PISANI

STAMFORD—The Basilica of St. John the Evangelist celebrated the recent canonization of Cardinal John Henry Newman with a performance of the Great Mass in G Major by the legendary Irish composer Sir Charles Villiers Stanford.

The majestic music of Stanford's Mass filled the Basilica on the day that Pope Francis elevated Newman to sainthood, along with three religious sisters and a Swiss seamstress during a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica.

Cardinal Newman was a prominent Anglican priest who converted to Roman Catholicism in 1845 and became the most influential religious leader, educator and theologian of his day. He was also the founder of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in England, and Stanford's Mass

was written for the London Oratory. Newman's conversion turned his previous life upside down, and friends and family members, including his sister, never spoke to him again.

"That moment in the life of Newman came only after many hours of prayer. It was not a small decision for someone of Newman's standing, and it cost him dearly," Father Cyprian La Pastina, pastor of St. Mary Church in Greenwich, said in his homily. "He lost many of his friends. His academic degree was taken away from him. And he had to leave Oxford after some 20 years. It was all very painful for him, but he was convinced that the Heart of Christ had drawn his heart to the one true Church."

Father LaPastina was the principal celebrant at the choral Mass, joined by Monsignor Stephen DiGiovanni, pastor of

the Basilica, along with Father Joseph Gill and Father Albert Audette Jr.

Nicholas Botkins, director of music, served as conductor for the U.S. premiere of the Mass in G Major, which employed a full orchestra, the Basilica choir and vocal soloists from the opera program at Yale University.

Father La Pastina said that when Newman was elevated to a cardinal in 1879, he chose the motto "Cor ad cor loquitur," which means "Heart speaks to heart." It was borrowed from the writings of St. Francis de Sales, who was known to inspire conversions "by his gentle personality and his friendship with those he converted."

When Newman became a Catholic priest in 1847, he could have entered a religious order such as the Jesuits or Dominicans; however, he chose parish life at the Oratory in Birmingham.

It was a different path for him. "Not to academic types that he was used to in Oxford, but rather to poor working-class people, whom he served as a simple parish priest," Father LaPastina said. "He became part of their everyday lives and established friendships with them. There are countless letters from Cardinal Newman to his friends, asking about family situations, giving spiritual advice, promising his prayers and showing genuine concern."

In our own age, Newman is one of the most widely read theologians. Father LaPastina said, "His works are studied by scholars, his homilies and meditations help feed our spiritual hunger, and the example of his life inspires so many of us to follow in his footsteps, inviting us to enter into the mystery of God by allowing Christ to penetrate our hearts, which are sometimes cold and sometimes self-centered, and allowing him to find a place there. *Cor ad cor loquitur*—Heart speaks to heart. It is the message of St. Francis de Sales, of St. Philip Neri, of St. John Henry Newman, but more importantly, it is the message of Christ and of his Church."

Botkins said the Great Mass was written when Stanford was at the



CELEBRATING ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN—Hundreds filled the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford to celebrate the recent canonization of St. John Henry Newman with a performance of the Great Mass in G Major.

height of his musical powers and calls for a wealth of musical forces.

"Stanford is one of the giants of British music and I can't think of a better way for our Catholic community to honor the canonization of a giant figure in our Church, John Henry Cardinal Newman," he said.

Stanford, who died in 1924, was a major composer, music teacher and conductor and the founding director of the Royal College of Music in London. During his career, he composed seven symphonies, nine operas, five Irish rhapsodies, chamber music and choral works for church performance.

The Great Mass in G Major, Opus 46, was written in 1892 at the request of Thomas Wingham, who was choirmaster of the London Oratory. It was performed only twice in Stanford's lifetime (Wingham died before he could hear it) and again in 2014 by the Choir of Exeter College at Oxford.

Only in the past few months have the orchestral parts of the Mass been made available to the public, and Botkins was able to obtain them.

"It is a great Mass, obviously under done in the form that you would normally hear it," he said. "It is a very beautiful Mass so

I wanted to give it the proper respect. The orchestra parts have been available to us, so we could do it as the composer intended."

The orchestra parts had been locked away at the London Oratory, and Botkins had been trying to get them for about five years.

"It was all very providential," he added. "Monsignor DiGiovanni has ties with the London Oratory and knows the prefect for music there and I spent some time there and suddenly there was an announcement that Newman would be canonized. I had always wanted to do this Mass...and one thing led to another."

After the Mass, Botkins expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to bring the work to the United States and for Monsignor DiGiovanni's support.

"Premieres are always significant in the professional life of a musician," he said. "The orchestral premiere of Opus 46 was momentous more so by the supernatural nature of the occasion—the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the canonization of John Henry Newman. I am humbled by the extraordinary leadership of Monsignor DiGiovanni, and I am thankful for his trust in our musicians for such an important event." ■

Thank you Ms. Jeanne Bisson

Director of Religious Formation
and entire team for sharing
your faith with our children!

St. Emery Parish, Fairfield



Thank you and God Bless!

The Parish Family of St. Matthew
and
Rev. Msgr. Walter C. Orlowski, Dean and Pastor

Sincerely Thank

Janet Mitchell
Coordinator of Religious Education

Liz Reid
Confirmation Coordinator

and all our Catechists

for your dedication to our Faith Formation Program
and for sharing your faith with our children!



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BIBLE CHALLENGE FROM PAGE 20

always something more to learn."

As Advent approaches, The Leadership Institute is prepared to launch its next session on November 24 and has plans for a fifth one in the spring. "The response to the Challenge is better than we were hoping for," said Donovan. "We have to keep in mind that we say parents are the first teachers, but we don't always give parents the tools they need to articulate their faith."

With these tools now available, families have the opportu-

nity to be even more purposeful with scripture at home. "We're all more comfortable with the Bible and our faith," said LeCompte. "It's become woven into our daily lives."

And for those of you still wondering: INRI stands for Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews), "Amen" means "It is true, so it is," and Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first canonized U.S. saint.

What is the fourth sorrowful mystery? ■

Leadership Institute

New offerings and upcoming events

By DR. PATRICK DONOVAN

A quick visit to The Leadership Institute website is all you need to introduce yourself to some of the latest initiatives the Institute has to offer. A recent

A new entry for **Family Movie Night** is posted each Wednesday. Saint John Paul II called the family “the church in miniature.” To help families spend time together and share common experiences, the

at home and school, these micro-learning sessions are meant to help you encounter the holy in the midst of your busy lives. The videos range from two to five minutes and feature Catholic artists, speakers, musicians, and catechists from around the country. Each video offers practical advice and inspiring stories. A new video is added each week.

New Projects

Alpha-bits is a project funded, in part, by the Saint John Paul II Fund for religious education and youth ministry. The purpose of the project is to help parents understand their roles as “the first teachers in the ways of faith.”

By 2025, which is the year when the youngest members of generation alpha will be born, Gen Alpha will account for 2 billion of the global population. These are the children of millennials and late Gen Xers who are very different than any generations before them. The millennials, once called the “nones” by the Pew Center for Research, often lack the language necessary to share their faith with their children. To help mom and dad grow in their faith, this section of the website allows users to see suggestions, separated by age from birth to 9 years. Alpha-bits strives to answer questions such as, “When should I be teaching my children the appropriate prayers?” “What role do godparents and grandparents play in the faith development of children?” “How can mom and dad work together to make sure the young person grows in appreciation for their Catholic faith?”

We will continue to update Alpha-bits with suggestions, tips and links to resources to help moms and dads both grow in their faith and raise faith-filled children.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, two great resources are launching in the first quarter of 2020. The first is an interactive website, **Understanding the Mass**. This resource will include an overview of every step of our Eucharistic celebration so parents and young people can grow in their understanding of why we do what we do when we celebrate the Mass.

In addition to the website, each family and parish will be invited to order a banner, measuring 2' x 10', that takes all the elements of the website and puts them in a visual form that can be used in a classroom or at home. Using your smart phone and the QR codes on the banner, participants will be able to link to educational videos, quizzes, and more resources to extend the learning.

Also coming in 2020 are specific **resources for parents**. As the catechist formation continues, I am hearing more and more about the need to help parents learn more about their faith so that they can, in turn, pass the faith on to their children. We have some great ideas about how we

can make this happen.

Finally, in response to the request by many to host short **pilgrimages**, the Institute will host two pilgrimages in 2020. The first is to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC during May 2020 and a second to the Shrine of Mother Frances Cabrini in New York during November 2020.

To learn more about these or any other resources or learning opportunities from The Leadership Institute, please be sure to subscribe to the Institute newsletter. Just visit the Institute website at www.formationreimagined.org, and click the contact button. ■



DR. PATRICK DONOVAN, director of the Leadership Institute.

revamp of the website divides opportunities into four categories: personal formation, family formation, parish formation, and resources. Here's a brief look at some of the new features.

Liturgical formation continues for those who wish to serve as a reader, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or musician in their parish. More than 4,500 completed formation during the grandfathering phase and we have now opened formation to new ministers. All details are outlined on the formation page and new ministers may register for upcoming formation session, read about requirements, and check out the latest resources online.

Formation for catechists is in high gear. More than 1,500 catechist have participated in the face-to-face formation, which will continue through the first week of January when the online formation will begin. Catechists will have until the end of May to complete the online portion of formation.

Weekly Updates Online

Institute provides recommendations for weekly movie nights. Each week, a new recommendation and explanation is available for your consideration.

The **Catequizem** is a new feature that launched October 1. Each week, a knew quiz is posted online for you to grow in your faith. The quizzes are not only a fun way to learn the faith, but each answer includes catechetical material and links to online resources to help you learn more. Current topics include liturgical seasons, an introduction to the Old Testament, general Catholic knowledge, introduction to saints, the first followers, church history, and the sacraments.

If funding can be obtained, the weekly quizzes will become a skill for your smart speaker at home. Just imagine standing in your living room saying, “Alexa, make me a smarter Catholic” and then participating in a short quiz to learn more about your faith.

Lifelong Lessons also launched in early October. From the incarnation to the Paschal mystery and from friends and families to tough situations

God Bless You and Thank You to our entire Religious Formation Team



*for your continued
commitment
to teach our children.*

**St. Thomas the Apostle
Norwalk**

THANK YOU

Saint Elizabeth Seton
Parish
Ridgefield

wishes to thank

Marie Trebing
Gigi Pekala
Coordinators

*and all our Catechists,
Aides, and Volunteers*

in our

Religious Education
Program

for their

*continued commitment
to teach and share the Faith
and lead our children toward
a life-long relationship
with Jesus the Lord!*

With thanks
and blessings

to

Ms. Kathleen

Rooney,

our entire religious
education team,
and to the catechists
and volunteers



**Our Lady of Fatima
Wilton**

Celebrating Adoption

Forming a ‘Forever Family’

By AMY ZAJAC

Since its inception as a licensed social service agency in 1915, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County has always offered services to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies and applicants wishing to adopt a child. When people hear the name “Catholic Charities,” adoption is the first service that comes to mind. Over the years, this program has remained a staple of the agency with thousands of families being formed; however how the services have been implemented has changed.

Gone are the days of the traditional domestic adoptions. They still occur to some extent, but families have to think outside of the box in order to form their families through adoption. This includes working with consultants, adopting outside of

Connecticut and using online resources. Families have moved from adopting domestically, to internationally and now even international adoptions have changed.

Ronald and Liza Yeomans found an alternative option that worked for them. After marrying later in life, Ron and Liza wanted to start a family. Unfortunately, they struggled with infertility issues and doctors made it clear that they would not be able to conceive a child on their own. Adopting through the traditional means would have been problematic for them due to their ages. Adopting internationally could have been problematic because many countries have age restrictions and they would have only been eligible for an older child. This did not deter them because they held onto their faith that they were meant to be parents.

As fate would have it, things worked out for them to adopt internationally but not in the traditional way. Liza’s brother and his wife found out that they were going to have a baby. However, their child would face some minor medical complications and be born with a hole in his heart. In addition to the child’s medical issues, the parents were struggling financially and felt they could not appropriately care for him. The couple knew Ron and Liza wanted a child of their own and approached them to adopt this baby through an international kinship adoption.

“The entire process was overwhelming, but we contacted Catholic Charities’ Family Directions Program to help us because they are Hague Accredited and understood what needed to be done every step of the way,” stated Ronald

Yeomans. “It was comforting to know there was someone local to help us.” International regulations require that adoption applicants work with a Hague Accredited agency. Catholic Charities is in fact one of two Hague Accredited agencies in the state, and the only Catholic agency.

Keane was born in the Philippines in 2013, but did not arrive in the United States until 2018. During that time he was cared for by family members residing in the Philippines. Ron and Liza visited with him as much as possible from then until he arrived in the United States in 2018. They also supported him financially, sending money to Liza’s relatives in the Philippines. Since his arrival, he has received medical care in the United States and is deemed healthy. He has adjusted to his new surroundings



THEY WERE MEANT TO BE PARENTS—Ronald and Liza Yeomans and their son Keane. The adoption was completed through Catholic Charities.

and is thriving in school.

In October, Keane, Ron and Liza visited the Darien Probate Court to finalize his adoption here in the United States. It was a quiet, private ceremony that the 6 year old boy fully understood. When the Judge asked him what the ceremony meant, Keane responded “This means that this is my Mommy and Daddy forever.”

(If you are interested in learning more about Catholic Charities’ Adoption Services visit www.ccfairfield.org/programs/family-directions.) ■



FROM OUR YOUNGEST CLIENTS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, WE ALL AGREE, THAT WE COULD USE YOUR HELP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

For over 100 years, Catholic Charities has been providing services to our most vulnerable friends and neighbors of Fairfield County in their time of need. With your help, we are able to offer a variety of programs and services that:

Feed the Hungry and Shelter the Homeless | Strengthening Families in Need | Supporting the Physically and Emotionally Challenged | Protecting/Nurturing Children and Youth Welcoming and Integrating Immigrants

This Christmas season, as we pause to remember those who have special meaning in our lives, please consider making a difference in the lives of those around us who may need it the most.

Through your support of Catholic Charities, when you give to one, you give all!

Thank you for your compassionate generosity.

GIFT IDEAS

\$250 covers the cost of 6 counseling sessions at our behavioral health clinic.

\$500 assists a Dreamer with DACA renewal application fee.

\$1,000 serves 500 lunches for five days (100 guests per lunch).

\$2,500 pays for two months of preschool tuition for a child.

To make your **GIFT ONLINE**, please visit ccfairfield.org/event/appeal

or Send a check made payable to “**Catholic Charities**” to:

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For more information about Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, please call Amy Zajac at 203-416-1336

Setenta feligreses hispanos

Se gradúan en curso de ‘Mariología’

By MARICARMEN GODOY

BRIDGEPORT—La parroquia de Saint Mary ubicada en el corazón de Bridgeport, hospedó por un año consecutivo a setenta feligreses hispanos que estudiaron en forma consecutiva en 33 sesiones el curso de Mariología denominado: “Teología y Espiritualidad Mariana”.

El P. Rolando Torres, párroco de Saint Mary, quien es “mariano” desde su niñez, desde su espacio radial Alfa y Omega transmitido vía Face Book Live, en sus inter-relaciones con sus oyentes se ha declarado un ferviente devoto de la Virgen María y al preguntarle porqué ofreció este curso tan singular desde septiembre del 2018, debido a que NO está dirigido al clero ni a religiosas sino a fieles miembros de la iglesia católica; comentó que se decidió por dictar el curso, luego de leer el libro: La Virgen María Teología y Espiritualidad Mariana, escrita por el sacerdote dominico, P. Antonio Royo, radicado en España.

“El libro está tan bien escrito que es muy fácil de leerlo, seguirlo y obviamente de aprender”, dijo el P. Rolando, quien semana a semana



EN UNA CEREMONIA ESPECIAL—setenta fieles devotos de la Virgen María fueron consagrados a su corazón, luego de que terminaron el curso de Mariología dictado por el P. Rolando Torres, párroco de Saint Mary, un sacerdote profundamente devoto de la Virgen de la Providencia, patrona de Puerto Rico.

se reunió con feligreses de las parroquias de Saint Charles de Borromeo, la Catedral de San Agustín, Saint George, Saint Joseph y de poblados como Trumbull, Stamford, Shelton y New Haven.

La intención del P. Rolando fue dedicar un tiempo a aprender sobre los dogmas de fe en cuanto a los momentos de la Virgen María y los propósitos de Dios, para entender por qué él la eligió a ella como

Madre de Dios y eso implica entender su Inmaculada Concepción y defender este principio.

Al respecto, el sacerdote nativo de Puerto Rico, afirmó que la Inmaculada Concepción (virginidad de María), es un dogma de fe para entender que María es co-redentora y por ende parte del proyecto de salvación de la humanidad y por eso es que estuvo junto a Jesús toda la existencia de él.

Otra de las aseveraciones que el sacerdote quiso impartir entre sus estudiantes fue clarificar los conceptos sobre la “Asunción de María” y la “Ascensión de Jesús a los cielos”, este dogma de fe, sostuvo el P. Rolando, se entiende que María fue subida por los ángeles al cielo, en cambio que, Jesús ascendió (subió) solo porque él es parte de la Santísima Trinidad (divinidad).

Las clases que fueron impartidas todos los lunes de 7 pm hasta las 8:30 pm, contó con estudiantes en edades desde los 16 hasta los 85 años y se caracterizaron porque fueron seguidas en forma armónica debido a que forman parte de la iglesia católica y por ende cuentan con principios básicos de fe mariana.

Lo que dio pie a que fuera cuestionado, entonces, cómo este curso pudiera ser dictado a otros grupos evangélicos y si es que la pedagogía sería la misma. A esta pregunta el P. Rolando respondió que se tornaría complicado fusionar los dos grupos de estudiantes (católicos y no católicos), porque los no católicos traen consigo creencias sobre la Virgen María muy arraigadas y por

tanto, su entrenamiento debería ser por separado y especial.

“Fernando Casanova fue un protestante que se acogió al catolicismo, pero él estaba lleno del Espíritu Santo y por eso pudo hacer esa transición en forma especial. Para poder entender el misterio mariano hay que tener mucho respecto de ante mano por la Virgen María y de ahí nace aceptar el misterio mariano”, dijo.

Curiosamente, el sacerdote puertorriqueño sostuvo que el no creer en la Inmaculada Concepción de la Virgen María y que fue asunta al cielo, pasa a convertirse en un concepto profundamente machista porque no

se acepta que una mujer pueda ser parte del proyecto de salvación de Dios, solo por el hecho de ser mujer.

¿Por qué la Virgen María llega asunta al cielo si es un ser humano?, a esto el sacerdote respondió: “porque ella fue elegida desde el inicio en los planes de Dios para estar junto a Jesús y ser su madre, en cambio, los demás mortales al momento de morir debemos presentarnos al juicio final; aunque reconoció que según las Escrituras Moisés fue también llevado al cielo por los ángeles y al profeta Elías, en cambio, vino por él un carro de fuego.

Otra de las preguntas hechas al sacerdote se centró en torno a la devoción de rezar el Rosario y el aumento de los misterios Luminosos, frente a esto, el religioso respondió que fue el Papa Juan Pablo II que decidió colocarlo debido a que no se hablaba sobre algunos hechos de Jesús como el bautismo, la eucaristía y la multiplicación de los panes.

El próximo sábado 16 de noviembre la parroquia de Saint Mary en Bridgeport, a las seis de la tarde se realizará la fiesta patronal en honor a la virgen de La Providencia, patrona de Puerto Rico, que será presidida por el obispo de Caguas, Monseñor Eusebio Ramos. Y posterior a la homilía habrá una fiesta borinqueña en el salón social parroquial.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THE DIOCESE IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS* TO SERVE AT MASSES CELEBRATED BY BISHOP CAGGIANO AND SPECIAL EVENTS THAT BRING THE DIOCESAN FAMILY TOGETHER. THE EVENTS ARE HELD AT ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL AND OTHER CHURCHES THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE:

- Chrism Mass & Luncheon
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- Divine Mercy Sunday
- Pentecost Vigil
- Wedding Jubilee Mass, Reception & C4Y Concert
- Rite of Election Ceremony
- Healing & Anointing of the Sick Mass
- C4Y Christmas Concert
- Scouting Awards Ceremony
- Papal Honors [every 5 years]

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE THE CHURCH BY VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH EVENT SET-UP, USHERING, DISTRIBUTING PROGRAMS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE EVENTS, PLEASE EMAIL SPECIALEVENTS@DIOBPT.ORG OR CALL: (203) 416-1670

*Must clear Safe Environments Office Background Check and be VIRTUS Certified

RORATE MASS

You and your family are warmly invited to join the seminarians of the Diocese of Bridgeport for the traditional Advent candlelit Mass at dawn in honor of Our Lady.

The schola will sing Guillaume de Machaut's *Messe de Nostre Dame*.

St. Gabriel's Church, Stamford
Saturday, December 7
6:30 A.M.

Fr. Paul N. Check, celebrant & homilist



Catholic Academy, Bpt.

Fall dinner fundraiser

By **SUSAN CECERE**

BRIDGEPORT—On October 2, Catholic Academy of Bridgeport Board Chair Brad Evans welcomed 60 guests to the schools' 10th Annual Fall Dinner celebration at Polpo Restaurant in Greenwich.

Sixty guests dined on Polpo's upscale Italian fare. Those in attendance included eight of the Academy's 12 board members, all of the principals from the Academy's four Bridgeport campuses and many longtime and faithful supporters of the school.

Angela Pohlen, who took over as the Academy's executive director in July when Sr. Joan Magnetti retired, thanked Ron and Dominique Rosa, owners of Polpo, for once again underwriting the food for this annual event. Past board chair Jim Bailey, who emceed the event, recognized Sr. Magnetti for her role in the Annual Fall Dinner since its inception in 2010 as well as for her committed and innovative leadership during the 10 years she served as the schools ED, a period during which the Academy transitioned from six schools to four and the budget went from seeing a deficit of \$2.4 million to

being completely balanced every year for the past six years.

Bailey also recognized alumnus Sergio Lara, who 10 years ago was a recent graduate of the Academy working toward a bachelor's in Marketing at Fairfield University and the speaker at the initial Fall Dinner fundraiser. "Since then, Sergio has gone on to spend six incredible years at PricewaterhouseCoopers and today is a Corporate Strategy Consultant at BDO. Sergio recently told me that it was only through financial assistance that he was able to attend our school, and that none of this would have been possible were it not for generous people like you sitting here tonight."

Bailey said that the choice of dates for tonight's dinner was intentional, for in the Catholic Church, October 2 is the Feast of the Guardian Angels. "One of the roles of Guardian Angels is to protect those entrusted to their care, and that certainly is true of all of you. Through the years we have asked you to partner with us so that we can educate those children entrusted to us in a safe, nurturing, Christ-centered environment; one where personal and moral character is being shaped, mutual

respect and kindness are being taught, and students graduate with the confidence and ability to succeed in life; an environment that, in many instances, is not available in the public sector."

Each guest received a crystal angel as a small token of the school's gratitude for their kindness and generosity through the years. "When you hang it, I hope you will remember what a tremendous and powerful difference you have made in the lives of our students," said Bailey.

A secondary theme of the evening was "unwritten," and Jasmine Fuller, an alumna of the Academy's St. Ann campus and a current junior at Kolbe, wowed the crowd with her singing of Unwritten by Natasha Bedingfield. Afterwards, Pohlen said, "If you read the statistics from the city of Bridgeport, they're usually written with a period—as if it's a foregone conclusion that the children of this city will continue in the perpetual cycle of underachievement because of their own deficits and not those of the system of which they are a part. This is a tragedy of monumental proportions. Our students are not statistics—they



GUARDIAN ANGLES—Those who participate in the Annual Fall Dinner Fundraiser for Catholic Academy of Bridgeport are true guardian angels to the young people who benefit from their financial assistance and mentorship.

are individuals with the power and ability to overcome the obstacles that others have already deemed insurmountable. They will write their own stories, and it is our privilege to have a part in that authorship."

Silver frames with personal quotes from many of the Academy's 7th and 8th grade students donned each table throughout the room. These quotes were written by the students after they reflected on the song Unwritten and the following statistics: Only 23 percent of students in the Bridgeport public school system are performing at grade level compared to more than 80 percent of Catholic Academy of Bridgeport students, and barely 60 percent of Bridgeport public school students graduate high

school compared to 100 percent of the Academy students.

After the entrée course, guests had the opportunity to hear from Roseangel Zayas, an 8th-grader on the Academy's St. Augustine campus, whose favorite subject is English and who writes for the school's newspaper and is a member of the yearbook staff. "Going to school here has given me a great education and the teachers always have the best interest of me in mind; they don't just teach for the paycheck," she said. "When I was in 5th grade, my family experienced an unexpected fire. My father got 3rd-degree burns and my mother 2nd-degree burns. All of our possessions were destroyed. The school worked to get my family a \$1,200 security deposit

► *CONTINUED ON PAGE 30*

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DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT NOVEMBER 17—DECEMBER 14

NOVEMBER

9	Rev. Rocco D. Nadile	1978
20	Rev. Francis J. Fulop	1957
	Rev. John F. Culliton	1967
	Rev. Hugh A. Coffey	1975
21	Msgr. Edwin F. Burke	2004
22	Rev. Stephen J. Panik	1953
	Msgr. Joseph N. Murphy	1988
23	Rev. Carducci D'Amico	2018
	Rev. Robert G. Pohley	2006
26	Deacon Joseph Lawrence Rowan	2013
27	Deacon John Barton	2012
	Rev. Myron V. Miller	1961
28	Deacon Wayne E. Malloy	2011

DECEMBER

1	Deacon Robert W. Becker	2000
	Deacon Salvatore M. Clarizio	2017
	Rev. Michael E. Kearney	1956
	Msgr. Alfred J. Sienkiewicz	1996
3	Msgr. John E. Gilmartin	2011
	Rev. Thomas Gwozdz, OFM Conv.	2007
	Rev. Joseph A. Pisarcik	1956
4	Msgr. Joseph M. Fitzgerald	2005
5	Rev. Vincent J. O'Connor	1985
7	Deacon George Saulnier	1997
8	Rev. Rufin Kuveikas, OFM Cap.	2008
10	Msgr. Bartholomew J. Skelly	1967
	Rev. Ambrose Walas, OFM Conv.	1967
	Rev. Paul M. Spodnik	1976
13	Rev. Alfred E. Russo	2009

November 2019

Sports

Domingos small in stature, large in productivity

By **DON HARRISON**

Many exceptional athletes are small in stature. Think of Jose Altuve, the Houston Astros' 5-foot-6 All-Star second baseman, a three-time batting champion and the dynamic field leader of baseball's American League Championship team.

Much closer to home, there is a high school soccer player named Toni Domingos, who, despite her diminutive 5-foot-2 frame, is averaging two goals per match for Notre Dame of Fairfield. With 31 goals through the end of the regular season, she's already tied the school record—held by Samantha LaValle—and is well on her way to surpassing LaValle's career mark of 88 goals.

The Lancers' head coach, Wayne Mones, is effusive in his praise for Domingos. "The ball seems to be attached to her foot," he says. "She is so explosive; she has the ability to change gears. Her first step is incredible. She can shoot with either foot. She's tenacious."

"Toni is better than anyone

I've had in 42 years of coaching," he declares. "I believe she's the best player in the state."

Indeed, as a sophomore last season, Domingos was selected to the Connecticut Girls Soccer Coaches Association's Class M All-State Team. And now, although just a junior and with another season at Notre Dame still ahead, she's already committed to attending the University of Maryland in 2021.

Antonietta "Toni" Domingos was just two years old when her parents, Renata and Vander, immigrated to the U.S. from a small town in Brazil. She followed her older brother Gabriel into soccer at an early age.

"I used to watch him play, and then we played together," she explains. "He forced me to work harder."

As a freshman forward, Domingos quickly—the key word in her game—became the Lancers' go-to player and topped the squad with 23 goals. And she was the team leader again as a sophomore with 19 goals, sparking Notre Dame to a quarter-final finish in the CIAC Class

M state tournament. The 2019 Lancers will enter the South-West Conference tournament with an 11-2-3 won-lost-tied record.

"Freshman year, I used to get very frustrated," she recalls. "I couldn't do what I wanted to do; they (opponents) were bigger and stronger and bodied me off the ball." And so she spent considerable time in the gym to build up her strength.

Domingos is committed to soccer the year-round. She develops her skills during the spring and summer playing for the Yankee United F.C., a program for girls and young women operated by Mones and Jack Nogueira, the head coach at St. Joseph High.

Mones has a rich soccer pedigree. At UConn, he played for one of the game's legends, the late Joe Morrone. He served as the boys' coach for a decade at the former Central Catholic High in Norwalk, as the men's coach for 16 seasons at Western Connecticut State University, and now he's in his sixth year as coach and guidance counselor at Notre Dame. The Lancers have



NOTRE DAME'S Toni Domingos controls the ball.

shared two state titles (2015, 2016) during his tenure. "When I doubt myself," says

Toni Domingos, "Coach Mones says, 'You've got this.' He's really helped me."

Immaculate High School

Girls Field Hockey wins SWC Championship

DANBURY—On a rainy afternoon on November 7, the Immaculate High School girls field hockey team didn't let the cold, dreary weather dampen their drive and defeated New Milford 1-0, winning the SWC Championship! Emma Halas '21 scored the only goal of the game and Lauren Oskam '20 did not let a single ball get into her net. This is the second time the team won the title in three years, with a win in 2017 and almost reclaiming the title in 2018 but just missing the win in the final game. Congratulations to the team and coaches Shannon Horosky and Matthew Ariniello on this major accomplishment!



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Column: Thomas Hicks



And death shall have no dominion

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

November – days on the edge of winter. The land begins to tuck itself in for winter. The trees are stripped; the leaves have colored and fallen. Storm windows go on. It is the time of the long nights, the first freeze,

and the busy squirrels. November silence is upon the land. The loud voices of spring and summer have had their say. Now there's the waiting for winter to take command.

November is always tinged with sorrow. It is the time when

we recall those who are dear to us and are gone from us. "Et omnis in Christo Quiescentibus," and for all who rest in Christ. How much meaning these words gather. So many people I have loved and lost. There are no substitutes for them. They are the people with whom I identified myself. The world without them is incomplete; all those vanished faces and voices. Memories of those loved ones can fill my heart with distant music. There's a longing for every one of them to be living, and to have it all over again. So many people I loved are gone. It's almost two societies, the living and the dead, and I live with them both. When I put their deaths in the context of our Christian faith,

I think of them as people whose trials have come to an end and the winter of their souls has passed forever. They are never to know sorrow again: "Never again will weeping and crying be heard among them" (Isaiah 65:19); Death can be a release.

Many writers point out that the whole process of dying takes place thoroughly the whole of life. There are the many experiences of death in life. The little deaths include such events as the death of one's youth, the experiences of failure, the best friend moving away, the demise of other friendships, the humiliations we suffer, the disappointments, the injustices, sickness, the decline of our powers, a program to which we dedicated so much energy folding up, the; "yeses" we say close the door on other possibilities. So many experiences are a kind of death. Death comes by installments.

There are some interesting findings about people's final moments. Doctors tell that patients who are desperately ill, suffering great pain, dying, often call out for their mothers. It is well-known that dying soldiers on battle fields often call out for their mothers (the movies often depict this, e.g., "Saving Private Ryan" and "Battleground"). It seems to be the call of the memory of being loved. According to the research of Mary Pipher, a large percentage of last words are: "I love you" or "thank you."

The five last things which people most want or need at the end

of their lives are: granting forgiveness, seeking forgiveness, expressing gratitude, demonstrating love, saying good-bye.

There have been so many deaths lately that I can feel the wind at my back. Eventually, I will have to fold up my tent (1Peter 1:13). And the film will be chattering in the empty projector.

I hope I don't leave deeds undone and words left unsaid. Leaving one's place at the table can be hard. I still love this world, its beauty, love, and self-giving. Death is a call to live. Let us kiss the earth and be joyful and make much of our time and be kindly to everyone, even those who do not deserve it.

As the Irish would say my wife up and died on me. There are still times when I catch myself looking for her, and even expect to see her. Like many others, I've come to know that the boundary between this life and the next is more permeable than many think. Those we have lost, for whom we weep, have not fully left us. I have no doubts my wife watches over my life. There is that wonderful expression from the *Song of Songs*, "Love is as strong as death" (89:6). Indeed, our dead follow us, they are near to us in the beautiful delicacy of love, they watch with solicitude

our every hour. I have no doubts that my wife watches over me from somewhere. Her affection, her attention, her interest has not died with her body. And as Paul tells us, "we shall see one another again." We shall once again see the faces and hear the voices of our beloved dead. As one poet put it: "Oh, the rapture of that meeting; Oh, the joy to see you coming!" I believe that our joy will be still greater than if we had never been separated. We will be rejoined in an ever dearer union.

*Though lovers be lost love shall not;
And death shall have no dominion.*
(Dylan Thomas, "And Death Shall Have No Dominion")

Finally, in one of Rod Serling's dramas on the early TV series *The Twilight Zone*, an elderly woman living alone is afraid to die. She lives in a basement apartment where she is beset by anxiety, until a young man comes and befriends her. He becomes the recipient of her total trust and confidence. One day he asks her to leave her apartment and come with him. With trusting eyes she looks up at him and says, "Yes." She puts her hand in his; he takes her arm and they leave. The final scene reverts to her apartment where she lies dead on her bed. The message is strikingly Christian. ■

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DEACONS FROM PAGE 12

ately needs."

"You are entering into this privileged period," he said, "where what you believe and what you seek and how you live will challenge a world... that revels in division and hostility, where the truth calls us to unity and peace."

The bishop asked the men to "throw themselves into their formation and to pray for courage."

"For if we do not stand together and seek to speak together a message of Good News, how will the world find its way to what it longs for? For what it seeks come from Christ the Lord," the bishop said.

He concluded his homily by saying, "I am delighted that you are being admitted to candidacy, and I will pray for you,

that the Lord will, with this ongoing conversation, continue to renew in your heart the vocation He has given you."

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Column: Joe Pisani



The darkness is ending

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

A favorite pastime of my friend Arthur is to email me stories about the latest “outrage” of the Catholic Church. He has a steady supply because the secular media has been relentless. He takes perverse satisfaction in sending articles about Cardinal George Pell’s conviction, the sex abuse scandal in the Philippines, attorneys general seeking diocesan records, and anything else he can uncover.

With each story, he includes a terse commentary like “Can you believe this?!” Or “When will it end?!” Or “They’re at it again!!!”

In the interests of full disclosure, I should say he’s not a Catholic and probably best described as a non-practicing Protestant. (Catholics aren’t the only ones who lapse from their faith.)

The subtext of this passive-aggressive behavior—his unspoken question—has always been, “When are you going to come to your senses and leave the Church?” Even though I understand the game he’s playing, I always take the bait and get defensive.

Nowadays it’s not easy being a proud Catholic, but what none of the detractors understands is that the Church isn’t an institution like the federal government, AARP, the Democratic Party or NBC. The Church is truly the Bride of Christ, and he is guiding her even though sometimes it’s difficult for us myopic humans to comprehend that.

One article Arthur sent me was an excessively long piece about millennial nuns. The author was thoroughly flummoxed because women are entering religious orders in large numbers. She wrote, “After 50 years of decline, the number of young women ‘discerning the religious life’—or going through the long process of becoming a Catholic sister—is

substantially increasing.”

She just couldn’t understand why. With the jaundiced eye of a secular journalist, she observed, deduced, induced and came to flimsy conclusions that I would characterize as “modern women just can’t find a good guy” and “millennials like to live in community” and “young women crave direction from a superior.” What never crossed her mind was that Christ was calling them. Actually calling them.

Then, there was another interminably long article he sent about the collapse of the Catholic faith—all faith actually—which cited Pew research claiming a third of Americans who were raised Catholics have jumped off the bark of Peter. It cited familiar data that show millennials aren’t turning to Rome or to God

because to their thinking there are more important things like political causes, student loan forgiveness and climate change.

I tried to think of a response. Here it is.

Regardless of what the media or pollsters say, I’ve seen evidence that Jesus is leading us out of the darkness, which is something secular reporters may never understand.

If we alone were responsible for saving the Church, it would not be saved. Remember what Jesus said? He’s the vine. We’re just the branches. And without him, we can do nothing. You see, he’s turning things around right before our eyes—although I suspect it will take Pew and the New York Times another 10 years to realize it. So while they wait, listen to what I have to say.

I’ve witnessed the revival firsthand many, many times over the past several years while interviewing converts to Catholicism, young people discerning vocations, and lapsed Catholics returning to the Eucharist. I’ve also met people who did what the rich young man couldn’t do ... and left everything to follow Jesus.

There was the religious sister who abandoned her promising career at the Chicago Symphony,

the researcher who left a career at Yale to enter the priesthood and many more, including converts who were pagans, atheists, Baptists, Jews and, yes, those notorious “nones.” They had one thing in common. They all said, “Yes” when Jesus said to them, “Follow me.”

Never doubt for a moment that Jesus is at work in an amazing way, making all things

new, purifying and reviving the Church. Regardless of what the media, the academics and the researchers say, a new time is upon us. Jesus is sending special graces to souls who are spiritually starving. There will be a renewal unlike any in history. All we have to do is pray and take our direction from him a day at a time. The darkness is ending.

Sorry, Arthur. ■

PLANNING TO BE IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA THIS WINTER?

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020

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Connecticut Catholic Conference

Conference issues State of Abortion Report

HARTFORD—In its 12th annual State of Abortion in Connecticut report, the Connecticut Catholic Conference, which is the public policy office of the Catholic Bishops in Connecticut, revealed today that 75 percent of abortions performed in Connecticut during 2018 were paid for with taxpayer dollars.

In 2018, there were 9,294 abortions reported to the Department of Public Health as required by law. Of those abortions reported, 6,995 were performed on low-income women under the state's Medicaid programs, most commonly known as HUSKY. Since the federal government does not reimburse the state for abortion expenses, the Connecticut taxpayers covered the expenses, which totaled \$4.2 million. This information was provided to the Conference by the Connecticut Department of Social Services through a Freedom of Information request.

Connecticut pays the expenses for these abortions following a ruling in a 1986 Connecticut Superior Court case ordering that such expenses be covered. The state never appealed the ruling.

In 1998, then Attorney General Richard Blumenthal issued an opinion applying that ruling to the HUSKY B program, which covers low-income teenage girls. Connecticut is one of fifteen states that require state taxpayers to pay for abortions under their Medicaid programs.

According to the Conference, it is conceivable that over the last 20 years Connecticut taxpayers have paid for approximately 140,000 abortions at a cost of \$84 million. This is a conservative estimate, since the number of abortions performed in previous years was higher than the 9,294 total abortions reported in 2018. The number of abortions performed in Connecticut annually has declined by 32 percent over the last 10 years. This is reflective of a national trend.

"The large number of abortions performed on low-income women is reflective of Planned Parenthood's financial dependency on this population group and the state income it generates to the organization. It is unfortunate that the political leaders in our state have never challenged the lower court's ruling that



is forcing many citizens to fund something that they find completely immoral and in direct conflict with their religious beliefs," said Chris Healy, executive director of the Catholic Conference.

The report also directly refutes the claims made by pro-choice advocates that changes in federal funding requirements for Title X family planning funds will hurt low-income women. Abortion services, the primary focus of Planned Parenthood centers, is already covered 100 percent by the state's taxpayers. The Conference also emphasized that these funds were not cut. Planned

Parenthood chose to stop their participation in the Title X program because of two new requirements: 1) Operate a separate facility for abortion services and 2) not provide direct medical referrals for abortions. Both requirements were intended to ensure compliance with already existing federal law that prohibits using the funding for abortions.

Even without Title X funds, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England is in an extremely strong financial position according to its own publicly available financial reports.

In the report, the Conference

also highlights the lack of medical services provided by Planned Parenthood centers. The primary services they offer are extremely limited and can be obtained at other health centers, especially if the patient is covered by HUSKY. The one unique service they offer is abortion. Only four Planned Parenthood centers in Connecticut offer limited primary care services.

"Pro-choice advocates constantly make it appear that Planned Parenthood centers are a critical part of the healthcare system in our state, especially for low-income women. This is simply not true," stated Healy. "Most of their services, with the exception of abortion services, can be found at other medical facilities across our state, such as Federally Qualified Health Centers. Federal money would be better spent on medical clinics that truly do offer a wide range of medical services to low-income residents."

To view The State of Abortion in Connecticut—Twelfth Annual Report in its entirety, please visit: ctcatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CTCC-Abortion-Report-2019.pdf. ■

If you are unable to make it to the March in D.C., please join us in prayer at this special Mass with the Bishop as we pray for all the pilgrims going to the March and create awareness for the precious gift of life.

MARCH FOR LIFE 2020

MASS
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6:00 AM | Pick up at Basilica of St. John the Evangelist, Stamford
11:30 AM | Arrive at March for Life
4:00 PM | Depart for Connecticut

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≡ CATHOLIC ACADEMY
FROM PAGE 26 ≡

for a new house plus threw me a housewarming party. I'm so grateful that God put such kind-hearted people in my path. They are like family to me," Zayas said.

Although she does not come from a family of graduates, Zayas said she wants to be the first one "to go on to a good high school where I will continue to become the me God planned me to be."

Later in the night, "Hands Up for Scholarship" pushed proceeds of the fundraiser above \$300,000. All money will go to support students in the Academy, which educates nearly 900 children on four campuses in grades preschool through 8th in the city of Bridgeport, 85 percent of whom cannot afford the annual tuition of \$5,000 and most of whom live below the poverty level.

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport must raise more than \$2 million each year for scholarship.

(For more information, visit www.catholicacademybridgeport.org or call 203.362.2990.) ■

Bits and Pieces

CREDO YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY IN SOUTH NORWALK meets twice a month on **Wed. evenings** from **7-9 pm** at St. Joseph in South Norwalk. Young adults ages 21-31 are welcome! For more info visit stjospehsona.org/credo.

COME AND SEE if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order visit St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield at **9:30 am** on **Sat., Nov. 16** with Fr. Larry Carew. After Mass, there will be a social and meeting held in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! For more info, call Fran Karpiej, OFS, at 203.452.7040 or paxjc@aol.com.

ST. LUKE CHURCH IN WESTPORT is hosting their annual Harvest Fair and Shabby Chic Boutique on **Sat., Nov. 16** from **10 am-4 pm** and **Sun., Nov. 17** from **10 am-3 pm**. Admission is free and all proceeds will benefit charity.

A PULITZER PRIZE WINNING JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR—Paul Moses will deliver a talk on Mother Cabrini and her message on **Sun., Nov. 17**, following a Mass celebrated in Italian by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at **10 am** at Sacred Heart Church in Stamford.

WOMEN, WINE AND THE DIVINE—A new women's group is starting in Stamford for all women (over 21) from **7:30-9 pm** (Nov 18, and Dec 16) at the house of the Marchettis (29 Carriage Drive South, Stamford). This event is sponsored by St. John's Basilica. All are invited!

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH IN STRATFORD will be conducting a 10 week program starting **Wed., Nov. 20**. Meetings will be held in the Parish Center from **4-5:30 pm**. Reservations are required. If you are interested contact Janet Gillick at: 203.377.4863 or 203.377.4817. This is a free program.

VATICAN II: THE POWER AND PROMISE discussions led by Deacon Brian Kelly will take place on the **third Thurs.** of every month through **April 2020**, St. Luke's in Westport at **7:30 pm**.

TWO HEALING SERVICES FEATURING FRANK KELLY—There will be a **5:30 pm** Mass with healing service to follow on **Wed., Nov. 20** at St. Aloysius in New Canaan and on **Fri., Nov. 22** at Our Lady of Fatima in Wilton. Please consider coming to both healing services!

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. MATTHEW

COUNCIL #14360 will be partnering with FCA for the KofC Coats for Kids distribution on **Sat., Nov. 23** at their offices at the Ben Franklin Center in Norwalk.

BIBLE STUDY—Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes, Riverside—**Monday evenings, now- Nov. 25, 7:30-9 pm** or **Tuesday mornings, now - Nov. 26, 10-11:30 am** in the O'Connor Center, Room 101. 1 Corinthians, 10 sessions, \$30 materials fee payable first class. For more info visit: www.stcath.org.

THE 26TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC CHARITIES NORWALK CELEBRITY BREAKFAST will be held on **Fri., Dec. 6** at the Shorehaven Golf Club from **7:30-9:30 am**. Full details on the event, as well as registration for tickets and tables can be found at www.ccfairfield.org/event/2019-norwalk-celebrity-breakfast.

OPEN CALL FOR SINGERS—The Westport Town Hall Christmas Benefit Concert for the Malta House of Bridgeport will be held on **Fri., Dec. 6** with the Cantiamo choir. Interested singers should contact the director, Marlane Tubridy via email at: artsforthecommunity@gmail.com.

JOIN US on **Fri., Dec. 6** at **7:15 pm** at St. Luke Church in Westport for "Advent: A Season for Holy Longing" with a reflection by Deacon Vincent Gauthier.

DIACONATE DISCOVERY EVENINGS will be a consistent space to wonder, explore, pray and share with other men of faith regarding serving the Church as a Permanent Deacon. They will take place on Thurs. evenings: St. Jude, Monroe: **Dec. 12**.

THE ST. THERESA CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be held on **Sun., Dec. 15** at **4 pm**. The choirs and soloists of St. Theresa Church, accompanied by Dr. Aymeric Dupré la Tour and directed by Dr. Carolina Flores, will perform favorite English and French carols, including the joyous Messe de Minuit pour Noël by Marc-Antoine Charpentier. Admission: free will offering. For more info please call the parish office at 203.261.3676.

EVENING OF LESSONS & CAROLS—A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION—a service of scripture, music and caroling, will take place on **Sun., Dec. 22, 7 pm** at St. Philip Church in Norwalk. The combined

25 Ways to Use Advent to Prepare for
CHRISTMAS

To download this Advent resource provided by the Leadership Institute visit:
formationreimagined.org

choirs and instrumentalists of St. Philip and Assumption Church of Westport will be featured. A reception will follow at our Lockwood Mansion. Admission is free; a good will offering will be taken up to support the work of the St. Philip Music Ministry. For more info, call the music director, Maria O'Kelly, at 203.847.4549.

JOIN FATHER BRIAN GANNON for an amazing pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Trip is from **Feb. 3-12, 2020** for only \$3698 per person. Price includes round trip economy air, all hotels, sightseeing, transfers

and most meals. Call Virginia at 203.402.0632 or email vdedad@cruiseplanners.com for more information or to book.

SAVE THE DATE—International Speaker Jeff Cavins will be speaking at St. Francis of Assisi in Weston on his conversion story on **Fri., March 20** from **7-8 pm** and on taking your faith to the next level on **Sat., March 21** from **9 am-2 pm**. This event is sponsored by the St. Francis Women's Guild. For more info email: womensguildS-FA@gmail.com.

CHRIST THE KING

CHURCH, TRUMBULL will be having a 10-day pilgrimage to Italy from **May 18-27, 2020** led by spiritual director Father Walsh. For more info call the Parish Office at: 203.268.8695.

SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND, ITALY AND MEDJUGORJE—**Sept., 14-28, 2020** leaving from New York, New York. Price: \$4,399. For reservation and itinerary please contact Father Marcel Saint Jean at Christ the King Parish in Trumbull at 203.434.7208 or email: marcel-saintjean@gmail.com.

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