

FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

JULY/AUGUST 2017 | VOLUME 34, NUMBER 7 | SUMMER ISSUE

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Ordination



'A Morning of Joy and Thanksgiving!'

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

"We come here with great joy and thanksgiving for the gift of these three men," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at the beginning of morning ordination at St. Augustine Cathedral on June 24.

A day that began with torrential rain opened into clear skies and the transparent happiness of almost 700 family, friends and priests who celebrated the ordination of Harry Prieto, José Vásquez, and Timothy Iannacone.

In his homily, Bishop Caggiano reflected on the "profound mystery of the priesthood" in which the priest becomes "the chosen vessel of grace" to those he is called to serve.

"No one decides to become a priest," said the bishop. "A man discerns what is stirring in his heart—a stirring not of his own making, but of the Lord's."

Noting that the ordination fell on the solemnity of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, who the Gospel describes as "a voice crying out in the wilderness," the bishop told the new priests, "You have been configured to Christ to provide his Word in a world become a wilderness, a world going cold with no place for God.

"Preach fearlessly and live what you preach," he exhorted.

"Do not compromise the truth."

All three men answered, "Present" when called forward to begin the ordination ceremony. Each candidate knelt before the bishop for the Laying on of Hands. They then affirmed a series of resolves and promises as they begin their lives as priests.

Their affirmation was followed by thunderous and prolonged applause from the congregation, which also broke into cheers again when the newly ordained recessed out of the church at the end of the Mass.

In the most dramatic moment of the ordination, the three men lay prostrate in front of the altar while the congregation knelt to sing the Litany of Saints. After the Laying on of Hands and Prayer of Ordination, the newly ordained stood before the altar and were vested with a stole and chasuble.

During an anointing of hands, the bishop prayed over each man, "The Lord Jesus Christ, whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, guard and preserve you that you may sanctify the Christian people and offer sacrifice to God." They then joined him to concelebrate Mass.

The Liturgy of the Word was read in English and Spanish. Both Father Prieto and Father Vásquez are natives of Colombia. Father Iannacone was born

in Stamford and grew up in Norwalk.

Father Francisco Gomez-Franco, pastor of St. Charles Parish in Bridgeport, served as Master of Ceremonies.

in the formation of the young priests, in particular their parents and families. "You wouldn't be here without them," he said to applause from the gathering.

Following Mass, hundreds

Assumption Parish in Westport. Father Thomas Thorne, Assumption's pastor, gave the homily. Father Iannacone was at St. Mary Parish in Norwalk at 9:30 am, with Father Edward J.



(l-r) Father Harry Prieto, Father José Vásquez, and Father Timothy Iannacone join Bishop Caggiano after the ordination.

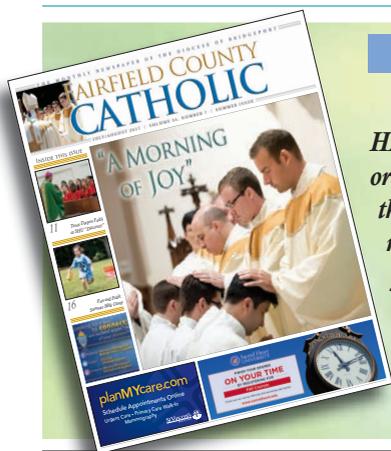
Samuel Schmitt, Cathedral director of sacred music and organist, led the music ministry, which also included the St. Augustine Schola Cantorum and the Tolle Lege Singers.

After Mass, the bishop thanked all those who joined

lined up under a large white tent alongside the historic cathedral to receive the First Blessing of the three young priests and enjoy refreshments.

All three priests celebrated their First Mass on June 25. Father Vásquez celebrated his at

Enright, OSA, associate professor of religious and theological studies at Merrimack College, giving the homily. Father Prieto celebrated his first Mass in his home parish of St. Joseph in Danbury. Father Samuel Scott, St. Joseph's pastor, delivered the homily. ■



ON THE COVER

LAYING ON OF HANDS—The newly ordained are welcomed by their brother priests at the recent ordination. Hundreds filled the Cathedral for the ordination "into the profound mystery of the priesthood." (Photo by Amy Mortensen)

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Latest News

Diocesan Pilgrimage set for September 23

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has announced plans for a one-day pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, September 23.

Buses will depart at 7 am from St. Jude Parish in Monroe, the Catholic Center in Bridgeport and Trinity High School in Stamford. They are expected to return at 11:30 pm on the same day.

The pilgrimage day will include arrival at the basilica grounds at 1 pm, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano at 2 pm followed by a procession and dedication of a new outdoor Rosary Path and shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima.

The new shrine, created in an effort led by Bishop Caggiano, will honor all young people while celebrating the 100th anniversary of this appearance of Our Lady, who appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917 and asked them to pray the Rosary.

"I am asking young people

and all people who are young at heart to join us in this great spiritual adventure of prayer and pilgrimage as we visit the National Basilica for a day," said Bishop Caggiano.

"The pilgrimage encourages everyone to become missionary disciples with me, and to invite their friends, family and neighbors to deepen their faith and their relationship with the Lord."

The bishop said that through prayer and pilgrimage people can find "a joyful heart, a more optimistic view, and the energy to make a difference in the world."

The pilgrimage to the shrine is the culmination of the online Face of Prayer campaign, which the bishop formally launched on Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Augustine Cathedral. Following the shrine's dedication, the Face of Prayer campaign will be open to people all over the United States, with Bishop Caggiano making a special invitation to the more and 20,000 young people who will attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in



NATIONAL SHRINE of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

Indianapolis later this year.

Since the launch of the Face of Prayer campaign, thousands have responded to the bishop's call to prayer by texting a "selfie," a prayer intention, or the word "pray" to 55778 to join in the faith journey to learn more about the power of prayer. Participants receive a daily prayer intention from the bishop that ends with a call to prayer. The diocese has also released video reflections by Bishop Caggiano on the power of prayer.

To date, more than 17,000 texts have been sent and ready by participants in the Face of Prayer.

The campaign and the pilgrimage are being sponsored and supported by the diocesan Leadership Institute under the leadership of Patrick Donovan.

Donovan said he would like to see more than 1,500 people make the trip to D.C. for a day of prayer. He is encouraging parishes, schools, ecclesial movements and youth groups throughout the diocese to reserve a bus.

He said that, at the request of the bishop, no events are to be scheduled on September 23, so as many people who wish to participate may do so unencumbered.

The Diocesan Youth Choir, under the direction of Mary Bozzuti Higgins, will participate in the pilgrimage and sing during the Mass at the Basilica.

(The fee for transportation is \$60 per person. Group rates and some financial assistance are available. For more information and to register, visit www.thefaceofprayer.com or email: institute@diobpt.org. Those who would prefer to travel to Washington D.C. on Friday and stay overnight before the pilgrimage can make a reservation through Little Flower Tours and Travel. The \$299 fee includes deluxe round-trip motor coach, one night at the Hampton Inn, White House, Washington D.C., and breakfast. Buses will depart from Stamford and Bridgeport. For more information, call toll free: 888.843.7373. The Mass at the National Basilica on September 23 will be covered live by EWTN.)

New tax structure seeks equity and fairness

BRIDGEPORT—The Diocese of Bridgeport has announced a revised tax structure which was implemented in all parishes on July 1, 2017.

Often referred to as *Cathedraticum*, it is an annual tax imposed on parishes to be used for the administration and operating costs of the diocese, while the funds raised through the Annual Catholic Appeal and other gifts and bequests are used to support mission-related initiatives of the bishop and diocese.

A taxation committee formed by the bishop, which included pastors and diocesan finance council members, has worked for over a year in reviewing various models with a goal of proposing a more equitable and fair tax on all parishes. The bishop presented the proposed changes to the clergy during an April 26 meeting and formally accepted the committee's recommendations in a decree released in June.

"I am grateful for the hard work of the members of the committee,



THE CATHOLIC CENTER, BRIDGEPORT

who were diligent and thoughtful in presenting and reviewing their proposals and who had the best interest of both the diocese and the parishes in mind. The revised structure creates equity and fairness in parish assessments while supporting the important work of the diocese," the bishop said.

The changes per the decree are:

A 12.5 percent tax for all non-Bridgeport parishes and a 5.5

percent tax for all Bridgeport parishes on certain revenue sources, which include offertory, investment income (interest, dividends and realized gains), rental income, and gifts and contributions (excluding bequests);

A three percent tax on gross fundraising revenue for all parishes (excluding auxiliary activities, such as youth group activities, mission trips, etc.);

Any increase of \$20,000 or more in a parish's tax assessment would be phased in over a two-year period.

The new model imposed an assessment on additional revenue sources totaling approximately \$15.2 million generated from parish investment income, rental income, contributions (excluding bequests) and parish-related fundraising events. The change in the phased-in assessment resulted in increases totaling approximately \$452,000 to 39 parishes and decreases totaling approximately \$333,000 to 44 parishes. When fully phased in the next fiscal year, the net increase in tax revenue will be less than 2.5 percent.

According to Michael Hanlon, CPA, diocesan chief financial officer (CFO) and a member of the Taxation Committee, under the new plan, the traditional 15 percent tax will be lowered to 12.5 percent for non-Bridgeport parishes, and the tax base will be expanded to include certain investment income, rental income, contribu-

tions excluding bequests, and parish related fund raising revenue.

"Our goal was to address some of the inequality in the system and offer relief to parishes with limited revenue sources while imposing assessments on parishes with untaxed rental, fundraising and other income sources."

Hanlon said the committee looked at various rate structures, models and the effect of each on a cross section of parishes before deciding to lower the overall rate and broaden the assessment base.

"Our ultimate goal was to create a fair, equitable and clear tax structure for parishes," he said.

More than a dozen pastors submitted their comments regarding the proposed tax, all of which were duly presented to the Taxation Committee in detail and given serious consideration.

Msgr. Thomas Powers, vicar general and Taxation Committee chair, said most questions involved the three areas of rental income, fundraising and gifts and bequests.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Diocesan Operating Budget

Diocese releases budget

BRIDGEPORT—The Diocese of Bridgeport is continuing its turn-around strategy and a path to fiscal responsibility by reporting an operating budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 with a slight surplus for the first time in several years.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and the Finance Council of the Diocese of Bridgeport have approved a fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, operating budget with a total of \$21,330,010 in revenues and \$21,292,732 in expenditures, representing a \$37,278 projected surplus.

"This is something we have been working toward over the past three years and it represents the hard work of the entire diocesan team as we seek to build efficiencies and productivity while reducing costs," said Michael Hanlon CPA, chief financial officer (CFO) of the diocese. When the fiscal year 16-17 \$321,229 deficit budget was approved last year, goals and mandates were established to achieve a balanced budget and the elimination on reliance of one-time revenue sources such as proceeds from property sales. The 2017-18 budget fulfills those goals and mandates.

"We will continue to be stewards of all funds entrusted to us as we continue fiscally responsible and prudent decision making at all levels of the diocesan management team," said Hanlon.

Hanlon said that a number of factors have led to expense reduction, including the ability to control healthcare related expenses. "The implementation of recommendations related to our benefit plans from a volunteer committee of experts is starting to deliver cost saving benefits."

Hanlon said that the committee included doctors within the diocese, as well as a partnership with an area hospital, to help insured employees manage their care to control individual health care costs

Other areas of reduced expenses have been with professional fees, office related, travel and seminars and interest expenses and contracted services. The diocese also realized some savings from the reassignment of priests returning from graduate studies and taking on new parish assignments.

Salaries and benefits continue to represent approximately 52.0

percent of the overall budget, Hanlon said, noting that we need to continue to reward our diocesan employees for their dedication to our mission, thus market-rate salary increases have been budgeted again.

Contributions and grants, allocated from Annual Catholic Appeal contributions, to diocesan mission-related entities represent approximately 21.2 percent of this budget. These contributions and grants support the missions of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, St. Catherine Academy for Special Needs, the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, the Cardinal Shehan Center and the Bishop's Scholarship Fund with Foundations in Education.

Despite the expense reductions, the diocese has been able to budget for several new positions. A strategic planning committee formed by the bishop, whose members contain volunteer experts in various fields, identified areas of needed enhancements within the Catholic Center. One area relates to diocesan-wide information technology and communications. The recently announced hiring of a new information technology leader will further develop and implement a diocesan-wide strategy for both areas.

Other budgeted positions to develop synod-related initiatives include the Catholic Service Corps, the legal department and the education office.

The two major sources of revenue for the annual operating budget are the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) and the cathedralicum (see related article), the traditional assessment on parishes to support the administration and operating costs of the diocese.

The diocese also continues to develop a plan to eliminate the outstanding balance of the Knights of Columbus loan and related interest expense. This loan has been reduced from \$15 million to \$8 million in the last three years and hopefully will be fully paid off within the next year by earmarking proceeds from asset sales.

Hanlon said that Andrew Schulz, director of real estate and Anne McCrory, chief legal and real estate officer, have done a remarkable job in maximizing proceeds from real estate sales and also identifying opportunities

to generate alternative sources of revenue from property leases by marketing vacant diocesan owned buildings for use.

An additional concern and a long-term underfunded liability are the obligations related to the diocesan lay pension plan. A committee of finance council members is continuing their work to explore alternatives and proposed solutions to resolve this funding issue.

In December 2013, Bishop Caggiano took a major step toward financial transparency when he released the audited financial statements for years 2010, 2011 and 2012. Audited financial statements for the subsequent periods ending December 31, 2013 and 2014, as well as the 18-month report for the period ending June 30, 2015, have been released annually. All reports can be found online. He also addresses finances in his yearly "State of the Diocese" report, which will be issued in January.

(To learn more, visit the diocesan website: www.bridgeportdiocese.com/financialreports.)

The Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation

Operational Budget — July 2017- June 2018

Revenue

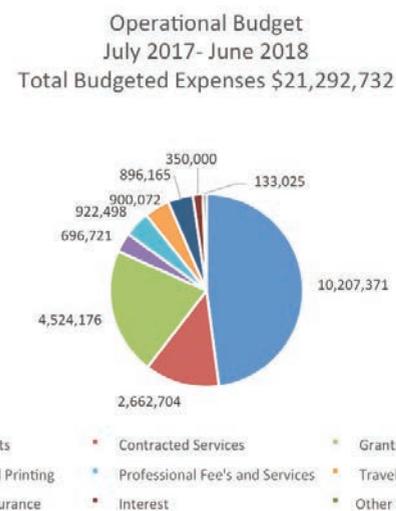
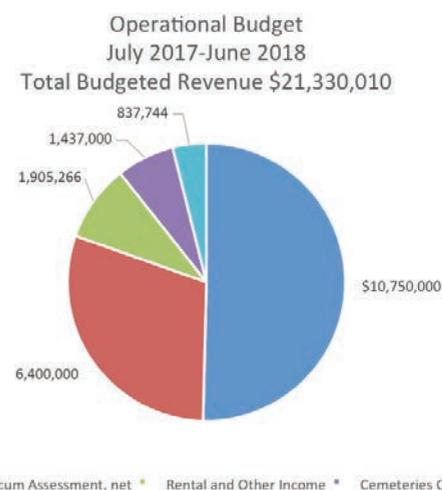
Annual Catholic Appeal, net	\$10,750,000
Cathedralicum Assessment, net	6,400,000
Rental and Other Income	1,905,266
Cemeteries Contribution	1,437,000
Contributions and Bequests	837,744
Total Revenue	\$21,330,010

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$10,207,371
Contracted Services	2,662,704
Grants and Contributions	4,524,176
Office, Postage and Printing	696,721
Professional Fees and Services	922,498
Travel, Seminars, Dues and Other	900,072
Occupancy and Insurance	896,165
Interest	350,000
Other Supplies and Expense	133,025
Total Expenses	\$21,292,732

INCOME FROM OPERATIONS — BEFORE DEPRECIATION

\$37,278



Youth Ministers Meet

Sharing vibrant vision of faith

FAIRFIELD—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and members of the Diocesan Faith Formation Team recently met with more than 120 youth ministry leaders throughout the diocese in the year-end Convocation held at St. Pius X Parish in Fairfield.

“The meeting of youth ministers was amazing. It was the excitement I’ve been waiting to see for years. There was a great spirit in the room and a commitment to evangelical renewal. Everyone is working together toward a new vision that is pastorally vibrant and fills our churches. In the process we are also building the foundation for new catechesis,” said Bishop Caggiano.

Patrick Donovan, director of the diocesan Leadership Institute, said youth ministers are on the front lines of the diocese’s work with young people and play a key



YOUTH MINISTERS gathered at the Catholic Center recently for their end of year meeting and discussion of major initiatives. Patrick Donovan, director of the Leadership Institute, told them they were on the “front lines” and played a major role in passing on the faith to young people.

role. It is important they become “conduits, not gatekeepers” in passing on the faith. “We appreciate the passion and dedication with which youth ministers

approach their ministry and pray each day for them and their families,” he said.

During the program, Donovan gave an overview of many

activities involving youth in the diocese and outlined some of the challenges. He urged youth ministers to encourage young people to participate in the Face of Prayer movement that has now garnered the support of more than 1,500 participants via text, prayers posted online, or “selfies” posted to the web page.

Donovan also shared additional details on the September 23 pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., for the dedication of a new shrine at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Young people can register on the Face of Prayer website: thefaceofprayer.com.

Donovan said that, at the request of the bishop, no events are to be scheduled on September 23, so as many people who wish to participate may do so unencumbered.

“Our hope is to take more

than 1,500 participants to the shrine for this great day, and we invite you to spread this exciting invitation far and wide,” he said.

Youth ministers were also given the first look at the draft report for the Catechetical Task Force. Donovan told them that this document has already changed several times and will likely change again, given the results from the “TellBishopFrank” survey and other feedback. The final version will be published in mid-September and discussed at the People of Joy conference on September 30.

In discussions concerning the reimagining of Faith Formation in parishes throughout the diocese, Donovan said parishioners need to become more involved in their parishes, so that young people don’t simply learn about religion, but experience their faith

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

PILGRIMAGE TO THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN WASHINGTON DC

September 23, 2017

An Invitation from Bishop Frank Caggiano

One hundred years ago, Our Lady appeared to three young people in Fatima, Portugal asking them to pray. For several weeks, I have been inviting you to pray with me as part of *The Face of Prayer* campaign. I now invite you to join me for a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where we will dedicate a shrine to her honor in the name of all young people.

All are welcome to join me on this special day. Mass will be celebrated in the Basilica at 2 PM, followed by a procession and the dedication.

Buses will depart early in the morning from Stamford, Bridgeport and Monroe.

Cost: \$60 per person

For more information and to register please visit
www.thefaceofprayer.com
or call 203.416.1670



The Face of Prayer

Pontifical Mission Societies

Father Boccaccio is named director

By PAT HENNESSY

“Most Catholics don’t realize that the Pontifical Mission Societies were founded by the Pope and work directly under the Pope,” says Father Michael Boccaccio, the new diocesan director. “The Pope is my boss!”

Since 1922, the Pontifical Mission Societies have been the Catholic Church’s official support organization for overseas missions. The organizations include the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano tapped Father Boccaccio for the position of director because of his sensitivity to the plight of people in developing countries. As the former pastor of St. Philip Parish in Norwalk, Father Boccaccio learned of the struggle people face in many countries through the 30-Hour Famine, a youth program sponsored by World Vision in which teens fast and engage in service projects to raise awareness



FATHER MICHAEL BOCCACCIO, new director of the Society for Propagation of the Faith

and funds for children dying of hunger, among other atrocities. The project draws teens from throughout the area and has been going strong at St. Philip since 2004. To date, the teens have raised more than \$360,000 to fight injustices.

“I am grateful to Bishop Caggiano for his confidence in me,” says Father Boccaccio. “I very much am in the learning process, and I want to share what I learn with the people of this diocese. I find that exciting.”

The Pope specifically asks the Pontifical Mission Societies to

help bring the messages of Christ to the world, especially in countries where Christianity is new, young or poor. They work to raise awareness and foster prayer

and cooperation in the whole Church. They are the only organization that supports every one of the 1,200 mission dioceses of the world. They exist through the generosity of Catholics and play a crucial role in combating poverty, disease and exploitation.

The societies care for and support the younger churches until they are able to be self-sufficient.

“We are all one family,” Father Boccaccio says. “We are asked by the Lord Jesus to care for one another. I did not fully realize the catholic—with a small ‘c’—nature, the universal nature of the Church until I started reading more about it. All Christians are catholic in this sense; we are all united in Christ, we are all one. My goal is to raise con-

sciousness and awareness among people from Fairfield County.”

One of his hopes is to travel to some of the dioceses and parishes the Mission Societies assist. “My goal is to help Catholics in our diocese to know our whole catholic family, and I want to be able to speak from rooted ground experiences.”

The Pontifical Mission Societies help struggling people build houses, get fresh water and worship in safety and security. “Pope Francis is so into caring for his sheep, working for justice, encouraging outreach,” says Father Boccaccio. “To work under his leadership is more than an honor. Hence, my calling card bears the coat of arms of Pope Francis and our diocese.” ■

Celebrating Parish Ministry

BRIDGEPORT—Office and administrative pastoral associates throughout the diocese have been invited to a gathering on Friday, September 22, at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport.

The day will begin at 9 am and end by 2 pm. Lunch will be included and there is no cost or limit to the number of people who can attend from each parish.

Mike Patin, an internationally-known Catholic speaker who has motivated audiences across the world for more than three decades, will be the featured speaker.

“On behalf of Bishop Frank Caggiano, our purpose, in addition to celebrating their important ministry, is to offer encouragement and support to secretaries and other pastoral associates who continue to serve, in many ways, as the first point of evangelization in our parishes,” said Patrick Donovan, leader of the diocesan Leadership Institute.

Donovan said the invitation has been extended to all parish and ministry secretaries, receptionists, administrative assistants, bookkeepers, pastoral associates, and any others who have administrative responsibilities.



MIKE PATIN, an internationally recognized Catholic speaker, will offer encouragement and insight into the ministry of Parish office and administrative personnel on September 22 at the Catholic Center.

Mike Patin uses energy, humor and stories to affirm God’s goodness and presence among us while inviting others (and himself) to take the “next step” in our journey with God.

He has worked in ministry settings since 1984, first as a high school teacher and coach, and then in diocesan ministry for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Since 2003, he has worked full time as a speaker and “faith horticulturist.”

Throughout his ministry, Patin has been privileged to speak to groups ranging from 10 to 23,000 in over 130 dioceses in the U.S. and Canada. He has spoken at

parish missions, conferences, rallies, retreats, leadership institutes and in-service days, addressing youth, adults, families, clergy, seminarians, school faculties, businesses, athletic teams and hospital staffs.

Patin has published two books: *A Standing Invitation*, and *This Was Not in the Brochure: Lessons from Work, Life and Ministry*. In 2006, he received the National Catholic Youth Ministry Award.

(For more information or to RSVP, contact Patrick Donovan: pdonovan@diobpt.org or 203.416.1657.) ■

Human Trafficking of Children

Modern day slavery

By PAT HENNESSY

According to U.N. statistics, 50 percent of the people brought into the United States for human trafficking are children.

The operative word is “brought into.”

“People think that slavery and human trafficking are a problem in East Asia or somewhere far, far away,” said Sister Maureen Flemming, SSND. “It’s right here. Human trafficking is going on in every one of our cities. Route I95 and the Merritt Parkway are hotbeds of human trafficking. It’s here in Fairfield County, and it’s scary.”

Sister Maureen, outreach coordinator at St. Luke Parish in Westport, is a delegate from the School Sisters of Notre Dame to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. She spoke on the crisis of human traf-

ficking, modern day slavery, at a talk sponsored by the Council for Religious held at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport on June 3.

The U.N. Office of Drugs and Crimes defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transport, transfer, or harboring by means of threats or force.”

Of the 30 million people a year forced into labor or sexual industry, the majority are women and children. There is also a vigorous black market for organ transplants. According to the U.N., human trafficking is the second largest illegal industry, second only to drugs. In fact, it is more profitable than drugs. It’s a high-profit, low-risk crime, driven by the demand for cheap labor and services, and for sex.

“They’re here but we don’t see them,” says Sister Maureen. “They are making our lawns beautiful, working in hotels,

in massage parlors and spas. Women are bused into football games to service the after-game parties.”

Poverty is the single largest factor behind human trafficking, she explained. Women come to this country believing they will be legally employed as maids, waitresses, nannies or seamstresses, only to have their travel documents confiscated. Linguistically isolated, they are forced into prostitution or unpaid labor. Young runaways between the ages of 12 and 18 often fall victim to pimps lying in wait in train and bus stations. Refugees are vulnerable targets, as are people displaced by war or natural disasters. Children may come from abusive homes and end up on the streets.

“Human trafficking takes place wherever people are vulnerable,” says Sister Maureen. “The child trafficking issue is the worst



“WHAT CAN I DO?” Kathy Renzulli asks Sister Maureen Flemming after learning about the large numbers involved in human trafficking in Fairfield County.

part of the whole thing. It touches everyone’s heart.”

Incidents of human trafficking are not limited to large cities like Stamford or Bridgeport; reports have also been registered in wealthy areas like Greenwich and Westport. Sister Maureen notes a harsh truth about Fairfield County: “The wealthier the area, the easier it is to buy people.”

She urges people concerned with human bondage to look for red flags common in many of these situations: “As a faith-based community, we need to put on better glasses,” she says. “Notice if working teenagers are accompanied closely or excessively monitored by an older person. Does a teenage girl have an older ‘boyfriend?’ Is she not coming regularly to school? If you talk to a foreign woman in a spa or salon, does a man stand close by to keep an eye on the conversation? Does a person show bruises

and give an inconsistent explanation for them?”

Concerned citizens should not get involved with these situations themselves, Sister Maureen emphasized. “Put this number in your cell phone: 1-888-373-7888. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center will take your confidential call and follow up on it.” Some of these situations are complex, and it’s better to have someone with the proper training deal with it.

“Citizens in this county are the eyes and ears of justice,” she concludes. “When we educate ourselves, we can make a difference in the lives of the vulnerable, ‘invisible’ people in our midst.”

(To learn more about the scourge of human trafficking, go to www.polarisproject.org. To report a suspected case, call 888.373.7888. Anyone interested in getting involved in the issue locally can contact Sister Maureen: schotzi@aol.com.) ■

Think First and Stay Safe

Learn about the Children’s Safe Environment Training, Think First and Stay Safe and the Netsmartz workshop in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

You are invited to join other parents in the Diocese of Bridgeport in discussing topics including, but not limited to:

- child safety
- sexual abuse prevention
- internet dangers
- bullying
- abduction prevention
- technology safety

Safe Environment Training for Parents

August 10 or September 28
(Children are not permitted at this session)

5-6 pm (Elementary School Curriculum K-8),

6:15-7:15 pm (High School Curriculum 9-12)



Safe Environment Training for Parents Together with Their Child

November 18

(pre-registration required)

or March 24

(pre-registration required)

Children must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian and are only permitted to attend a session that is appropriate for their child’s age/grade level

Grade Kindergarten: (35 minutes)
Time: 9-9:35 am

Grades 1 & 2 (45 minutes)
Time: 9:45-10:30 am

Grades 3 & 4 (45 minutes)
Time: 10:45-11:30 am

Grades 5 & 6 (45 minutes)
Time: 11:45 am-12:30 pm

Middle School Grades 7 & 8
(45 minutes) Time: 1-1:45 pm

High School Grades 9-12
(1 Hour) Time: 2-3 pm

Location: The Catholic Center, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606.

Bernadette Griffen, L.P.C., Safe Environment Program Assistant, will be the facilitator. Pre-registration is required to ensure that you are notified in the event of any changes or cancellations. For more information, please visit www.bridgeportdiocese.com under Safe Environment/Continuing Education

Please register by email or call no later than 48-hours prior to the date of the training.

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St. Birgitta Celebrates its 60th

Living a charism of hospitality

By PAT HENNESSY

Teens from Christ the King Parish in Trumbull spilled onto the grounds of Vikingsborg, the guest house of the Sisters of St. Birgitta in Darien. They were there for a June picnic to wrap up the year's youth group activities.

"We could see the water right away," says Will DeFusco, a junior at Trumbull High School. "It was so different from what I thought it would be. It was secluded and private, and it felt relaxed."

Relaxation, comfort and peace are exactly what the Sisters hope to give visitors to the grounds of Vikingsborg, one of the quiet treasures of Fairfield County.

"Our charism is prayer, reparation and unity through hospitality," says Sister Renzy, OSSS, superior of the Convent of St. Birgitta. "It not from any preaching, but just by



THEY FEEL PEACE—A charism of unity, reparation and hospitality is expressed in the welcoming atmosphere of the guest house and convent of St. Birgitta in Darien, as a youth group from Christ the King in Trumbull discovered on a Sunday in early summer.

being here and being natural with people who come."

The convent and guest house of Vikingsborg, the name given it by its original owners, has been

welcoming people with peace and charm for the past 60 years. The Sisters celebrated the 60th anniversary of their founding on May 27, with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano as the celebrant of the Thanksgiving Mass.

In a way, though, the inspiration for Vikingsborg began centuries ago with the birth in 1303 of St. Birgitta of Sweden. A wife and mother of eight, she exerted powerful influence in the Middle Ages, counseling kings and popes while establishing monasteries and convents across Europe. The order she founded offered places of rest along the route of pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. The distinctive Brigittine habit includes a metal crown over the veil, called the "Crown of the Five Holy Wounds." It has five red stones, one at each joint, in memory of the five wounds of Christ on the Cross.

Although the Brigittine order nearly died out in recent centuries, it was revived by St. Elizabeth Hesselblad, a convert to Catholicism, who was canonized on June 5, 2016. St. Elizabeth had always wanted to open a convent in the United States, where she'd lived as a young woman. Her wish was granted when the Vikingsborg estate, tucked into an inlet on Long Island Sound, was offered to the order by its owner, Marguerite Tjader Harris. The 10-acre property offers woodland walks, gardens and a private dock for boating and swimming.

"Vikingsborg will be a great work for God," Mother Elizabeth declared of what would be the last foundation of her lifetime. She died on April 24, 1957, a few weeks before a small band of four sisters set sail from Naples to New York.

The hospitality of the Sisters in Darien amply fulfills St. Elizabeth's vision. "We have all kinds of people come," says Sister Renzy. Guests are as varied as a yearly retreat group from Columbia University or a collection of local artists. It can be a place for individuals who want to get away for a while, or a setting for retreats. In keeping with the Sisters mission of unity, members of all faiths are welcome.

"Actions speak louder than words," says Sister Renzy. "By our being here and by our prayer life, they feel peace here. They feel God."

This summer Sunday, as young voices called encouragement in a badminton game and unskilled hands tried fishing off the dock,

the teens fell under Vikingsborg's welcoming spell. When one of the Sisters joined them, laughing and talking and happily sharing their hamburgers in her distinctive habit, the teens experienced something completely outside their normal Catholic world.

"Many of these kids have never seen a religious Sister," says Father Terrence Walsh, pastor of Christ the King. "I wanted them to see the convent and have the opportunity to meet the Sisters, but not in an overwhelming way. It's a beautiful way to learn about these aspects of faith—'We're going to a convent and we're going to have fun!'"

He hopes that, when the group begins its monthly meetings in the fall, this day's experience may lead to discussion about religious orders. "For now, it was just a great day."

That is exactly what the Sisters hope for.

"We kayaked around and looked at the houses along the shore," says Will. "I saw one big white bird with stalky legs land on the far side of the water." This was a new experience for a teen from inland Trumbull.

Though the charism behind the Sisters' hospitality was never spoken, the teens sensed it clearly. Thinking about why youth groups like theirs were invited to Vikingsborg, Will came up with an answer that would warm every Sister's heart: "They probably do it to bring people together."

(For more information on the guest house and convent of St. Birgitta, visit www.birgittines-us.com.)



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WESTPORT

Assumption, Greens Farms
Assumption, Kings Highway
c/o St. John Cemetery
223 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850
(203) 838-4271

TAX STRUCTURE FROM PAGE 3

Hanlon said that 12 of the 84 parishes will experience increases of greater than \$20,000 (which will be phased in at 50 percent this year) due to revenues generated from rental properties and other income.

With the new tax on gross income from rental properties, pastors, with their finance councils, are encouraged to explore the possibilities of renegotiating lease terms that would, for example, transfer some of the expenses of maintaining these properties to the lessee and reduce the amount of rent paid.

Gross income from fundraising revenue would be taxed at

only three percent.

Questions did arise, however, about whether some fundraising income would be exempt from the new tax. Hanlon said the Taxation Committee determined that certain fundraising should be exempt from assessments.

"For example, any fundraising activity that is geared toward a specific event or group within the parish will not be taxed. This includes, but is not limited to auxiliary fundraising activities for youth groups, mission trips, etc.," he said.

As was the case with the former tax structure, bequests left to a parish from a Last Will and Testament will not be taxed.

However, contributions made to the parish for projects that are part of the normal upkeep and maintenance of a parish (e.g. new signs, painting, sacramental items, etc.) are not tax-exempt.

In issuing the new guidelines, the bishop also consulted both the newly-formed Presbyteral Council and the Diocesan Finance Council. As was the case with the Taxation Committee, both councils unanimously advised him that the proposed cathedraticum should be promulgated.

Msgr. Powers will continue to address issues with pastors who have further questions related to their individual parish assessment.

Our Priests

Father Arrando moves on

By PAT HENNESSY

“You can take the boy out of Brooklyn, but you can’t take Brooklyn out of the boy,” says Father Angelo Arrando proudly, even though “the boy” has spent the last 27 years in the quiet green hills of Danbury as pastor of St. Gregory the Great Parish.

Father Arrando, who will retire as pastor of St. Gregory’s on August 15, brought far more than his Brooklyn experience to his assignments in this diocese. As a young man working in the business world, he discovered and fell in love with the global vision of the Maryknoll Missioners during a visit to Maryknoll in Ossining, N.Y. He studied at Maryknoll Seminary in Glen Ellyn, Ill., and at Maryknoll, and was ordained to the priesthood at Maryknoll in 1971 by Bishop James E. Walsh, M.M.

“Maryknoll really defined my understanding of the priesthood,”

he says. This May, as he marked the 46th anniversary of his ordination, he wrote a message to parishioners expressing the legacy of Maryknoll that he has treasured throughout his priesthood. Among those, he emphasized a global perspective of the universal Church, the importance and strength found in diversity, the universality of God’s love and mercy and the inherent sacredness of humanity created in the image and likeness of God.

Father Arrando spent a dozen years with Maryknoll and was studying at a language school in Korea when his father suffered a stroke. During his year as a transitional deacon, he had served at St. Peter Parish in Danbury and was familiar with this diocese. Following the double imperative to care for his family and minister to God’s people, he became incardinated into the Diocese of Bridgeport, serving first as parochial vicar at St. Aloysius

Parish in New Canaan. His next assignment brought him back to St. Joseph’s in Danbury, and he was then assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in Stamford. He also served as spiritual director of the permanent diaconate from 1980-83.

In 1990, he was named pastor of St. Gregory’s by Bishop Edward M. Egan.

“I love these people,” he says. “It really is a family here. I never wanted to leave them, and they know that. Of everything in my 27 years here, leaving is the hardest.”

Father Arrando brought his global outlook of the Church to the people of St. Gregory’s, and they embraced it wholeheartedly. “I challenged the people to grow, to look beyond their comfort zone and discover the universality of God’s love. We had a March for Immigrants in Danbury in



2000, and again in 2001. My parish was wonderful. They were so involved.”

Father Arrando became active in the Association of Religious Communities, which works to promote peace between religions through understanding and love. “We have 20 different denominations and faith groups, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Baha’i—people who are different spiritually. We all belong to God’s family. During tense times, at the Jewish High Holy Days our parishioners provided security for a nearby synagogue.”

While he has scaled back his involvement in the past few

years, Father Arrando is pleased to note that many parishioners from St. Gregory are still active in the group. A global perspective of faith will be his continuing legacy in this quiet corner of the diocese.

As he prepares to leave St. Gregory’s, Father Arrando still does not know what he will do next. “I may write, or I may go into teaching in Manhattan, or I might land up in Florida,” he says, willing to follow God’s call beyond his own personal comfort zone.

One thing he does know. “I’m not a person who sits back and does nothing.” ■

Catholic Daughters awards

NORWALK—The Catholic Daughters, Court St. Matthew, is proud to announce the local winners of their 2017 Education Contest. The theme this year was “What You Do For the Least of my Brethren, You Do for Me: Helping the Needy Where I Live.”



Categories include art, essay, poetry and computer art. There were two divisions: Division 1 for grades 4 and 5, and Division 2 for grades 6 through 8.

Awards divisions were presented to students from All Saints School in Norwalk and at Our Lady of Fatima School in Wilton during special assemblies in their respective schools. Marie Crispi, education chair for Court St. Matthew, presented the awards.

All Saints: Division 1—Angelina Russo, Veronica Bosco, Alex DeLallo, Hanna Haywood, Alyssa Pollak and Mattias Rivera; Division 2—Alexander Mutis, Colin Ryan, Alex Horvath, Charlotte Silva, Abigail DeCesare, Keegan Bidlack, Matt Debes, Shelia Green, Megan DeLallo, Jamie Brown and Emanuel Gjoka.

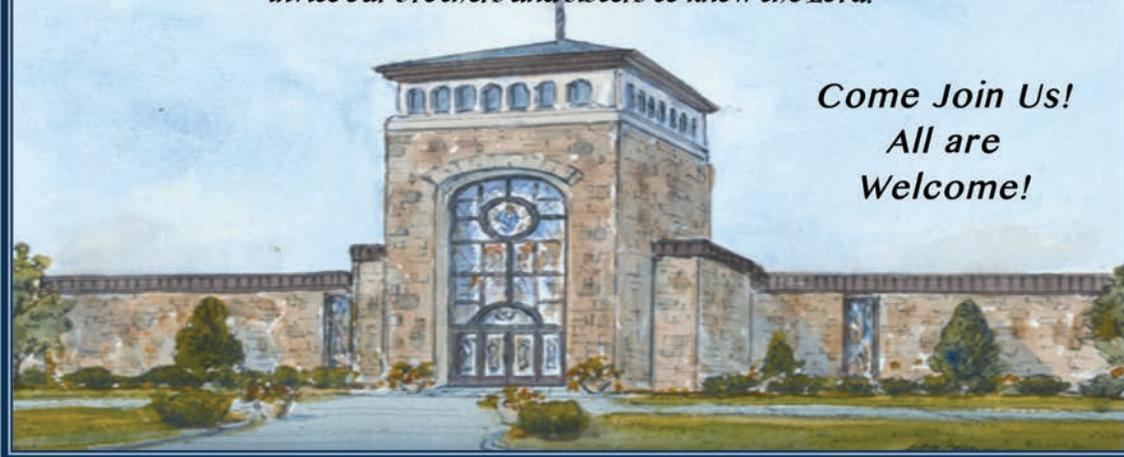
Our Lady of Fatima: Division 1—Keira Primps, Luisa Spremuli, Rick Wang, Ava Fleming, Fabrizio Perez, Allison Edovard, Sofia Pace, Ryan McMahon and Lauren Davis. Division 2—Patriska Richard, Madison Bartek, Ryan Carroll, Christina O’Sullivan, Ellen Feeney, Rian Byars, Lizzie Scott and Anastasya Pshyk.

First place entries in each category have been sent to the state level competition. ■

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5:00 pm Teen Mass with Vibrant Youth Music

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 7 am, 9 am, 5:30 pm

Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday 7:00 am & 5:30 pm



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Annual Catholic Appeal

Interested in volunteering?

BRIDGEPORT—The Diocese of Bridgeport is using social media and its website (www.bridgeportdiocese.com) to make it easier for people who are interested in volunteering to share their time and talent to serve others.

The new “Volunteer Opportunity” project is the work of Pamela Rittman, director of the Annual Catholic Appeal and director of development.

“As we hosted receptions this year, we heard clearly from our parishioners and donors who support the Annual Catholic Appeal an interest in volunteering as well as making a contribution to support the good work of the diocese,” Rittman said.

“We created a ‘Volunteer Opportunity’ area on our website to focus on diocesan areas in need of volunteers. Those interested are able to view a list and check off an area where they



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES--New pages added to the diocesan website will help match service needs and volunteers in the diocese. The new pages encourage individuals, families and even entire groups to get involved by volunteering in a variety of settings.

want to assist. Their contact information is sent to a ministry representative for follow-up based on their skills and interests.”

Rittman said that Bishop

Frank J. Caggiano has often commented on the talented laity in Fairfield County, which numbers many business leaders, educators and a wide range of professionals.

“Volunteers represent a tremendous untapped resource. Many have been inspired by the bishop’s leadership and are eager to step forward as we work together to renew the diocese. Volunteering is also a great way to connect with other faithful Catholics, make friends and share one’s God given talent,” Rittman said.

The new web page works by helping to list areas of need and linking the potential volunteer to the diocesan ministry, office or program that needs help.

Rittman said volunteers can help out in many ways, from serving in a Catholic Charities soup kitchen to working at special diocesan events, or using their office and computer skills and other professional experience. Among the diocesan entities that welcome the help of volunteers are Catholic Charities, the Leadership Institute, the Office of

Strategic and Pastoral Planning, Catholic schools, Foundations in Education, Faith Formation and the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA).

The Diocese of Bridgeport is dedicated to ensuring the safety of all children and individuals in the diocese. When placed in a position, volunteers are asked to complete VIRTUS training and clear a criminal background check.

Rittman said she hopes to encourage individuals, families, and even entire groups to get involved in the work of the diocese.

(For more information, visit the diocesan website: www.bridgeportdiocese.org and click on the Ways to Give tab and Volunteer Opportunities. Check off your area of interest and someone will contact you. Or you can call 203.416.1470. Thank you for helping to make a difference.)



interested in VOLUNTEERING?

The Diocese of Bridgeport needs volunteers, individuals and groups for a range of duties from working in a soup kitchen, to purchasing and preparing meals, general office work, excel spreadsheet preparation, event work, and more. How about a family or group volunteer event?



What is your interest? Here is where you can share your skills and make a difference. Don't see an area that interests you? Give us a call.

- Morning Glory Program, Catholic Charities (Danbury, CT)
- New Covenant House of Hospitality (Stamford, CT)
- The Thomas Merton Center House of Hospitality (Bridgeport, CT)
- Annual Catholic Appeal/Development
- Catholic Schools
- Faith Formation (Marriage Prep, Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Choir, Service Corps and High School Apostles/Convivio)
- Foundations in Education
- The Leadership Institute
- Office of Strategic and Pastoral Planning

THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST!

Please visit the diocesan website at www.bridgeportdiocese.org, click on the Ways to Give tab and Volunteer Opportunities. Check off your area of interest and someone will email you. If you do not have computer access please call 203-416-1470.

The Diocese of Bridgeport is dedicated to ensuring the safety of all children and individuals in our Diocese. When placed in a position, volunteers are asked to complete VIRTUS training and clear a criminal background check.

Summer Theological Institute

High school students take SHU 'Journey'

FAIRFIELD—Twenty-four high school students from across the state were selected to attend the second annual SHU Journey residential mentoring program in late June. The Lilly Endowment Summer Theological Institute for High School Youth provided funding for the weeklong event.

Kinnally, chancellor of the diocese and pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, celebrated the closing Mass at Sacred Heart.

Seven student-mentors from Sacred Heart University trained to lead participants in a transformative experience. "I truly feel that the most impactful part

said. "It was one of the most rewarding weeks of my ministry career; it was so full of love, companionship and friendship. To see so many high school students from the area come together for a week like that gave me so much

hope for the future of our Church and our world."

McCormick also noted the difficulties high school students face and the importance of making connections that will change lives. And this experience, which

expands students' understanding of faith through self-discovery and intellectual exploration, is sure to continue. "I am so looking forward to the future of this program and all the joys that will come from it," she said. ■



GRANT ENRICHES FAITH JOURNEY—The Lilly Endowment Summer Theological Institute for High School Youth provided funding for 24 high school students to spend a week at Sacred Heart University enriching their faith and exploring contemporary moral challenges.

"The grant is to educate youth in their faith, to help them explore contemporary moral challenges of the world in which they live and to explore how their faith calls them to service and leadership in the world," said Michelle Loris, associate dean of Sacred Heart's College of Arts and Sciences, chair of Catholic Studies and lead organizer of the SHU Journey.

"Each day focused on a different theme: God's Call; a Life of Meaning and Purpose; God's Presence in the World; Human Dignity; and Going Forth," Loris said. Activities included classroom instruction, prayer and reflection, Mass, music ministry, group discussion with mentors and peers, listening to religious leaders and lay Catholic speakers such as Frontier Communications CEO Dan McCarthy, athletics like volleyball and flag football, local community service and day trips to places such as the Cloisters in Manhattan and the Discovery Museum.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrated the opening Mass for the journey, and Father Robert

of the week was being able to lead and guide high-school students through their own faith journeys," said junior Trevor O'Brien, '19. The mathematics major appreciated the time spent doing community service in the Bridgeport area. "Mentees gained an understanding of the innate dignity of each person. We heard fabulous stories from the mentees on the sincere and heartfelt joy they experienced, helping those who were less fortunate than themselves."

The SHU Journey has a built-in support system, with supervisors in charge of assisting the mentors and overseeing the week's events. Campus minister Devon McCormick connects students with their faith during the regular academic year through retreats, prayer services and fun events, so getting involved with SHU Journey was a natural transition for her.

"The program that Dr. Loris designed is incredible. As soon as I learned of all the wonderful classes and activities planned for the participants, I knew I wanted to be part of SHU Journey," she

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EDITORIAL

What happened?

“Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.”

That smash hit by Nat King Cole back in the '60s captured the excitement of summer for a generation of kids. They're grown now, and gone—and the thrill of summer seemed to vanish with the new millennium.

What happened? Lots of things, probably. It's easy to blame technology: we're connected to the global economy, and all our friends and family, every minute of every day. People sleep with their phones by their pillow. But dig deeper. Remember hammocks—swinging gently in the back yard on a hot day? Remember kids climbing trees? Remember watering the grass after work; remember walking the dog in the long summer twilight?

The past is past. We can't recapture it. But we should be able to recapture summer. We need to, for both our mental and spiritual health. We need to let go of busyness. Being busy in summertime is not a value. It's a failing.

We need to roll down the car window and smell the new-mown grass. We need to feel hot sand between our toes. We need, sometimes, to simply be hot, tired and totally limp. We need to pray in gratitude and to soak in the blessings with the summer's heat and its cooling water. Try it, from now through Labor Day. Then you, too, can rediscover a lost joy. “You'll wish that summer could always be here.”

On Leadership

Earlier this month Bishop Caggiano led a diocesan delegation to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) convocation in Orlando, Florida, for a remarkable discussion about missionary discipleship and leadership.

More than 3,500 delegates from all across the U.S. attended “Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America.”

The bishop spoke eloquently when asked about division in the Church during a time of change and challenge. “The truth is there is division that comes with the best of intentions and unbridled zeal. ‘I have all the answers. This is the way it's going to work. This is going to save the Church.’ Forgive me, no one in this room is saving the Church. We already have a savior. His name is Jesus Christ.”

The bishop also set the tone at the Leadership Roundtable on Church Management held in advance of the convocation meeting. Catholic News Service reported that the Roundtables statement “builds upon a framework of empowered humility and creativity in ministry provided by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut. This requires laity and ordained being in right relationship as co-responsible for the mission” of the Catholic Church.

At the leadership convocation Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, sent the delegates home with this message: In the face of adversity and naysayers in today's world—not unlike the apostles who wondered how they would feed the masses—the Church is called to take what they have, as Jesus did and reap the rewards of achieving great things in the face of the impossible. “Imagine what we will have left over after we do it at the Lord's word,” he said. “Jesus gives the apostles and everybody who listens to them ... he gives them that power. Do we believe? St. Paul says if we believe, we can go out and do what is asked.”

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the U.S., congratulated convocation participants for a lively and invigorating four days. He recapped the keynote presentations, reminding the delegates what they can do in their communities, much like the apostles, to “give comfort and peace to the wounded.”

“We are journeying together in the common bonds of the journey of faith,” said the archbishop, who attended the entire four-day conference that opened July 1. “This is a ‘kairos’ moment” in the life of the U.S. church, he added, calling people to share “by the witness of your lives” by being missionary disciples, as Pope Francis calls the faithful to be.

In conclusion Archbishop Pierre also said that in his upcoming report to the pope he would explain that “the Spirit is alive in the church in the United States.” In that spirit we express our gratitude to the bishop and our diocesan delegation for taking this journey of faith and bringing hope, change, and Good News back to the diocese as we move forward in faith and renewal.



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR

REVEREND PETER F. LENOX, Graduate Study to Parochial Administrator, Saint Joseph Parish, Norwalk. Effective date was June 30.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

REVEREND MICHAEL F. FLYNN, Parochial Vicar, Saint Theresa Parish, Trumbull, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield. Effective date was June 30.

REVEREND TIMOTHY A. IANNAcone, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Pius X Parish, Fairfield. Effective date was June 24.

REVEREND HARRY ALFREDO PRIETO JARAMILLO, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Theresa Parish, Trumbull. Effective date was June 24.

REVEREND OTONIEL LIZCANO, Parochial Vicar, Saint Gregory the Great Parish, Danbury to Part-time Parochial Vicar, Saint Joseph Parish, Norwalk and Part-time Parochial Vicar, Saint Ladislaus Parish, Norwalk. Effective date was June 30. Father Lizcano will reside at Saint Ladislaus Parish.

REVEREND JAIME MARIN-CARDONA, Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Danbury to Part-time Parochial

Vicar, Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport and Part-time Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date was June 30. Father Marin-Cardona will reside at Saint Mary Parish.

REVEREND EDICSON OROZCO, returned to Diocese from Leave of Absence, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Danbury. Effective date was June 30.

REVEREND JOSE ABELARDO VASQUEZ ROMERO, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Stamford. Effective date was June 24.

EPISCOPAL CHAPLAIN

REVEREND GERARD-FRANTZ DESRUISSEAU, Parochial Vicar, Saint Joseph Parish, Norwalk, to Episcopal Chaplain of Kolbe Cathedral High School, Bridgeport. Effective date was June 30. Father Desruisseau will reside at Saint Augustine Cathedral.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

REVEREND CHURCHILL PENN, Parochial Vicar, Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, to Part-time Parochial Vicar, Saint Charles Parish and Assistant Chaplain to Bridgeport Hospital. Effective date was June 30.

REVEREND JAMES VATTAKUNNEL, V.C., Assistant Chaplain to Norwalk Hospital and

Stamford Hospital, to Chaplain to Stamford Hospital. Effective date was June 30. Father Vattakunnel will reside at Saint Mary Parish in Stamford.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

REVEREND DAVID C. LEOPOLD, to Spiritual Director of Saint John Fisher Seminary, Stamford. Effective date was June 30. Father Leopold will remain as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Georgetown.

RETIREMENT

REVEREND WILLIAM SANGIOVANNI, President of Notre Dame High School, to retirement. Effective date was June 30. Father Sangiovanni will serve as President Emeritus of Notre Dame High School.

RESIDENCE

REVEREND ROBERT A. UZZILIO, Retired, to Saint Aloysius Parish, New Canaan. Effective date was June 15.

MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

REVEREND JHON GOMEZ, Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Norwalk, to Medical Leave of Absence. Effective date was July 1. Father Gomez will remain Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish.

*Reverend Joseph A. Marcello
Vicar for Clergy, July/August, 2017*

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Editorial



Not an option

GUEST COLUMNIST

BY JOE JANUSAITIS

Joe Janusaitis is a member of Christ the King Parish in Trumbull.

I didn't have my life flash before my eyes, or see a white light, or anything like that. This isn't that kind of story.

To go back to the very beginning, my family always had a devotion to the Miraculous Medal, beginning with my mother. I have worn a Miraculous Medal most of my adult life. You could say that Mary was a friend of the family.

I would pray the Rosary, too, especially during times of crisis, or in thanksgiving. Our pastor, Father Terrence Walsh, had spoken about the Rosary, and I

was receptive to that. I'd picked up a small leaflet explaining the Mysteries of the Rosary that was placed in the vestibule by our Knights of Columbus.

Every year, I get a regular checkup with my doctor. Every year he'd say, "You should go for a colonoscopy." Because I was a healthy man I never made it a priority. This time I did make an appointment, and when I had to cancel, I actually re-scheduled it.

In early January I went for the procedure, and they found three polyps. Two were normal. The third they couldn't remove.

It was different. It was special. It was morphing into a cancerous growth.

At this point, I'm saying the Rosary every day.

As I began to pray with more understanding, I came to find the Rosary a very complete prayer. The mysteries were a deep dive not only into the events of Mary but into events in the life and ministry of Jesus. They are intertwined.

In the Rosary, you see that there's a balance between devotion to Mary and devotion to Jesus. Mary always leads people to her son.

By the time of my surgery I felt someone was listening. I felt a strength. There was a confidence and peace.

On April 7, I was scheduled for laparoscopic surgery, a minimally invasive surgery using a fiber optic camera. I started bleeding. My doctor, Dr. John Aversa, had to stop the robotic surgery and go in through a larger abdominal incision.

He took out the tumor and

the margins and some lymph nodes and sutured the opening. Everything was done and the anesthesiologist was waiting for me to wake up.

My blood pressure started dropping. I had internal bleeding. I was on the verge of death.

Now, I didn't know any of this. My wife, Linda, told me afterward that the procedure quickly morphed into "Why is Joe bleeding?" It was touch and go. They gave me two infusions of blood and had to re-open the surgery site. It's still open; it will heal in its own time.

When I woke up the next day, I woke up in the ICU, attached to wires and tubes and all these machines. You could say that I woke up in a different reality—or at least a different comprehension of reality.

All through this experience I had been praying, and I had felt as though I was being supported through my surgery. Friends and people at work—Christians and Jews, people of different denominations—had been praying for

me and I felt surrounded by their prayers. I still feel surrounded by their prayers. Without those prayers, I don't know what would have transpired.

I had never spoken about religion with Dr. Aversa. At a recent checkup, he told us that he would be away for a while. We asked about his upcoming trip, he said, "I'm going to Lourdes."

It was like coming full circle, back to Our Lady. I discovered that he is a member of the Order of Malta. I believe that he is doing the Lord's work on earth.

I could have died. But I didn't die. So—what now? I've been given this time. What do I have to give back for this time I have been given? What am I going to do with it?

That is now a burning issue. I have not arrived at a conclusion.

I have come away with one central point in this new reality I inhabit. Jesus doesn't ask you what you've done, but what have you not done.

Doing nothing is not an option. ■



Everyone was a bird

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

I had my appendix removed. For days after the procedure I did what I was supposed to: slump around the house, slow-step up the stairs, studiously avoid anything resembling useful behavior.

I was under strict orders to take it easy. This boy's a good soldier. You don't need to tell me twice.

The episode shall henceforth be known as "my convalescence." I imagined myself a war poet sloughing off shell shock in a quaint sanatorium. *Dulce et decorum est convalescere.*

When you're housebound

and hunchbacked, you notice stuff that may otherwise slip by. Staring absently out the window one morning, I spied a bird with a busted wing flailing around at the end of the driveway.

It's the kind of thing that happens every day in the big, bad world. It's not the kind of thing you see every day in your driveway.

She was a female cardinal, not bright red like the boy bird on the baseball hat, but "buff brown," per the Peterson Field Guide on our bookshelf, "with some red on the wings and tail." The red on the poor girl's

broken wing was impossible to miss because she was dragging it behind her and pecking at it. She seemed to regard it more as nuisance than body part.

The lady was in trouble. A bird can't fly on one wing, and a bird that can't fly is a bird that won't last. She might have worn a sign that said: I Am Weak and Vulnerable. Someone in the big, bad world was surely going to take advantage.

Nature, red in tooth and claw, abhors the feeble. Big animals eat little animals. Hale creatures prey on frail creatures. The food chain is not sentimental. War doesn't pause for poetry.

A century ago appendicitis would have dealt unsentimentally with me too. Slumping and slow-stepping led straight to the grave. Big medicine was the turning point. Before penicillin, a funky infection like the one in my belly would have been my war over.

I was brushing my teeth while I watched the bird. She seemed more annoyed by her injury than

worried about it, turning her head every few steps and jabbing at her broken wing. What she was doing looked painful.

She'd have been better off doing what I was doing, playing the war poet, looking for a safe place to rest up, dream, and get her strength back.

But who was I kidding? These are human impulses, not the kind of rational, considered behavior to expect from a cousin to the pterodactyl. She'd starve before she healed. Did she have any idea of the danger she was in, or was she too prehistoric to realize it?

Just at that moment I rubbed a stinging heap of toothpaste into my eye. When I looked back, the cardinal was gone. A robin had chased her off.

A few weeks earlier I'd awoken with a pain in my gut that couldn't be ignored. Luckily I don't live in a state of nature but rather Connecticut, with its Saturday-morning walk-in clinics and top-rated emergency rooms.

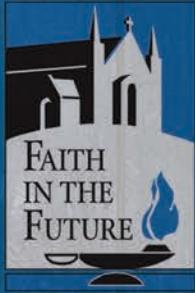
Smart doctors, kind nurses, CT scanners, and more big

medicine—much bigger than penicillin—means that acute gangrenous appendicitis isn't the widowmaker it once was. During a fitful night, my busted wing got the care it needed.

I managed to keep my wits, something many of the war poets—not to mention my feathered friend—couldn't do. Still, a hospital isn't always the place where our best selves shine. I overheard moans, groans, and harsh words such as "I just want to sleep," and "Stop asking me so many questions," and "Why are you even here?"

Maybe we've all got busted wings like that bird in my driveway. Maybe we're all dragging something behind us and don't quite know what it is. Maybe sentimentality is what separates us from all the wild animals, all the birds of heaven, and all the living creatures that creep along the ground.

My convalescence is nearly over. Time to leave war to the warriors and poetry to the poets. Time to resume useful behavior. ■



2016 STEWARDSHIP REPORT DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



LETTER FROM BISHOP FRANK J. CAGGIANO

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Faith in the Future, Inc. Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the second annual Stewardship Report for Faith in the Future Fund, Inc., the fundraising campaign undertaken by the Diocese of Bridgeport in 1995.

This Stewardship Report offers a statement of transparency and accountability that Faith in the Future Fund, Inc. has used donors' gifts prudently and wisely, joining with them in fulfilling our mission as Christian stewards and loving disciples. It summarizes the financial activities of Faith in the Future Fund, Inc. for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016 and 2015 and is designed to continue to keep you informed of the activities of the Fund to support the ministries and programs of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

With heartfelt thanks for your support of our Diocese and kindest personal regards and best wishes to you and your family, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Frank Caggiano

Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

FAITH IN THE FUTURE ENDOWMENT FUNDS

EDUCATION

Funds are utilized to provide scholarships, program support and specialized resources in an effort to keep tuition affordable within our diocesan high schools and elementary schools.

VOCATIONS AND SEMINARY EDUCATION

Funds are utilized for the development of vocation awareness and the education of our future priests.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Funds are utilized to support religious education programs and for the training of catechists and retreat teams.

FAITH IN THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN AND FAITH IN THE FUTURE FUND, INC.

INTRODUCTION

In 1995, Bishop Edward M. Egan authorized and the Diocese of Bridgeport conducted the Faith in the Future campaign to provide a source of endowed support for various ministries of the Diocese. In 1996, the Diocese established the Faith in the Future Fund, Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to manage the funds raised by the campaign.

For the year ending June 30, 2016 and 2015 respectively, the Fund distributed \$1,593,029 and \$938,225 support the various programs and ministries of Faith in the Future.



FAITH IN THE FUTURE STATEMENTS YEAR END

	2016		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanent Restricted
Support and Revenues:			
Contributions	\$ -	\$ 975,491	\$ 1,340,000
Investment loss, net	(19,845)	(460,395)	-
Total support and revenues	(19,845)	515,096	1,340,000
Net assets released from restrictions	1,621,880	(1,621,880)	-
Program Expenses:			
Scholarships	145,776	-	-
High school support and programs	598,040	-	-
Elementary school support and programs	200,000	-	-
Vocations and Seminary education	60,000	-	-
Religious education	90,000	-	-
Trinity Catholic field improvements *	499,213	-	-
Total program expenses	1,593,029	-	-
Management and General Expenses:			
Professional fees	25,147	-	-
Administrative expenses	3,704	-	-
Total management and general expenses	28,851	-	-
Total expenses	1,621,880	-	-
Change in net assets	(19,845)	(1,106,784)	1,340,000
Net assets at the beginning of the year	-	3,958,061	20,210,000
Net assets at the end of the year	\$ (19,845)	\$ 2,851,277	\$ 21,550,000

* Specific endowment released by donor for field improvements

MISSION STATEMENT

The Faith in the Future Fund, Inc. was established to raise, manage and disburse funds to support pastoral missions in the Diocese of Bridgeport. The funds are endowments and other restricted contributions that are utilized throughout Fairfield County.



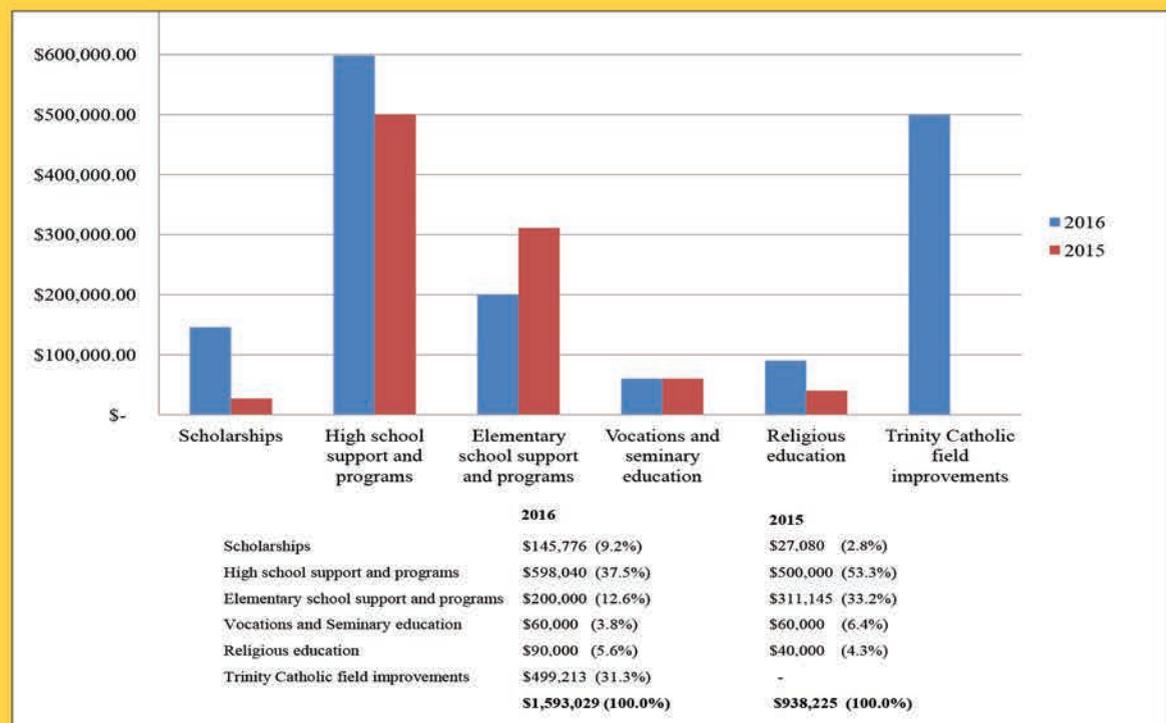
FAITH IN THE FUTURE FUND, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF JUNE 30,

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 139,782	\$ 44,666
Investments	23,124,631	22,309,468
Contributions receivable	975,491	-
Note receivable	300,000	-
Interest receivable	2,000	-
Due from the Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation	-	1,859,010
Total assets	<u>\$ 24,541,904</u>	<u>\$ 24,213,144</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u> 		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 9,000
Scholarships payable	-	27,080
Due to the Bridgeport Diocesan School Corporation	150,000	-
Total Liabilities	<u>150,000</u>	<u>36,080</u>
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	(19,845)	-
Temporarily restricted	2,851,277	3,958,061
Permanently restricted	21,560,472	20,219,003
Total Net Assets	<u>24,391,904</u>	<u>24,177,064</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 24,541,904</u>	<u>\$ 24,213,144</u>

FAITH IN THE FUTURE FUND, INC. STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES ENDED JUNE 30,

Fund	Total	2015			Total
		Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	
Endowment	\$ 2,316,960	-	-	95,358	95,358
Investment	(480,240)	-	(169,529)	-	(169,529)
Contributions	1,836,720	-	(169,529)	95,358	(74,171)
Other	-	997,504	(997,504)	-	-
Programs	145,776	27,080	-	-	27,080
High school support	598,040	500,000	-	-	500,000
Elementary school support	200,000	311,145	-	-	311,145
Vocations and seminary	60,000	60,000	-	-	60,000
Religious education	90,000	40,000	-	-	40,000
Trinity Catholic field improvements	499,213	-	-	-	-
Other	1,593,029	938,225	-	-	938,225
Other	25,147	59,279	-	-	59,279
Other	3,704	-	-	-	-
Other	28,851	59,279	-	-	59,279
Other	1,621,880	997,504	-	-	997,504
Other	214,840	-	(1,167,033)	95,358	(1,071,675)
Other	24,177,064	-	5,125,094	20,123,645	25,248,739
Total	<u>\$ 24,391,904</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,958,061</u>	<u>\$ 20,219,003</u>	<u>\$ 24,177,064</u>

FAITH IN THE FUTURE FUND, INC. PROGRAM EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,



* Specific endowment released by donor for field improvements

Summer Bible Camps

Bringing kids closer to Jesus

By KATHRYN GRIECO
AND ISABELLA BOUCHER

At the Bible Camp at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Norwalk, camp leader Mickey Mannella, a high school senior, was asked the question "What did you learn this week about yourself or about the campers?"

He responded, "To be patient.

counselors to listen, pay attention, and work together as a team. This was a fully inclusive camp—high schoolers implemented the lessons and middle school counselors led campers throughout the day. Leaders learned how to communicate effectively and to be understanding of those who can't respond as quickly. Many counselors and leaders come back

in a fun and effective way.

College student Stephanie Walsh, a returning counselor, enjoyed making crafts with the kids and said that "it was heartwarming to see that they wanted to make them for their mothers, fathers, siblings—and even for me too."

Each day there was something new and exciting for the kids. On the first day, Lisa and Penny from the Stamford Museum and Nature Center brought their "magical animal" collection, connecting a frog, snake, chinchilla, African bull frog, ferret, bearded dragon, goat and an owl to the main theme of the camp and helped the kids pet all of the animals, except for the owl.

Second day was dress up day, and since the camp catered to a medieval theme, kids, counselors, leaders, and even adult helpers dressed up like kings, queens, and dragons. Kids could pick things out of a dress-up box filled with shields, swords, helmets, wands, and crowns, to sit on a throne in front of a castle backdrop for a photo. They decorated their own swords and shields and got to use them for recreation in their very own bat-



MIGHTY DRAGON SLAYERS—Youngsters at St. Thomas Bible Camp decorated swords and shields to use for their very own battle for the Kingdom of God.



Every year I become more and more patient, but this year, being in the highest position I have been, I have become more patient than ever before."

This special Bible Camp, held at St. Thomas in June, assisted in not only learning passages from the Bible, but also developed comprehension skills which enabled campers, leaders and

time and time again.

Each day started with a morning prayer with St. Thomas' pastor, Father Mirek Stachurski. Then DRE Michelle O'Mara gave campers the schedule for the day, which included science, recreation, art, sacraments or Bible stories. Many crafts and activities combined religion and science, so kids were able to learn

tle for the Kingdom of God.

During recreation each day, they learned about the seven deadly sins by playing games such as obstacle courses, battles, parachutes, and so on. The activities guided them to guard their hearts and minds from these deadly sins and taught them how to conquer these sins as princesses and princes of the Lord.

On the third day, a bouncy castle arrived in the morning for the campers. While some were jumping in the castle, others were being face painted by Cecy Gillen. There was even a third option: water balloon tosses. "It's fun to see my friends I already know from school," said kindergartener, McKenna Testa. "Now I can see them in the

summer, too."

The fourth day was sundae day. All the campers came together to make their own sundaes during snack time, with fifth graders showing the younger kids how to take turns and not make a mess.

The last day of camp, Father Mirek celebrated a special children's Mass and campers sang their favorite new songs while parents and grandparents joined the group.

By the end of the week, campers did not want it to end.

(Youth counselor Kathryn Grieco is entering her junior year at Chaminade University in Hawaii. Isabella Boucher, a counselor in training, is going into the seventh grade at Nathan Hale Middle School.)

Bible Camp bestows treasures of faith

TRUMBULL—During the last week in June, St. Theresa Parish hosted its seventh annual Vacation Bible Camp, with about 140 campers attending. This year's theme, "Our Lady of Fatima: the Blessed Mother Speaks to the Children," was chosen in honor of the hundredth anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

Over 70 teens volunteered, and a number of adults as well. "We were very blessed with the presence of two Dominican nuns from Mary, Mother of the Eucharist order in Ann Arbor, Michigan," said Father Brian Gannon, pastor of St. Theresa. "The children took home with them a wonderful experience of Catholic hymns (even some in Latin!), arts and crafts based on items sacred to our Catholic faith, beautiful lessons from our two



PRAYER, HYMNS AND SKILLS—The 7th Annual Vacation Bible Camp at St. Theresa in Trumbull combined faith, fun, and formation for 140 campers.

nuns, and most of all, learning to pray in the presence of the Most Holy Eucharist in the monstrance during Adoration."

Father Gannon, and all the

staff at St. Theresa's, are very grateful to Rose Talbot-Babey, diocesan coordinator of elementary formation, for her expert help in coordinating the camp. "Our

thanks go, too, to the incredible teens and adult volunteers who worked so hard, and gave much of their time and talent to help spread the message of our Lady of

Most Holy Eucharist, while learning prayers, hymns and skills, will bring them and their families into a deeper relationship with the Virgin Mary and our Lord and



Fatima to our children," he said. "We pray that the time spent by the children in front of the

Savior Jesus Christ. These are the greatest treasures we can ever give our children."

Catholic HEART Workcamp

Teens grow closer to Jesus through service

By PRISCILLA MAHAR

“Catholic HEART is pretty much the best experience a young Catholic can have. They’re really good at making Catholicism stronger for a generation that is typically a questioning generation,” Ava Salhi, a junior at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull, reported.

From July 2-8, youth groups from all over the Diocese of Bridgeport attended Catholic HEART Workcamp, a trip that took place in Groton, Mass., centered around service, fellowship, and faith.

CHWC is a program where youth go on mission and serve people locally. These weeks of service take place in over 50 different cities nationwide. The mission of CHWC is “to foster the Catholic Faith of each participant through the sacraments, prayer and involvement in social service.”

Upon arriving in Groton, the CHWC the teens were assigned to different work teams that would be serving the community in different ways. Through this service they were able to strength-



“WE DID THE LITTLEST THINGS,” said Timothy Johnson, a freshman at Fairfield Warde High School, of the Catholic HEART Workcamp, “but seeing the smiles on the faces of the elderly people we helped was so inspiring.” Teens in the program traveled to Groton, Mass., where they spent the week doing home repairs, helping at daycare centers and serving at local homeless shelters and food distribution centers.

en their relationships with each other and with God.

“CHWC allows teens to explore their faith and establish an everlasting relationship with God. Through this week of service, we bond with people we would never have met otherwise, creating a strong relationship with a common goal; to do ser-

vice rooted in Christ,” said James Kane, a junior at Ridgefield High School.

The types of service that the participants in this camp take part in include renewing homes with yard work and home repairs, helping at daycare centers and serving at local homeless shelters and food distribution centers. The

work not only helps the local people in need, it also encourages the teens to grow to become disciples of Christ through service.

“We did the littlest things, like pulling weeds or organizing someone’s garage, but seeing the smiles on the faces of the elderly people we helped was so inspiring; to see how grateful they were for the littlest things that we normally take for granted,” said Timothy Johnson, a freshman at Fairfield Warde High School.

Aside from service, CHWC is centered around communion; with each other and with the Lord. Each day the participants would attend daily Mass. The homilies and Gospel readings focused on Jesus’ acts of service to others to remind the teens to act with kindness and compassion, and to do everything for the glory of God.

“Participants were able to see God working through both their team members and those they

were serving” said Libby Clyons, a parishioner at St. Catherine of Sienna in Trumbull and a chaperone on the trip.

It was important for faith to be nurtured in the participants in order for them to obtain the graces needed to meet the challenges of the week. This was done through Mass, prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and praise and worship together. Through giving glory to God in these different ways, the participants were able to nurture their relationship with Christ and with each other.

“At CHWC I not only got closer to my friends, but I built a stronger bond with Jesus. I made new friendships this week and got to know my youth ministers better than before,” said Mary Leydon, a junior at Westhill High School in Stamford.

These faith-building experiences were essential for the participants to most effectively serve others this week. One participant,

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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Called to Witness

Fostering global solidarity

By PRISCILLA MAHAR

When asked what message he brought back with him after a recent mission trip to Ethiopia, diocesan youth leader Evan Psencik, responded “Global solidarity!”

“We here can be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world, not just by helping them financially, but by understanding who they are and what they’re going through,” he said.

Psencik, who serves as coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Bridgeport, recently returned from the trip with ten other youth ministers from all over the country as part of a program called “Called to Witness,” in which people are invited to work with Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

CRS is the bishops’ international relief effort for reaching out to other countries in need.

Prior to leaving for Ethiopia, there was a lot of preparation; the youth ministers got to know each other and the CRS team over many facetime sessions and conference calls.

“The journey also required spiritual preparation” said Psencik. “I had a lot of friends go on ‘Called to Witness’ trips, which had an amazing impact on them,” he said in regards to his desire to make the trip.

While in Ethiopia, he and the others were able to work with the CRS staff and 250 local volunteers. Throughout the week they were able to witness the service provided by organizations that were working alongside CRS.

Psencik said that what surprised him the most about visiting Ethiopia was how hospitable people were.

“When visitors come they will sit and make and drink coffee together, but it’s a ceremony to emphasize hospitality” he said,

sharing a memory from a village they visited.

“The whole town came out to sing and dance to welcome us. They then even slaughtered a goat and cooked and prepared it to share a meal with us! Just the image of them welcoming us is something all of us will remember.”

Along with different villages, they also met with organizations working with CRS. They visited the Missionaries of Charity, serving the poorest of the poor, and a Farmers’ Cooperative, which pulls together different farmers in order to find better ways to distribute food, set better prices, and produce more crops.

CRS has many programs designed to provide better services for women in Ethiopia. “Women are still seen as second class at times in these countries,” Psencik explained. So organizations have been developed like the Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), which are user-owned, self-managed, savings and credit groups for women to help them start businesses.

“Girls over there go to school until 10th grade and then take a



GLOBAL SOLIDARITY—Evan Psencik, coordinator of youth and young adult ministry in the diocese, recently joined other youth ministers for a mission trip to Ethiopia. He said that solidarity is not just financial help but “understanding who they are and what they are going through.”

test to continue school. If they don’t pass the test they have to get married in the 10th grade” reported Psencik. The Girls Empowerment Project is working to help girls get a better education.

In addition to the organizations working with CRS, Psencik and the other youth ministers also got to see the work that the Diocese of Meki and Bishop Abraham are doing in Ethiopia. “They’re working to meet basic needs, food, water, housing—taking care of people” he said.

Now that he’s returned to the

U.S., Psencik is looking forward to using the wisdom gained from this experience working with CRS in his work here in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

“We want to show how young people here can be in solidarity with young people across the world. We need to educate our youth over here of the struggles that people are facing,” he said.

Psencik feels that if this trip has taught him anything, it’s about the importance of global solidarity by learning about the struggles of our brothers and sisters all over the world. ■

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Cardinal Shehan Center

Movie room gives kids a space to relax

BRIDGEPORT—Community members from the Class of '28 from the Bridgeport Regional Business Council's Leadership Greater Bridgeport Program Class '28 has renovated a movie room at the Cardinal Shehan Center, providing a space where kids can relax, unwind and watch movies.

On June 27, they unveiled their completed project: a renovated movie room at the Cardinal Shehan Center, located at 1494 Main St. in Bridgeport.

This year-long community service project was completed by six members of the Leadership Greater Bridgeport Program. These executives hail from St.

Vincent's Medical Center, The Center for Family Justice, United Illuminating, TD Bank, Aquarion Water Company and Public Allies Connecticut.

Terry O'Connor, the center's executive director, states, "The Cardinal Shehan Center is so grateful to have our project selected by the Leadership Greater Bridgeport participants. To have the leaders roll up their sleeves to volunteer in renovating our movie room—I'm beyond grateful."

The charge of Leadership Greater Bridgeport (LGB), an affiliate of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council, is to

grow and strengthen potential leaders in the greater Bridgeport region. The program consists of a 10-month course of 10 daylong workshops, along with an orientation, tour and graduation ceremony. Throughout the course, the participants are trained in leadership skills, team building, negotiation, coping with conflict, communication, decision making and listening.

In addition, participants acquire an acute awareness of community issues and challenges through face-to-face discussions with community leaders. During the course, the participants are broken into groups to develop



RELAX, UNWIND AND WATCH A MOVIE—Terry O'Connor, executive director of the Shehan Center, cuts the ribbon on a movie room renovated by Leadership Greater Bridgeport participants. Dr. Camelia Lawrence, a doctor at St. Vincent's Medical Center and one of the participants, looks on accompanied by a cluster of eager youngsters.

Father Connolly celebrates 60th

When he celebrated his 60th anniversary this May, Father Mark Connolly was also celebrating as many years in radio and television production.

A native of Boston, Father Connolly was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 1957. He specialized in the field of theology and psychology while preparing for ordination, but from the very first years of his priesthood he was involved in the field of communications in radio and television as a writer, producer and director.

Even as a young priest, he was a frequent radio lecturer for *The Catholic Hour*, a program that featured guest speakers on a number of different topics including communism, racism in America and interracial justice, and the role of the Catholic Church in government. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen often hosted the program.

Father Connolly started *The Sunday Mass* on television in the New York area in 1970. The production, which had taken two years of planning, first aired on December 9, 1970, on channel 9. It had an estimated viewing audience of more than three-quarters of a million people in the greater New York area. To accompany the program, he composed a TV Prayer Guide, a semiannu-



FRIENDS GATHERED AROUND for Father Mark Connolly's 50th jubilee. Ten years later, the programs he started are still going strong as he observes the 60th anniversary of his ordination.

al missal/prayer book. It was first distributed in 1972 with a run of 6,800. Over two million copies have been distributed.

Passionist Communications continues to produce *The Sunday Mass* on several local channels and the EWTN network.

Father Connolly founded Clemons Productions in 1980 with radio and television programs designed to reach a wide audience. With that in place, he organized and produced a second TV program, *That's the Spirit*, which debuted in 1981 and aired in New York. In its first four years, it won three Emmy nominations. Although Father Connolly is now retired, Clemons Productions is still going strong.

Coming to this diocese in 1991, he served as parochial vicar of St. Michael the Archangel parish in Greenwich. But that didn't slow his interest in outreach.

He was soon tapped by Bishop Edward M. Egan to become the director of the Office of Radio and Television for the Diocese of Bridgeport, and in 1993 he created a weekly radio program from the diocese called *Thoughts for the Week*. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the guest speaker on the broadcast this Easter Sunday.

Far in advance of his time, in 1995 Father Connolly launched the first Catholic Internet magazine, *Spirituality for Today* (www.spirituality.org). He was the first Catholic priest to undertake such an endeavor. The magazine has been given the Catholic Family Life Site Excellence Award.

Father Connolly retired in 2008, but as he looks back on a lifetime in communications, he can be sure that his efforts will bear fruit far into the future. ■

and implement a project that addresses a current community problem.

"The Leadership Greater Bridgeport Program provides an opportunity for leaders in our region to work on community service projects as part of the program," says Gwendolyn Brantley, director of Leadership Programs for the BRBC. "We are so excited that members of the Class of '28 can work on these projects to impact our community."

Founded in 1962, the Cardinal Shehan Center has a rich tradition of offering Bridgeport area youth

a variety of growth-enhancing programs and services. It serves the recreational, educational, social and cultural needs of moderate and low-income families and young people through a variety of programs, including an After School & Saturday Open Recreation Program, basketball and softball leagues, a summer day camp and physical education classes. In addition, the center offers enrichment programs such as tutoring, a Girls' Zone program, a Leadership Program, Fitness for Life, guitar, keyboarding, karate, swimming and dance. ■

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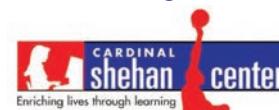
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National Catholic Register Interview

Bishop Caggiano on the 'Power of the Table'

(The Bridgeport, Connecticut, shepherd shares his thoughts on the Convocation for Catholic Leaders and the road ahead.)

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of the Diocese of Bridgeport received an enthusiastic round of applause during the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" July 1-4 when he unequivocally declared, "Nobody in this room is going to save the Church. We have a Savior, and his name is Jesus Christ!"

Bishop Caggiano was part of "The Radical Call to Missionary Discipleship" session that sought to explore and answer what a missionary disciple is and called to do in light of *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) and other Church documents.

Bishop Caggiano saw in this gathering "a tremendous renewal of spirit." He said it was a blessing that people met others in similar ministries from other areas of the country; many had conversed via email or phone but never met in person until this conference.

He shared his thoughts about the conference, discipleship and evangelization with *Register* staff writer Joseph Pronechen in an interview July 10.

There was a lot of applause at the "Catholic Convocation"—rightly so—when you declared, "Nobody in this room is going to save the Church. We have a Savior, and his name is Jesus Christ!" Why was that such an important message for you to share?

The temptation is to think "my way is the only way." That's not necessarily the case.

It's an interesting phenomenon—the same thing happened at World Youth Day. When young people come to World Youth Day, they appreciate the enormity, the beauty and complexity of the Church, with all these different groups. People walked away with the sense there's lots of good going on in the Church: the enormity of it, the seeds being sowed in the country by different apostolates. People walked away from the convocation with the greatest sense that the Lord is using many different ways to bring new life and movement to the Church and their apostolates. We're not fully who we're meant to be until we're all at the same table.

You also said we're made worthy by the love of Jesus to be missionary disciples—and holiness plays a role in that: "A radical call to missionary discipleship calls us to a radical call to holiness." How or why is holiness the precursor to evangelization?

You cannot give what you do not have. You cannot share whom you do not know. People will see right through it until you and I respond to that deep call to the Lord: Respond to his grace, be molded into his image and become his deep and enduring friend in the true sense of the word. We have to love him with our heart, soul, mind and body, and then we can certainly love our neighbor.

Ministry is not always being the things you do; ministry is also being the person who you are. Are you being a window into the heart of Jesus? Are they actually having an encounter with Jesus?

Let me give you an example: Someone who had the privilege of meeting Mother Teresa knew she loved the Lord before she opened her mouth. When she opened her mouth, she had an impact which you or I don't have.

We sometimes make this much more complicated than it really is. Whether you are a housewife, lawyer, teacher, bishop—if you're in love with Jesus and you love the Church, which is his Mystical Body in the world, anybody who meets you is going to know it.

"Come follow me" is exactly what the Lord asked.

You also spoke about healing divisions through community and hospitality. As you said, "We need to rediscover the power of the table." How can the Church practically live that out?

"The table" is in the broader sense of the word. It's also sharing a cup of coffee when you sit down with someone—sharing a meal, food, something to drink. You are inviting that person into a relationship with you.

If you look at the Lord's ministry, how often he was at the table. He instructed and taught. And it was at a table where he gave us the great sacrament of the Eucharist, which binds us to him Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

I grew up in an Italian family. The soul of our house was the kitchen table. I think we need to rediscover the power of the table. If someone welcomes you to the table, you will feel treasured and respected when you sit with them and break bread with them.

When I was a seminarian, my mother always had her ritual at the table between 9 and 10 at night. She would put on a pot of coffee even though it wasn't dinner. My father would join her, and they would talk over daily life and everyday events.

We sometimes think the power of the table is only at dinner. But it can be over a glass of wine or sharing a cup of coffee. When I was a pastor in Brooklyn, I and a seminarian at the church ended up at the table at 10 pm for coffee, and we talked about the day and ended with Compline (Night Prayer).

Then, when you start inviting other people to that table—that is evangelization.

Have you seen this working in a parish?

A number of pastors are having "Dinner With the Pastor." They're inviting five or six couples from the parish every few weeks to have a meal at the rectory. The pastor cooks, or someone else does, so parishioners get to know the pastors in a totally new way. There is no agenda. After a few years doing that, those parishes are going to be completely reborn.

You also addressed outreach to young people. How can the Church make sure she hears the needs of youth? What is part of this outreach?

This is one of the things dear to my heart. Young people and young adults don't want to be considered a problem to be solved. They are not a problem to be solved. They are facing their own unique challenges and want someone to listen. The challenges are daunting—technology, the internet.

We need to both accompany young people and ask them to literally "step it up." What I mean by "stepping it up" is that young people do not want an easy way into the faith.

You ask young people to do the stretching, and they will

stretch. Otherwise, what we're asking of them is not worth their total commitment. My experience with young people is you don't have to water down the faith. Give them the real faith, and they will respond.

They need to be accompanied because there are a lot of obstacles. That takes a lot of patience, a lot of time, and can get messy—but

News—our very lives will proclaim the Good News. It will be inescapable. People will begin to hear the message.

I had the opening Mass for the opening convocation of the Sisters of Life this morning. I said to them, "It is only the exercise of great love that can allow a heart that is indifferent and grown cold to love again. Holiness invites



do that, as Pope Francis is asking, they will become the next generation of leaders in the Church.

What are your main takeaways of the convocation? What stands out?

There was this tremendous energy or vitality in the group. There was no shortage of goodwill and intention and a desire to do good.

I was very encouraged by the networking. People made connections; people saw they were not alone. I think friendships were born in this convocation that will bear fruit.

One challenge has everything to do with this idea of humility and listening. We still need to do a tremendous amount of work to get everyone moving in the same direction, to truly discover the power of collaboration.

The hope in my diocese is to work on that specifically. There are a lot of good things going on, but people don't know about it. That's what we're going to be working on here—getting people more information and support so that they can work with each other, not separately.

It was about the joy of the Gospel. If we strive for personal holiness—even if we forget the words to talk about the Good

hearts that are indifferent to love again; it teaches what to do with those hearts once they start loving again. When you put holiness and ministry together, then you are cooking with real fire."

What are the hopes for your diocese and for the Church at large as a result of this gathering?

For the Church at large in the United States, it was certainly a shot in the arm. For our diocese, it comes in a great moment in our lives. This is, for us at every level of leadership, a clarion call.

Now is a time for renewal. We need a uniform vision adapted to needs, but we all have to be looking in the same direction. The convocation was a great grace to begin that conversation with everyone and move forward.

What do you see as the first things a parish and individual should aim to put into practice from four days in Orlando?

In order to do what the Lord is asking of us, begin by looking at yourself in the mirror and access—honestly—your relationship with the Lord. This is the first and most important step to be taken. Then all falls into place.

(Reprinted with permission from the National Catholic Register.) ■

Nuestra Voz

Dos colombianos se reciben como sacerdotes

BRIDGEPORT—“Venimos aquí en acción de gracias con alegría por el regalo que Dios nos da con estos tres hombres”, dijo el obispo Frank J. Caggiano en la ceremonia de ordenación sacerdotal de tres religiosos de la Diócesis de Bridgeport, de los cuales, dos de ellos son nacidos en Bogotá, Colombia.

La Catedral de San Agustín acogió el pasado sábado 24 de junio a más de 700 personas, entre ellos decenas de sacerdotes, feligreses y los familiares de los recién ordenados sacerdotes que llegaron directamente desde varias partes del país y de Colombia para presenciar una ceremonia religiosa que fue contagiada por la devoción y el regocijo del Obispo Caggiano que impuso desde el momento de la procesión inicial su usual sonrisa y piadosidad. Durante la ceremonia el padre Francisco Gómez-Franco, párroco de la parroquia de Saint Charles en Bridgeport, sirvió de Maestro de Ceremonias.

La ordenación de los religiosos colombianos: Harry Prieto y José Vásquez más la de Timothy Iannacone nativo de Stamford, pero residente de Norwalk, se mezcló con la marcha presidida por los Caballeros de Colón, el canto gregoriano y con la segunda lectura leída en español por el sobrino del ahora sacerdote José Abelardo Vásquez, quien vino directamente de Bogotá, Colombia, para acompañar a su tío en quizás uno de los momentos más importantes de su vida. Durante la Misa de Ordenación presidida por el Obispo Caggiano, apoyado por los sacerdotes de su diócesis, los familiares de los religiosos colombianos seguían paso a paso cada signo de la homilía que estuvo cargada de momentos emotivos que ocasionaron varios segmentos de aplausos fusionados con lágrimas y sonrisas.

Los padres del Padre José Abelardo se sentaron en la tercera fila de la Catedral de San Agustín, no fue difícil reconocerlos, a pesar de que no viven en los Estados Unidos, porque portaban un azar de flores como instintivo de ser los progenitores de un “novio” camino al altar.

En la homilía, el Obispo Caggiano reflexionó sobre el “profundo misterio del sacerdocio” en el que el sacerdote se convierte en “el vaso elegido de la gracia” para aquellos que está llamado a servir. “Nadie decide convertirse en un sacerdote”, dijo el obispo. “Un hombre discernirá lo que está moviendo en su corazón, un movimiento no de su propia creación sino del Señor”.

La ordenación coincidió con la fiesta en honor a San Juan Bautista, que el Evangelio describe como “una voz clamaba en el desierto”, el obispo dijo a los nuevos sacerdotes: “Ustedes han sido preparados para Cristo para proveer su la palabra en un mundo se convierte en un desierto, un mundo enfriándose sin lugar para Dios. Predicad sin miedo y vivid lo que predicáis. No comprometan la verdad”, exhortó.

Los tres religiosos contestaron: “presentes” cuando se les llamó para comenzar la ceremonia de ordenación. Los tres aspirantes a sacerdotes se arrodillaron ante el obispo para la imposición de las

manos y a continuación, afirmaron una serie de resoluciones y promesas en señal de que comienza sus vidas como sacerdotes.

Su afirmación fue seguida por prolongados aplausos de los feligreses, que también prosiguieron cuando los recién ordenados salieron de la iglesia al final de la Misa.

El momento más emotivo de la ordenación sacerdotal fue a la hora que los tres candidatos se postraron frente al altar mientras los feligreses se arrodillaron para cantar la letanía de los santos. Después de la colocación de las manos y de la oración de la ordenación, los recién ordenados sacerdotes se colocaron delante del altar y fueron investidos con una estola y una casulla en color dorado.

Durante la unción de manos, el obispo oró sobre cada sacerdote: “El Señor Jesucristo, a quien el Padre ungió con el poder del Espíritu Santo te protege y preserve para santificar al pueblo cristiano y ofrecer este sacrificio a Dios”.

Samuel Schmitt, director de música sacra y organista de la



LA CEREMONIA DE ORDENACIÓN sacerdotal de los religiosos nativos de Colombia, Harry Prieto y José Vásquez y de Timothy Iannacone, nacido en Stamford, estuvo llena de recogimiento espiritual que se expresó en cada momento de la homilía. (FOTO POR AMY MORTENSEN)

catedral, dirigió el ministerio de música, que también incluyó a la Santana Schola Cantorum y los cantos Tolle Lege.

Después de la misa, el obispo agradeció a toda la concurrencia que se unió a la unción de los jóvenes sacerdotes, en particular sus padres y sus familias. “Ustedes no estarían aquí sin ellos”, dijo entre aplausos durante la reunión.

Asimismo, en los jardines de la histórica catedral, cientos de personas se alinearon bajo una carpa blanca para recibir la Primera Bendición de los tres jóvenes sacerdotes, en donde los asistentes recibieron las bendi-

ciones de los recién ungidos sacerdotes para luego tomarse fotos y disfrutar de un pequeño ágape.

Los tres sacerdotes celebraron su Primera Misa al siguiente día de ser ordenados, es decir, el domingo 25 de junio. El Padre Vásquez celebró en la Iglesia de la Asunción en Westport al mediodía. El Padre Iannacone celebró en la Iglesia de Saint Mary en Norwalk a las 9:30 am, con el Padre Edward J. Enright, OSA, profesor asociado de estudios religiosos y teológicos en el Colegio Merrimack, New York. Y el Padre Prieto ofició su primera Misa en la Parroquia de San José en Danbury al mediodía. ■

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Obituaries

Sister Rosemary Sheehan

Sister Rosemary Sheehan, a Religious of the Sacred Heart, was born on May 26, 1926, in Brooklyn, New York. Affectionately known from college days as "Wickie," she was the middle of fourteen children.

She enrolled at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N. Y., and completed a BA in nursing in 1948. Following graduation, she entered the Society of the Sacred Heart. She took first vows in 1951 at Kenwood in Albany, N.Y., and made her final profession in Rome in 1957.

From 1953-1956, she worked at the former Convent of the Sacred Heart girls' school in Noroton. In 1965 Sister Sheehan began her almost 50 years of ministry at Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich, twenty-two years of which she served as head of the Upper School. During this time, she founded and directed



a summer tutorial camp at the school for inner-city children, which lasts to this day, serving 300 elementary school children.

She continued her efforts to bring the girls to serve among the poor and worked with a program at Martin House in Trenton, N.J. Sister Sheehan returned to Greenwich in 1991, where she continued her work as director of out-

reach, fostering the school's commitment to the Carver Center in Port Chester, where she also served on the board. For over 25 years, Headstart children came to campus every Tuesday for enrichment.

While at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, she was a member of the Bishop of Bridgeport Committee on Human Rights from 1967-1970. From 1978-1982, she was chair of the Provincial Advisory Council, and served as a provincial chapter delegate and member of the steering committee from 1981-82.

Sister Sheehan's was recovering from a fall when she developed pneumonia two days before she died on June 20.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Sheehan at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich, on June 24. Burial was in Kenwood Cemetery. ■

Sister Patrice Garrity, SSND

Sister Marie Patrice Garrity, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, died on April 13 at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton. She was 88 years old and had been a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 68 years. She was an educator and administrator for more than 25 years.



Mary Katherine Garrity was born on February 6, 1929, in Jamaica Plains, Mass. She was the first in a family of four girls and one boy born to Irish immigrant parents. Starting in grammar school she expressed the desire to become a nun. On July 16, 1948, she entered the novitiate of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, requesting the religious name of Patrice. Sister Marie Patrice professed her first vows a year later and her final vows on August 3, 1955.

Sister Patrice taught in New Jersey before coming to the Diocese of Bridgeport to teach at St. Theresa School in Trumbull from 1960-65, and moved to become principal of St. Lawrence School in Shelton from 1965-72. She later returned to St. Theresa's as principal from 1978-84.

Sister Patrice retired in 2011 and moved to Villa Notre Dame in Wilton.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Patrice in the chapel of Villa Notre Dame on April 19 by Father Thomas Elliot, CSC, assisted by Father David Leopold, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Georgetown. Burial was at St. Mary Cemetery, Bethel. ■

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JULY		
24	Fr. Paul Lalic.....	2011
25	Rev. Hubert P. Carrig.....	1978
26	Msgr. Francis M. Wladasz.....	1959
28	Rev. William G. Mahoney.....	1973
29	Deacon Ian Black.....	2006
AUGUST		
1	Msgr. Daniel J. Foley.....	1999
	Msgr. John J. Toomey, P.A.....	1992
2	Rev. Patrick V. Lavery.....	1976
	Msgr. James J. McLaughlin.....	1985
3	Rev. Francis E. Fenton.....	1995
4	Msgr. Michael J. Guerin.....	1981
	Msgr. James F. Leary.....	1994
7	Rev. Thomas G. Keeney.....	1990
9	Msgr. John J. Kennedy, P.A.....	1955
	Msgr. Frank C. Delloio.....	1983
	Msgr. Richard T. Scully.....	1988
10	Deacon William Rowe.....	2013
14	Deacon Gerardo Ramos.....	2007
15	Msgr. Edward J. Duffy.....	1977
16	Rev. Victor E. Piaskowski.....	1961
18	Rev. Alexander Z. Seregely.....	1971
21	Rev. John J. Dillon.....	1959
	Msgr. Thomas P. Guinan.....	1998
22	Rev. Michael Fay.....	2009
23	Msgr. Emilio C. Iasiello, P.A.....	1969
24	Rev. Nicholas Calabro.....	2015
25	Rev. Richard Futie.....	2013
26	Rev. Msgr. Edward Scull.....	2016
	Lawrence Cardinal Shehan.....	1984
28	Rev. Vincent E. Finn.....	1958
	Rev. Edmund C. O'Connell.....	1973
29	Deacon Ramon Isidro.....	2006
	Rev. Joseph Linck.....	2008
SEPTEMBER		
2	Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Pranckus.....	2000

Sports

Pfohl returns as Kolbe Cathedral coach

By **DON HARRISON**

Nine years ago, John Pfohl made a put-my-family-first decision by placing his coaching career at Kolbe Cathedral High School on hold. For him, it was a no-brainer.

"I made the decision that it was time to watch my girls and son play basketball," he recalled. "To me, that was more important than coaching."

So, after 15 seasons as the Cougars' head basketball coach, after 317 victories, two CIAC state championships, three state runner-up finishes, nine SouthWest Conference titles and

five 20-victory seasons, Pfohl stepped down to focus on his children.

He was front and center for his three daughters, Victoria, Alexa and Amanda, when they excelled on the court for Trumbull High. (Victoria also starred at Eastern Connecticut, her father's alma mater.) He was there for his son, J.J., who was named to the Connecticut High School Coaches Association's All-State Second Team this past winter as a Trumbull senior.

But now that J.J. is off to Roger Williams in the fall, Pfohl has given himself permission to return to coaching. He'll be back

at Kolbe Cathedral as head coach this season.

"I'm excited to be back," he said. "I'm looking forward to the challenge of rebuilding the program."

The Cougars skidded to a 1-19 season last winter under Stevie Ray, the former University of Bridgeport point guard extraordinaire. Three other men, Greg Thomas, former Kolbe Cathedral All-American Chris Smith and C.J. Shamas also coached the team following Pfohl's departure, with indifferent success.

Shamas, who was Pfohl's top assistant prior to his one season as head coach, will rejoin the program as associate coach.

Pfohl, 51, who earns most of his livelihood as vice president of sales for Paper Enterprises, Inc., a family-owned company in Bronx, N.Y., is proud of his coaching accomplishments at Kolbe Cathedral. During his final 10 seasons at the helm, the Cougars captured Class-M state titles in 1999 and 2004, and were runners-up in 2001, 2005 and 2008.

"I felt that our program was recognized for its success across the state," he pointed out, "and not only on the court but off the court."

Several of his Kolbe players were selected to the New Haven Register All-State Team and went on to play collegiately, most notably Marcus Cox (Connecticut, Massachusetts), T.J. Robinson (Long Beach State), Kevin Jeffreys (Bridgeport) and T. Ron Christy (Central Connecticut State). Pfohl was voted the state's coach of the year twice, 1999 and 2003.

Pfohl has mixed feelings about the retirement of Principal Jo-Anne Jakab, who spent the past 43 years at Kolbe Cathedral and who had the vision to hire a certain young basketball coach in 1993.

"I love Jo-Anne Jakab," he declared. "She gave me, a 27-year-old kid, the chance to coach at the high school level. From a basketball perspective, I owe everything to her. I wish her a happy retirement."



JOHN PFOHL

As a touch of irony, Jakab's successor as principal, Henry Rondon, had served as Pfohl's freshman coach during the Cougars' state title-winning 1998-99 season.

Recalled Pfohl: "Henry asked me if he should take the coaching job with our girls' team, and I encouraged him to do it. His team won the state title the following season."

Later, as Kolbe Cathedral's athletic director, Rondon had the opportunity to observe Pfohl as a coach who "got involved in the kids' lives." He liked what he saw.

"John had an eagerness to come back," Rondon said. "It was a no-brainer."

Lion King encourages dreams

BRIDGEPORT—"Hakuna Matata' means to forgive, not because they deserve forgiveness but because you deserve peace." This reflection came from a third grader at St. Raphael Academy



in Bridgeport after attending a Broadway production of *The Lion King*. The trip was sponsored by Deacons' Wives Ministry of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Preparation for the play drew on a num-

ber of subjects. Before heading to Broadway, the third graders used the book *The Lion King* by Don Ferguson and Walt Disney to study their grammar. For science they learned about the animals in the play and their habitat. They studied the play's music, and learned something about the peoples of Africa.

The youngsters had a special treat during their Broadway trip—a visit with Jim Ferris, who plays the part of Timon in the production.

Following their visit to the show, they reflected on its themes and wrote a report on their own "Circle of Life," chronicling their hopes, fears and dreams for the future. "I dream about traveling the world," wrote Tam. "I hear singing in my house. I see eagles flying around. I want peace on earth," said Tristan. "I hope I can be the best person I can be," wrote Nalani.

Young Evangelos, fresh from his first trip to the wider world, has the biggest dream of all. "I am caring and loving," he wrote. "I dream about being the President of the United States of America."

"DW Ministries thanks all of the parishes, organizations, groups and individuals that helped us to take the 47 third graders from St. Raphael's Academy to see *The Lion King*," said Ilene Ianniello, president. "Their generosity made a world of difference for these children." ■



THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
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2017-2018 @ The Institute
September 22, 2017

Celebration and In-Service for Parish Administrative Staff (Mike Patin, presenter) Catholic Center, 9 am
Pilgrimage to Washington, DC for close of local elements of *thefaceofprayer* campaign

September 23, 2017

Evening for Married Couples (Chris Padgett, presenter) workshops/light dinner

September 29, 2017

September 30, 2017

Diocesan Formation Day – "People of Joy" (Bishop Caggiano, keynote) workshops/exhibitors
Launch of Institute Online Courses
Bishop's Lecture Series – Inaugural event featuring Sr. Miriam Heidland, SOLT – *Encountering Jesus*
Diocesan Formation Day – "Connecting the Dots" (multiple workshops about connecting one ministry to the other and all ministries to the parish)

October 11, 2017

January 27, 2018

Lent 2018

April 11, 2018

Lenten Book Series
Bishop's Lecture Series featuring Bishop Robert Morneau – *Discipleship through Prayer*

Coming this year: Implementation of formation for Lectors and Special Ministers of Holy Communion
Monthly webinars for parents
Leadership 360 (Once a month webinar for ministry leaders from around the world)
Online resources to implement Catechetical Task Force recommendations
Formation day for those who work with our senior parishioners

Column: Thomas Hicks



The hook back

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

“The Christian of the future will either be a mystic, or he or she will cease to be anything at all. For devout Christians will no longer be held by religious customs” (Karl Rahner, *Theological Investigations*, NY: Herder & Herder, 1971).

Karl Rahner, the greatest theologian of the 20th century, made this provocative prediction in 1965, when reflecting on the Second Vatican Council’s statement that the essential need in the Church was stirring up a hunger for holiness. We can see Rahner’s prediction being fulfilled today.

I am among those who feel the need for “something more” in my spiritual life. I realize that

the human story doesn’t exhaust who we are. There is a larger drama going on, and a desire for God intensifies. While the candle is still burning, I yearn for some spiritual depth.

There are parts of Scripture that fascinate me lately. For example, I wonder about that union called “indwelling.” “If anyone love me, he must keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our abode with him” (Jn.14:23).

The idea of being reborn by new birth into a new sort of person is found throughout the New Testament (Jn.3:3-5; Colossians 3:9-10; Titus 3:5). We are called to a new level of being, a different level of consciousness, a radical

renewal, a new heart. Ezekiel 36:26-27: “A new heart I will give you, and new spirit I will put within you...I will put My spirit within you.”

There’s that fascinating sentence in Exodus 33:11: “The Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.”

In the Old Testament there are frequent references to “seeking the face of God,” e.g.:

“Come, my heart says, seek his face. Your face, Lord, I seek” (Psalm 27:87).

I was brought up on an approach to spirituality that involved devotional practices: e.g., the novenas, the prayer cards, the nine First Fridays, etc. Teaching me how to pray amounted to keeping me talking all the time. As with many others, these things weren’t cutting it anymore.

There was a hunger for something more—more solitude and silence, more contemplative practices, more serious spiritual reading. I realized that for nourishment and sustenance I needed a biblically based spirituality.

I am convinced that the world of the “Nones” (those attached to no specific religion) is not a world in which spiritual life is absent. Many Nones come to recognize that one can have a lot of material things but still be deeply unsatisfied. There is a growing realization that there is a need for “something more” There is an ache in the soul and a growing interest in spirituality.

Studies of Nones who are former Catholics find that at least one-third of respondents describe

an experience of “outgrowing” communal devotional religion. They had a strong desire for a more personal and immediate encounter with God. They did not find that within the Catholic Church. There was a disillusionment with “traditional” piestic religion.

Spirituality is the way back into the faith for Nones. They are not turned off to spirituality—a spirituality worthy of grown-ups. There is a desperate need in the Church for the recovery of a spiritual depth.

Here are a couple of shocking statements from a couple of renowned Christians: The famous Catholic writer, Flannery O’Connor, stated that ordinary religion had come to leave her cold. The Rosary and other everyday prayers had become rote to her, “a few memorized prayers babbled over once lightly.”

C.S. Lewis compared contemplation and studying the Psalms with the merely dutiful “church going” and laborious “saying our prayers” (*Reflections on the Psalms*, P.46).

A None I know said it would be unthinkable for him to nourish his spiritual life on the fare of the pious fantasies of some nun or other who present these vagaries

as divine revelation.

Most Catholic devotions came from the 17th century Italy and Spain. There developed the questionable tradition of idealizing this type of religion.

It is true that there are different paths to sanctity; not all souls will travel the same road.

But one still must add that St. Paul speaks of people being “infants in Christ,” whom he feeds with milk while wanting to give them solid food (1Cor.3:1-2). In this same letter, he goes on to use the metaphor of passage from being a child to becoming an adult spiritually. “When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things” (1Cor.13:11).

He is expressing the notion of growth into spiritual maturity. The notion implies that people can remain fixed in immaturity and underdevelopment. Julian of Norwich (d.1413) made the pessimistic statement that “Most people are spiritual babies.”

Contemplation, interior life, spiritual formation, silence, discernment, etc. are words one seldom hears in church.

I am convinced that spirituality is the hook back into the faith for the evaporated young people. ■

≡ CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP FROM PAGE 17 ≡

Meghan Reed, a senior at St. Joseph’s, talked about her experience with Christ in adoration at CHWC.

Reed said “We talked about Mark 5:25-34, where the woman with hemorrhages is immediately

healed upon touching the Jesus’ cloak. I meditated on this verse during Adoration and I went up to touch the cloth beneath the monstrance. I felt at peace, like weights were leaving my body, and knew God had answered my prayers.”

It’s crucial for youth looking to grow in the faith to have experiences like those that CHWC provides through fellowship, prayer and service. “There’s a spiritual power being surrounded by 300 teens interested in growing in the faith,” said Colleen McCurley, a junior at Fairfield Warde. At the end of the week, those who were served by the participants of CHWC gathered together to offer thanks and show their gratitude for the work that was done. “It was the culmination of all the work and good that we set out to do,” said Clyons, “what great things we can do through his strength and for his glory.” ■

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Column: Joe Pisani



Overcoming the 'poor me's'

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

It had been a bad day. Badder than most, you could say, so that night at the dinner table, my wife and I reviewed our accumulated problems, crises and aggravations. In no particular order:

- We needed major roof repairs.
- Our health insurance costs had risen.
- Two daughters weren't talking again, and neither of us wanted to play peacemaker again.
- Our little dog had a seizure and we were worried sick.

Add to that list, the misunderstandings, insults and quarrels that are part of daily life, not to mention that Metro-North had been 40 minutes late ... and you have a recipe for despair.

Sitting at the table, eating our cold cheeseburgers, we began to question life. (I forgot to add that I stopped at Plan B on the way home because Sandy couldn't

cook—she had come down with shingles.)

The crazy thing is that during the day, we had each encountered people with REALLY big problems that made ours seem so inconsequential they wouldn't qualify for the Dr. Phil show.

We came to the realization that we're prone to looking on the dark side and should start looking at life differently, instead of grumbling, because negativity can wear you down spiritually.

But old habits die hard, if they die at all. The next morning as I was lying in bed at 4:40 am, I wondered aloud to Jesus, "Why do I have to get up for work? Isn't there an easier way, Lord? Can't I have a job that doesn't require five hours of commuting?"

During this litany of whining, a thought came to me that was probably inspired by the Holy Spirit. I imagined myself face-to-face with Jesus during one of those life reviews that we'll all

eventually have. As I saw my life unfold moment by moment, I realized I'd done a lot of complaining. I probably did ten times more complaining than giving thanks. In fact, I seldom counted my blessings or said thank you to God for what I have, which is more than 90 percent of the people in the world have.

God blesses us in different ways. My flaw has always been comparing myself to the person who has more than I do—like the hospital CEO who makes \$3.4 million—instead of comparing myself to those who have less.

The world, you see, is divided into two groups: those who get satisfaction from complaining about what they don't have and those who rejoice over what they do have.

Actually, we should thank God for everything—the good, the bad and the ugly—because as St. Paul said, "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Jesus Christ." Thankful in all circumstances? That was going to take some serious practice.

"We have to change our attitude," I said to Sandy. "At dinner, when we ask each other how the day went, we usually discuss the bad stuff. Let's look for the good stuff."

That day, when I had the "poor me's" and was feeling sorry for myself, I met a guy who

was about to lose his job, then I met a woman whose pay had been cut 30 percent, then I met a fellow whose son had to have psychological tests because he was getting into fights with kids in school, and then I met a man whose wife had just been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. It became

quite obvious that God was trying to tell me to stop whining and adopt the attitude of gratitude.

The reality is that everyone's life has hardship and pain, and only in the past century have we begun to believe that our time on earth should be free of suffering. (Sadly, when trouble comes, our usual

response is to blame God.)

We should never forget the importance of acceptance. Plus, we should always remember that if we offer our suffering up for others, miraculous things will occur. The nuns knew what they were talking about when they encouraged us to "offer

it up." Even small hardships offered to Christ in the spirit of acceptance can have tremendous results.

In our desire to change—which is always impossible without prayer—Sandy and I vowed to start dinner by praying to the Holy Spirit to show us the good things that occurred during the day. Then, we'd say a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus, who is the true

source of all that's good in the world.

"We came to the realization that we're prone to looking on the dark side and should start looking at life differently, instead of grumbling, because negativity can wear you down spiritually."

YOUTH MINISTERS MEET FROM PAGE 5

in a vibrant community.

He urged youth ministers to think of post-Resurrection accounts in the Acts of the Apostles. "It starts with experiences of God that they wanted to share," Donovan said. "Our young people are experiencing God every single day—we have to be the ones to identify that God is here, that he matters, and most importantly that they matter to God."

Evan Psencik, diocesan youth coordinator, urged the youth ministers to accompany youth and send them out on a mission "Nobody meets the risen Lord and doesn't get a job!" he noted.

"If young people don't encounter Christ by age thirteen, they become less likely to do so

with every passing year," he said, referring to the need for a new and more engaging catechesis.

"We have to change our mindset that Confirmation is the end of the journey. As youth ministers we have to be the ones that help our youth identify God in their lives and teach them how to nurture their faith. We have to invest in relationships with our youth in order to help them build their relationship with God."

Psencik also encouraged youth ministers to make young people aware of three upcoming events in addition to the youth pilgrimage to the National Basilica on September 23: the Fan the Fire Youth Rally, the National Catholic Youth Conference, and

the ongoing auditions for the Diocesan Youth Choir.

"Fan the Fire, which was developed by the creative leadership at St. Rose of Lima Parish, has asked the diocese take their work to the next level. To do that, we have moved the location so more young people can attend and put together a team of volunteers who will focus on the programming of the day," said Psencik.

Psencik said the National Catholic Youth Conference will take place in November and more than 20,000 young people, including a delegation from the diocese, are expected to attend.

(For more information, visit the diocesan Leadership Institute: www.formationreimagined.org.)



HONDA

By **Curtiss*Ryan**

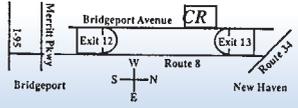
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Catholic Culture

The Edge of Sadness

By **BARRY WALLACE**

Scholars argue about what it means to be called a Catholic writer, and writers who fit the description are often resistant to be labeled in such a manner. But one thing is clear: when you come across Catholic writers you immediately notice them. This happened to me recently while reading Edwin O'Connor's remarkable novel, *The Edge of Sadness*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in fiction for 1962.

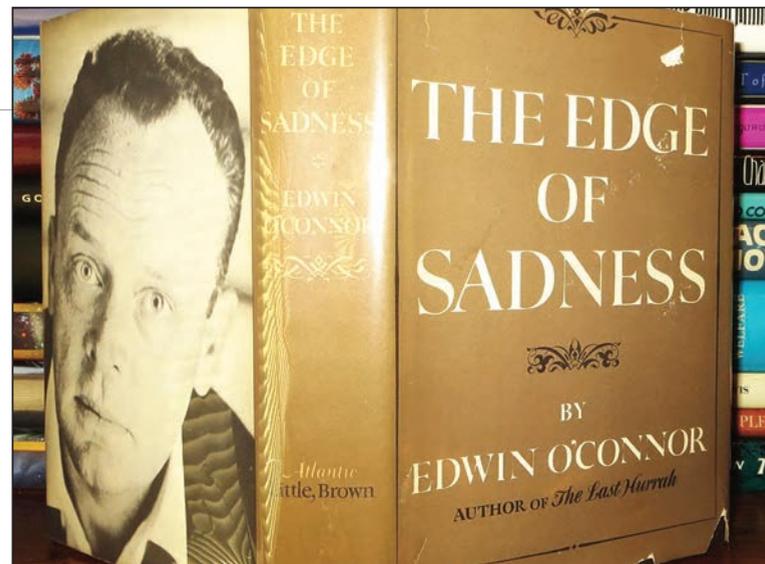
During his life, O'Connor was a high profile best-selling author who put words to the changing Irish-American experience at mid-century. Since his untimely

death at age 49, he has been forgotten. Like other writers of that Catholic Golden Age it is assumed that O'Connor's work no longer appeals to contemporary Catholics. This unfortunate dismissal is far from the truth. Catholicism has a long memory. We continue to read writers centuries and even thousands of years old. It seems odd and unacceptable that our recent past should be so inaccessible to us.

In some ways *The Edge of Sadness* is a prophetic novel, and a summing up of the soon to be dissolved Irish-Catholic experience as the Church and the immigrant population entered mainstream American life. The

story of Father Hugh Kennedy comes at the end of an era and coincides with his personal fall from grace. The novel looks clearly back at the Irish-American past and obliquely forward to a future Church of new immigrants in poor parishes inhabiting the now crumbling cathedrals of the glorious past.

The central character of the book is a good and holy priest coming to terms with his frailty at mid-life after receiving treatment for alcoholism in an Arizona clinic. When he returns to ministry, he is assigned to a poor parish. And it is in his struggling ministry amidst the company of the new immigrants and the poor that he



will hear the voice of God again. It is not just the story of a recovering priest but a community at the crossroads of new American realities. What does it mean for a priest and a church to succeed? What does it mean to fail?

The more that Father Kennedy reveals of his heart, the more we grasp the profound depth of man and God at work. We learn the nature of Father Kennedy's fall as he assembles a lifetime of experience in a few weeks of extraordinary remembrance and epiphany.

This is done most brilliantly in the device of a confession—one of the great themes of Catholic literature. As the story begins, we believe we are going to hear the confession of a sinful old man facing his final days, but it is only at the conclusion of this grand redemptive novel that we understand we are hearing the priest's confession of lost faith and human frailty. But he isn't alone confessing. All of the families in the novel face the hard truths of their lives.

For O'Connor, *The Edge of Sadness* isn't just about the melancholy of mistakes and misspent opportunities. The sadness is a recognition of our sinful, incomplete natures and our need for

forgiveness and understanding through the grace of God. This sadness can be the prelude to the awareness of God's voice in our silences and his providence in our suffering. It is in the desert of Arizona that Father Hugh discovers the desert in his own heart; and paradoxically, in the desert of his heart he is refreshed by the presence of God.

Edwin O'Connor's great novel isn't just a period piece of the pre-Vatican II church. The story presents today's readers with an intricately fashioned fable of human weakness and divine love. Another of the Catholic themes of this novel is the priest's search to find meaning in human suffering—meaning that comes through a durable faith engaged in the broken world of adult experience.

As a writer of fiction, O'Connor dwells upon the power of faith for the real men and women who try to live it. Despite its somber title and subject matter, *The Edge of Sadness* is terrifically funny and filled with affirmation of the spiritual journey. In reading it we find our own soul opening in awareness of how we fail and yet how we can still give witness to the spiritual truths that sustain us. ■

Baseball with the Bishop



Tuesday, August 15th

Subway Series: NY Mets vs. NY Yankees at Yankee Stadium

3:00 pm - Mass for the Feast of the Assumption (Holy Day of Obligation) at the Catholic Center (238 Jewett Ave., Bridgeport)

3:45 pm - Depart for New York

5:30 pm - Dinner with Bishop Caggiano

7:05 pm - First Pitch at Yankee Stadium

The cost is \$60 and covers bus transportation to and from the game and your game ticket.

For more information or to register go to www.conncatholics.org



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Diocese of Bridgeport

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Sr. Mary Ellen Burns,

ascj

Director of Apostle Immigrant Services,

New Haven

Alex Arevalo



Place: The Catholic Center, Room L14, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606

Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Time: 7 pm

RSVP by 9/19/17: Sister Nancy, srstrillacci@diobpt.org, 203-416-1511

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Bits and Pieces

CAR RAFFLE: Our Lady of Peace Parish, Stratford, is now selling raffle tickets for a 2017 Nissan Altima, along with two drawings for lottery tickets. Only 400 tickets were printed. Cost: \$100 each. The drawing will take place Sat., **Oct. 21**, at 8 pm in the church hall. For more info or for tickets, call the parish: 203.377.4863 or contact Mike Morin: mikef.morin@gmail.com or 203.520.7319.

WEEK OF DIRECTED PRAYER will be offered **July 29-August 5** at St. James Parish, Stratford. Make a retreat without leaving home or workplace! Meet for communal prayer at the beginning and end of retreat, with individual meetings scheduled with a spiritual director during the week according to your availability. For more info, call the parish: 203.375.5887.

CHANT CAMP for students in grades 1-12 will be held the week of **July 31-August 4** at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk. For more info, contact Laurie Furey: laurie@chantwith.us. For chant

camp details and a registration form go to: www.stmarynorwalk.net/music/student-schola.

HOLY HOUR: Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury, (18-35), will gather on Tues., **August 1**, at 6:45 pm for a Praise and Worship Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Parish, Danbury, followed by a social. This event is open to all ages. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com.

JOIN IN PRAYING the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary for Persecuted Christians from your home/car/office the first Tues. of every month (**August 1**) at 7 pm. How? Before 7 pm, call 877.216.5269 and type in the pin number 96869.

DIVORCED AND SEPARATED Catholics are invited to join "Hearts Renewed," a support group for divorced or separated men and women. Meetings are held in Fairfield on the first and third Fri. of every month (**August 4 and 18; Sept. 1**) at 7:30 pm. For

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

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS is celebrated at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, the first Sun. of each month (**August 6**) at 4 pm. For more info, call the parish: 203.775.5117.

TALENT SHOW will be held at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, 50 Montfort Rd., Rte. 118 Litchfield, on Sun., **August 13**, from 2-4 pm. Forms are available at gbuchas@snet.net. Requests should be received by Sun., **August 6**.

PRAY FOR PEACE WALK in New Your City will be held Sat., **August 12**, starting from Grand Central Station between 10:45-11:15 am and ending at Yankee Stadium for the Yankee/Red Sox game around 3:15 pm. Tickets and T-shirts available. For more info or reservations, contact Al Forte: 203.940.3651 or www.prayforpeacewalk.org.

SAINTS SUMMER CAMP for children in grade 4 and up

Bishop Caggiano to give presentation at CT Men's Conference

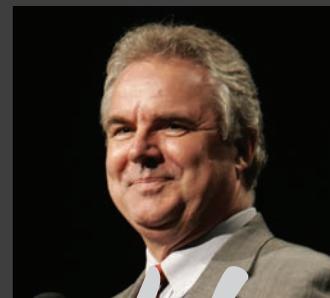
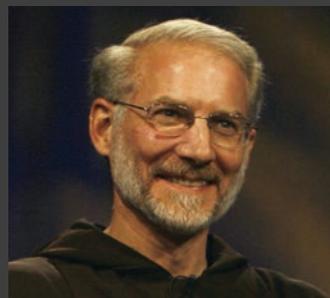
Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be a leading presenter at the 10th annual Catholic Men's Conference in Connecticut. The day-long program, which will be held Sat., **Oct. 21**, at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, will also include presentations by award-winning journalist and best-selling author Raymond Arroyo of EWTN News; Tim Staples, director of apologetics and evangelization at Catholic Answers; Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR, one of the original eight founders of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal; and James Wahlberg, executive director of the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation, which he founded with his brother, actor Mark Wahlberg. Musician and evangelist Marty Rotella will serve as master of ceremonies. Bishop Caggiano will also deliver the homily at the closing Vigil Mass. Fr. James M. Sullivan, chaplain of the conference, said the event will offer spiritual enrichment for men of all ages. For more info, visit www.ctcatholicmen.org or call 860.484.7950.

will be held at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk, Mon.-Fri., **August 21-25**, from 4-5:15 pm. Free of charge; donations appreciated. For more info, call Andrea Remlin: 203.227.5477 or email lourdes_fatima@hotmail.com.

BEREAVEMENT Support Group will begin at St. Jude Parish, Monroe, beginning Wed., **Sept. 13**, from 2:30-4 pm. The group will meet twice a month on Wed. from Sept. to Nov., then once a month Dec. through May, 2018. For more info, call the parish: 203.261.6404.

BEREAVEMENT Support Group will meet at St. Stephen Parish, Trumbull, for a series of 10 weekly meetings with experienced counselors beginning Thurs., **Sept. 14**, from 4-5:30 pm. Registration needed. For more info or to register, call the parish: 203.268.6217.

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



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