



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

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*Pentecost Vigil
'Holy Spirit is at work'*



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Pentecost Vigil

Bishop: 'Holy Spirit at work in the Church'

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said the same Holy Spirit who came in tongues of fire on the first Pentecost and “transformed ordinary men into extraordinary martyrs and witnesses of faith who traveled to the ends of the Earth” is still coming today to renew and purify the Church.

In his homily at the Vigil of Pentecost Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral, he told several hundred people, “In our age, segments of our body need healing and renewal, need purification and new life. We have seen that before, and we have grown and been renewed, before and we will be renewed and purified again. It is not our work, it is the work of the Holy Spirit who binds us, unites us, empowers us, enlightens us, invigorates us, allows us to forgive one another and sends us on mission and allows us to be fed the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus so that there is no challenge we cannot face when the Holy Spirit is alive in our hearts.”

During the Mass, which celebrated the 38 international Ecclesial Movements and Communities in the diocese, Bishop Caggiano also held a commitment ceremony for the newly formed Society of St. Stephen, an association of deacons and their wives with the mission of deepening personal holiness by fostering spirituality centered on the Eucharist.

The bishop told the deacons that Jesus Christ in the Eucharist must be central to their lives and ministries.



The society is similar to the Confraternity of St. John Vianney for priests, which was inaugurated on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. He also announced that in the fall, another association centered on Eucharistic spirituality will be formed for the laity.

In his homily, the bishop recalled the first time he



SOCIETY OF ST. STEPHEN—During the commitment ceremony, some 20 deacons and wives made promises to live according to the rules of the Society of St. Stephen, which was announced earlier this year at the annual convocation of the diaconate.

visited the Upper Room, where Jesus instituted the Eucharist and Holy Orders and where, 53 days later, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and Our Lady.

“When I entered into that room for the very first time, I was vividly disappointed for I did not know what to expect...and what I saw was what I never expected to see,” he recalled. “After many years of prayer and imagining, I was in the Upper Room, the room in which the great mysteries of our faith were given to us—the same room you and I in the mystery of grace have entered tonight in vigil—and it was filled with tourists chewing gum, taking selfies and not having a clue as to what happened there.”

He told the congregation they were fortunate to understand that what occurred in that room was the invitation to salvation.

“In that room on the night before Jesus died, he took the elements of the Passover and made them for us the food that would give us eternal life,” Bishop Caggiano said. “He took ordinary bread and wine and made it the heart of who we are, the heart of every single one of us.”

He told the representatives of the various Ecclesial Movements and Communities who had gathered for the Vigil Mass that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on that first Pentecost continues today in their groups and is as profound as what occurred 1,000 years ago with the formation of other venerable religious orders and organizations.

“In that Upper Room was a group of men as different as you could imagine and yet the Mystical Body was formed in that room through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and through the ages it has gone to every continent and speaks every language and has so many different states of life,” he said. “And in our recent age, we

have seen an outpouring of communities and movements as a sign that the Spirit is stirring the Church to greater life and renewal—movements and communities that have joined the more venerable orders, some of which have existed for over a thousand years.”

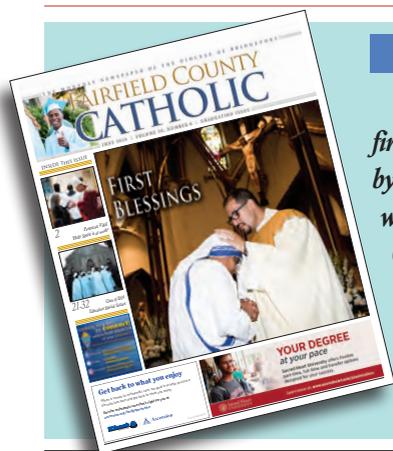
Society of St. Stephen

During the commitment ceremony, some 20 deacons and wives made promises to live according to the rules of the Society of St. Stephen, which was announced earlier this year at the annual convocation of the diaconate.

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

Addressing the group of deacons and wives gathered before him, Bishop Caggiano said, “I thank you all for taking these great promises and allowing the fire of the Holy Spirit—without which there could not be a Eucharist—to mold you so you can become a living sacrifice. And soon the third great piece will be unveiled in the fall when everyone will be able to join a great society dedicated to the mystery of the Eucharist, the heart of the Mystical Body.”

Music for the Mass was provided by members of the St. Charles Church Spanish Choir, musicians of the Neocatechumenal Way and the Vietnamese Choir. Dr. John Michniewicz, director of music at St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, served as organist and Erick Sanchez as cantor.



ON THE COVER

Father David Roman gives his first blessing after he was ordained by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano along with two other men at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday June 1. Above: Kolbe High School graduates celebrate at recent commencement ceremonies.
(Photos by Amy Mortensen)

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Ordinations

'You have had the courage to persevere'

By **JOE PISANI**

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano ordained three men as priests for the Diocese of Bridgeport recently, calling upon them to “preach the fullness of truth whether the world likes it or not.”

“I would love to tell you that the days ahead in the Church will be easy ones, but they are not going to be,” the bishop told the candidates at their Ordination Mass in a packed Saint Augustine Cathedral. “You have had the courage to persevere in a world where a thousand voices would have told you not to....The Church needs to be purified and renewed, and we with Christ as our Captain and Savior will do that together, and you will do that with the gifts God will give you today. Thank you for saying ‘yes’ because the Church needs you now more than ever.”

The bishop praised Peter Adamski, Christopher Ford and David Roman as men of true service, generosity and sacrifice, and urged them “to lead God’s people by rolling up your sleeves and getting your hands dirty in

the work of life and to walk side by side with those you will care for and lead to Christ.”

The three men were given a sustained standing ovation by the congregation as they were brought before the bishop and presented as candidates for ordination. The elect prostrated themselves while the Litany of Saints was sung. Then, one by one, they knelt before the bishop who laid his hands on their heads, followed by dozens of priests who also imposed their hands, invoking the Holy Spirit to descend upon them.

After the prayer of ordination, the newly ordained men were vested with a stole and chasuble. The bishop anointed the hands of each of them, as a preparation for the sacred duties they would perform. Then, Bishop Caggiano handed each one a chalice and paten, which signified the central importance of celebrating the Eucharist.

During his homily, Bishop Caggiano said, “The Lord is going to ask you to teach the word of salvation. We live in a world where the truth is what we would like it to be. Where half-



NEWLY ORDAINED—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano meets with (left to right) Father Chris Ford, Father Peter Adamski, and Father David Roman immediately following their ordination at St. Augustine Cathedral. “You have had the courage to persevere in a world where a thousand voices would have told you not to,” the bishop said to the men in his homily.

truths are enough, a world that wants to be made in our image, not in God’s image. That may be good for the world—it is not good for us.”

He encouraged them “to go into the pulpit and preach the fullness of truth in season and out of season, whether the world likes it or not, to allow the world to glimpse the plan God has foreseen for a world that would be truly fulfilled, joyful and at peace

in Jesus Christ.”

Bishop Caggiano said he was deeply grateful for their having said “yes” to “this great call” and he thanked the many people in their lives, from parents and teachers, to parishioners, priests and instructors, for bringing them to this day.

He told them Christ had given them an awesome gift to allow them to be channels of his sanctifying grace in the sacraments,

“to bring little ones and adults into the font of the waters, where they die and rise with Christ, to be able to speak the words that will break the bonds of sin in the name of Jesus, to bring liberation and peace and set the devil on his heels, to comfort those who are dying in the moments when they need to hear God’s love...and to come to this altar and through those unworthy hands be able to take ordinary bread and wine and allow it, in God’s grace, to become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the only Savior the world will ever know.”

He also urged them to embrace Our Lady in their priestly life because “She will never fail you. She will be your protector, your guardian, your advocate.”

At the end of the Mass, hundreds of faithful lined up at the Cathedral to receive blessings from the newly ordained men, who were overwhelmed with emotion.

Father Christopher Ford, who was assigned to St. Gregory the Great Parish in Danbury, said, “It is indescribable. It is absolutely indescribable. The joy I feel is

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Bishop to deacons: ‘Become a Living Homily’

By **ELIZABETH CLYONS**

TRUMBULL—The diocese welcomed six men to the permanent diaconate on a beautiful Saturday morning ordination at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano ordained Joseph Cann, Stephen Hodson, Eric Keener, Joseph Klimaszewski, Richard Lawlor and Michael Ronan as deacons for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

“For these men have come here to the house of our Heavenly Father to ask him to pour out His Holy Spirit upon them to allow them to answer the call they have sensed in their hearts for a very long time,” said the bishop in his homily. “To become one with Christ the high priest and servant, the one who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

“Only He can grant you this



ANSWERING THE CALL—“Only He can grant you this good grace to be wholly formed changed forever and impressed with His power as a living sacrament of service in the world,” Bishop Caggiano said to the six men who were ordained permanent deacons at St. Theresa Church.

good grace to be wholly formed, changed forever, impressed with His power to be a living sacrament of service in the world,” the bishop said.

The bishop thanked the deacons’ wives for bearing this great sacrifice along with their

husbands, acknowledging them as their husbands’ “rock and foundation.” “They are the companions God chose for you to walk with you on your journey to eternal life,” said the bishop.

“Thank you for saying ‘yes,’” he said.

“So what is the Lord asking of you?” the bishop asked, referencing Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross, the ultimate act of service. “The pin that depicts the diaconate is indeed a Cross,” the bishop explained.

“For many who do not believe, service is doing things for others,” said the bishop. “For you and I, who do believe in this great Savior who gave the greatest act of service in this moment of laying down His life, we understand service as the sharing and the emptying of our lives for others,” he said.

The bishop explained that the mystery of the diaconate rests with the mystery of the Eucharist. “You are being asked by the Lord to pour out your life,” the bishop said. “You will be the living bridge to this great mystery that is the hope of our salvation.”

The bishop addressed the newly ordained, “Feed on the

word of God every day,” he said. “It will convict you and encourage you, teach you and empower you.”

“In a world of half-truths,” the bishop encouraged the six men, “preach the Gospel fearlessly, as the Lion of Judah asked us to preach it...become a living homily to our world.”

“Go where no one else wishes to go,” the bishop challenged the deacons, referencing the Cross once more. “The Lord, in this ultimate act of service, was embracing every man, woman and child of every race, tongue and nation, of every age, offering them life.”

“I ask you to go into the shadows,” the bishop said. “Bring hope to those who have none and never forget that as a minister of the Gospel and as a deacon of Christ you will never go alone.”

“What a noble vocation, what
► CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Annual Catholic Appeal

ACA plays key role in ongoing funding

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—Conducting two major fund-raising efforts at the same time has required generous giving from donors and also a balancing act for campaign chairs and leaders, as the diocese continues to plan for the future while paying for day-to-day programs and ministries.

However, both campaigns (the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) and the We Stand With Christ capital campaign) are doing well. Both are necessary and each addresses a different need.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano says he is asking for sacrificial giving from donors, but he believes renewing the Church is a generational challenge and he's deeply grateful for the positive response from parishioners throughout the diocese.

"Please know that I do not take your generous participation for granted. I'm grateful for your sacrificial giving and your commitment to all those in the diocesan family. Although two campaigns are now underway, I wish to assure you that once that major endowments in education, faith and charity are funded by the capital campaign, we will transition to a new financial

model with a lower Annual Catholic Appeal goal," the bishop said in a recent letter to donors.

While the public phase of the capital campaign in most parishes will be coming to a close at the end of June, some parishes that delayed their campaign will be



conducting them in the fall or beyond. And all Catholics will be asked to resume giving to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Pam Rittman, director of the Annual Catholic Appeal, says people often ask about the difference between the appeals and how they work together to support the needs of the diocese.

"The We Stand With Christ is a capital campaign that is addressing parish and long-term needs, while the 2019 Joy in Christ, Our Gift to Share, Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), meets the day-to-day operating and program needs of our diocese," said Rittman.

Rittman said people participat-

ing in the We Stand With Christ campaign have been asked to consider a five-year gift that funds major new diocesan foundations in education, faith and charity for the future.

However, she wants people to understand that the ongoing ministries, programs and operations of the diocese still depend on the ACA.

The 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal goal has been set at \$9.75 million with almost \$7 million guaranteed by contributions that are now being made to the capital campaign this year.

People in the 14 parishes that completed their capital campaign last year have been asked to resume giving to the ACA. The combined goal for participating parishes this year is \$2.7 million.

Resuming ACA giving after making a long-term pledge is a challenge for some, but Rittman says a gift no matter the size assists in continuing the Gospel message and she is encouraged that people are giving generously.

"With summer months ahead, our services don't end. We still have people who need to be fed, as they have no place to find a meal. Families at risk still need counseling and mental

health services and the amount of scholarship money we make available for Catholic education this year depends on the generosity of those who give to the ACA," she says.

Rittman said that the Annual Catholic Appeal continues to support the diocese in its mission to serve the poor and needy, educate our children according to the teachings of the Gospel, nurture vocations for seminarians and religious and continue the work of faith formation.

"When people understand where the money is going, they're more willing to give to the appeal," said Jason Melaragno, who along with his wife Roxanne, are serving as vice chairs of the Appeal.

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

not just Catholics."

"Bishop Caggiano's vision is to prepare the Church for the future and the diocese is doing that through the capital campaign," says Rittman, "but in the meantime, the daily mission of the Church and those we serve depend on the Annual Catholic Appeal. The bishop has taught us that we live in challenging spiritual times and that standing with Christ by serving our brothers and sisters is a bond that unites the entire Church," she said.

Gifts to the Appeal support Catholic Charities' nutrition, housing and counseling programs by nourishing the hungry, sheltering the homeless and strengthening families and individuals. In addition, it provides youth with a wide range of faith-based opportunities for spiritual growth and maturity. It supports the infirmed and disabled in nursing homes and hospitals, prepares men to serve in the priesthood and diaconate, sustains our retired priests and more.

(Donations to this year's Annual Catholic Appeal can be made online at www.2019ACABridgeport.com.) ■

Parishes currently running the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal

Parish	ACA Goal
Saint Catherine of Siena, Riverside	200,000.00
Saint Michael, Greenwich	297,500.00
Saint Agnes, Greenwich	55,000.00
Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford	93,500.00
Saint Cecilia, Stamford	105,000.00
Holy Spirit, Stamford	90,100.00
Saint Gabriel, Stamford	57,000.00
Saint Mary, Bethel	136,000.00
Saint Patrick, Redding Ridge	51,000.00
Sacred Heart, Danbury	35,700.00
Saint Peter, Danbury	120,000.00
Saint Matthew, Norwalk	170,000.00
Saint Rose of Lima, Newtown	199,750.00
Saint Mary, Ridgefield	259,250.00
Saint Ladislaus, South Norwalk	16,000.00
Saint Joseph, South Norwalk	55,000.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Danbury	22,100.00
Assumption, Westport	165,750.00
Saint Emery, Fairfield	21,000.00
Holy Family, Fairfield	70,000.00
Saint Pius X, Fairfield	213,750.00
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Shelton	43,350.00
Saint Jude, Monroe	150,000.00
Grand Total	\$2,626,750.00

The remaining parishes are currently running the We Stand With Christ Capital Campaign or will run in 2020.



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Second Annual Rector's Dinner

'Spiritual parents of a generation of priests'

STAMFORD—More than 500 people came out to support St. John Fisher Seminary and honor its founding rector, Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, and a Stamford couple whom Bishop Frank J. Caggiano praised as the "spiritual parents of a generation of priests."

"Forming Fishers of Men," the Second Annual Rector's Dinner held recently at the Italian Club in Stamford, recognized Stamford residents Phil and Judy DeFelice for their longtime commitment to the seminary and the Diocese of Bridgeport.

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

Pastor of the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist, Msgr. DiGiovanni was founding rector and vocation director, and his tenure produced 27 priests currently serving in the diocese.

"To form priests is a sacred art; it is not something that can be easily or totally taught and requires some basic human gifts that grace informs to do God's will," the bishop said. Msgr. DiGiovanni possesses those gifts, he said, including a strong faith in Jesus Christ, deep wisdom, compassion and empathy in order to "feel what the men entrusted to his care feel so he can mold them into something beautiful for the Lord."

Bishop Caggiano said the seminarians have been blessed to have had as "spiritual parents, a remarkable couple who have formed a generation of priests in this diocese, not by any great eloquent theological discourse but integrity of life, humble sacrifice and great love for the men who have come through St. John Fisher." He added, "They know very well that Phil and Judy love them dearly and there would be nothing they would not do for them."

Ms. DeFelice was receptionist and secretary for 23 years before retiring in 2017. Mr. DeFelice, who is a general contractor, carpenter and woodworker, was instrumental in the construction of the seminary's main chapel and adoration chapel, along with major renovations done to St. Augustine Cathedral.

In accepting the award, they expressed their gratitude, particularly for being able to work

so many years for the seminary. "The Fisher house has been a great experience for both of us," Mr. DeFelice said, "especially looking out here and seeing all our baby seminarians who grew up to be full-grown priests."

Bishop Caggiano also praised the eight seminarians at St. John Fisher and said, "The Lord has given us this great moment of challenge, which will become a great moment of renewal in the life of the Church, and these men, who will one day be priests, will help lead us in that renewal."

He talked about the hope he



CONGRATULATIONS!—Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, pastor of the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford is surrounded by family and friends after being honored at the Rector's Dinner. (right) Bishop Caggiano congratulates Phil and Judy DeFelice who were also recognized at the event.

has for the future and added, "I know we are facing challenges in the Church, and many times in the darkness of night when I am wide awake, I wonder to myself how we are going to move forward in faith, and the Lord reminds me that I need look no further than that house and the men who have gone through it and live there now and—please God—the ones who will come after, for there is great hope that the Church is being renewed and transformed by a new generation of priests to join those who are already living holy, sacrificial lives." ■

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With



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Ordinations

==== PRIEST ORDINATION FROM PAGE 3 =====

like nothing else I've ever felt in my life. God is good."

Father Peter Adamski, who was assigned to St. James Parish in Stratford, said, "I feel awesome. I feel blessed and full of zeal right now, and I just want to get to work in the vineyard!"

Father David Roman, who

will be at St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, said, "I feel great! I feel great!"

All three had been ordained as transitional deacons last May.

Father Peter Joseph Adamski, 65, is one of four sons of the late Peter and Melda Adamski. He grew up in Jersey City, N.J.,

and had Holy Spirit Church in Stamford as his home parish. He and his wife, Kathy, who died in 2014, were married more than 40 years, and they had a son, John.

Father Adamski received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in 1976 and earned an MBA from Rutgers along with his C.P.A. license. He has held executive positions at Johnson & Johnson Co. and Bausch & Lomb and was the CEO of a foam manufacturing company in New Jersey. He completed his seminary studies at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Mass.

Father Christopher Joseph Ford, 29, was born in Bridgeport. The only boy in a family with three sisters, he grew up in Naugatuck and attended St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School and Naugatuck High School. His parents, Terence and Teresa Ford, live in Naugatuck and are members of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Father Ford graduated from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven in



2011 and then went to work for Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, while obtaining a master's degree in Education from Kent State University in Ohio. He entered St. John Fisher Seminary in 2015 and earned his M.Div./S.T.B. degree from St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.

Father David Roman, Jr., 34, is the oldest of three sons of David and Yvonne Roman. A native of Waterbury, he and his family attended St. Patrick Parish.

He graduated from Western Connecticut State University in Danbury with a bachelor's degree in history and received a master's in Education from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

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



700 walk with Jesus through streets of Danbury

DANBURY—More than 700 faithful from 11 parishes processed through downtown Danbury with the Blessed Sacrament on the Feast of Corpus Christi in what Bishop Frank J. Caggiano called "a tremendous demonstration of faith."

The Eucharistic procession began at St. Peter Church on Main Street, after a Holy Hour at 1 pm, Sunday and then proceeded a mile north to St. Joseph Church, where it ended with Benediction by Bishop Caggiano. It was one of several processions throughout the diocese to observe the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, a feast that has been celebrated since the mid-13th century.

Hundreds of parishioners followed the Blessed Sacrament along Main Street while onlookers watched from the sidewalks and apartment windows. The procession was led by a police escort and began with altar servers carrying a crucifix and candles, followed by a cadre of parishioners holding colorful banners representing the 11 churches that



participated.

The procession included Portuguese children folk dancers in festive costumes from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, the Sons of Portugal Marching Band, and a statue of the Blessed Mother and Christ Child held aloft on a platform adorned with a bed of white carnations.

"Today was a tremendous demonstration of the faith people share in Danbury and beyond and the pride they have in their Catholic faith," Bishop Caggiano said. "But more importantly, it showed their desire to share it

with others, and one of the best ways to do that is to bring the Lord to the world, which is exactly what we did here on the streets of Danbury."

Father Robert Wolfe, parochial vicar of St. Mary Parish in Bethel, said planning for the first annual Corpus Christi Procession began last summer and included parishes from Danbury, Bethel, Brookfield, New Fairfield and Sherman.

Father Gregg Mecca, pastor of St. Peter's, said, "This is our giving witness to the centrality of our faith that Jesus is alive and

present in the Eucharist with us. This is the first time we did this cooperatively with the deanery, and we wanted it to show we are proud of our faith...because the Catholic faith is alive, and we are very much alive in our faith."

The idea for the procession was first presented at a deanery meeting by Father Corey Piccinino, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Bethel.

Deacon Louis Howe of St. Joseph's said the procession was also an important display of unity in the Church. "The Catholic Church is universal, and this shows that we

all walk in unity with the Blessed Sacrament and the Church," he said.

Father John Perez, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Danbury, noted the importance of the procession in a secular society "because it shows everyone the main mystery of our faith, which is the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist."

"When it comes to the Eucharist, we ourselves need a very vivid and constant reminder of the Lord's presence," Father Wolfe said. "Christ is literally walking with us throughout our life and all the stations that we experience...Just like the disciples at Emmaus, we have seen him in the breaking of the bread and in the outpoured cup. To be able to profess that faith is not only something we need, but something the world needs. The Eucharist desires every single one of us, and every single one of us should come to desire this great gift. We should bring him out into the open because that is exactly where he wants to be found and shared." ■

Walking Down the Aisle

Led by the Holy Spirit to priesthood at age 65

By **JOE PISANI**

STAMFORD—When newly ordained Father Peter Adamski celebrated his Mass of Thanksgiving recently at Church of the Holy Spirit, he looked out from behind the altar, where he had spoken the words of consecration, to a congregation filled with family and friends. And in those moments of joy, he recalled his terrible sorrow nearly five years ago at the funeral Mass of his wife, Kathy.

He remembered the eulogy he delivered on October 18, 2014, for the woman he loved dearly for more than 40 years, the woman he cared for as she suffered through seven different cancers and the most painful ordeal of all—early onset Alzheimer's.

"I told the congregation that I needed no help to walk her down the aisle the day I married her, but I needed help now," he said. And then, he, his brothers, his son, John and his brother-in-law carried her body to her final place of rest.

God can work in inscrutable ways, but when Father Peter looks back on his 65 years of life and sees the path down which

the Holy Spirit led him, he understands completely that marriage, fatherhood, a corporate career, years of caregiving and formation as a seminarian were all part of the divine plan that ultimately led to his ordination on June 1.

A circuitous path

Peter Joseph Adamski was one of four sons born to Peter and Melda Adamski. He grew up in Jersey City, N.J., and was named after his cousin, Msgr. Peter Joseph Adamski, a priest born in Poland, who for almost 30 years was pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo. When Peter visited his grandparents as a teenager, he would spend Saturdays at the rectory, talking about his vocation to the priesthood with the monsignor.

"I thought I was going into the seminary, and then that darn Holy Spirit put Kathy Junker in front of me and said, 'Young man, you have a lot to learn in life and I want you to dwell with this woman for 41 years,'" he said.

Father Peter remembers meeting his future wife for the first time at Rutgers University on January 23, 1973. "I saw this



FATHER PETER JOSEPH ADAMSKI

vision—a young woman with a head of long, curly red hair, wearing a purple sweater and bellbottom dungarees," he said. "I can still see her leaning against the wall, and I went up and asked her if she knew where my classroom was."

As fate, or Providence, would have it, she was taking the same class in science fiction and sat directly in front of him. They were both psychology majors and developed a close friendship that led them to marriage 500 days after they met. On June 8, 1974, they were married at the university by the priest who ran the Newman Center.

Over the years, Kathy had many different careers, as a social worker, professional photographer, computer systems analyst and lastly as a registered nurse doing home health care. In 1983, their son John was born.

Peter, who received his MBA in professional accounting from Rutgers, became a CPA and worked at Arthur Andersen LLP for two years before going to Johnson & Johnson Co. at 26 years old. During his 17 years there, he orchestrated several major deals, including the acquisition of a disposable contact lens that Johnson & Johnson renamed Vistakon Acuvue. He also established a partnership that led to his company's acquiring Splenda, the high-intensity sweetener.

When Johnson & Johnson wanted to move him to California, he resigned and

accepted a position at Bausch + Lomb in Rochester, where he worked for 10 years, before going into private equity. His corporate career ended as CEO of a \$400 million New Jersey company that manufactured foam for pillows and mattresses.

Father Peter said that when he was a young man and thought of his vocation to the priesthood, he imagined himself as a Franciscan,

but by the end of his corporate career, he owned homes in Reno, Stamford and Manhattan and drove a large, black S-Class Mercedes-Benz.

When he entered the seminary, he sold his homes and personal belongings, along with his luxury car.

"I told them I would not be driving that car. It may be fine for a CEO but not a priest," he said. "Now, I drive a Subaru Outback because I need a reliable machine so that at 2 am when I get a phone call at the rectory that someone's mom is dying—and I have to get to the hospital during a blizzard—I can make the trip and be the presence of Christ and comfort people."

A loving husband and caregiver, Peter and Kathy lived a wonderful life together, a life with joy and sorrow, centered on Christ.

Their son, John, was born in 1983 after many years of trying to have children. In 1991, Kathy was diagnosed with cervical cancer at 42 years old. It was the first of seven cancers that would afflict her over the next 23 years. She later had to have both kidneys removed and for 37 months relied

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

POSITION OPENING

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EDITORIAL

Newly ordained
bring joy and hope

Ordinations are always a time of joy and great promise as the newly ordained begin their full public ministries as priests. This year was no exception as Peter Adamski, Chris Ford and David Roman were ordained by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at St. Augustine Cathedral.

All three men have gone on to give their first blessings, say their first Mass and begin work in their first assignments (see story on page 3). Each brings a different life story to his priesthood. Father Adamski raised a family, enjoyed a successful business career and discerned a vocation after losing his wife; Father Roman taught and served as youth minister; Father Ford worked for Westminster College, while earning a masters in Education.

"I would love to tell you that the days ahead in the Church will be easy ones, but they are not going to be," the bishop told the men at the ordination Mass. "You have had the courage to persevere in a world where a thousand voices would have told you not to...The Church needs to be purified and renewed and we with Christ as our Captain and Savior will do that together, and you will do that with the gifts God will give you today. Thank you for saying 'yes,' because the Church needs you now more than ever.

According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, the average man entering the priesthood this year is a 33-year-old cradle Catholic who has a college degree and had a full-time job before entering the seminary. Nearly nine out of 10 were baptized as infants, and 77 percent grew up in households where both parents were Catholic. More than half of the new priests in CARA's survey participated in a parish youth group, and about three in 10 participated in their campus Catholic ministry or Newman Center during college. One-third served in campus or youth ministry.

It's clear that vocations are born of faith-filled families, schools and parish communities. At a time when the Church struggles under the cloud of the abuse crisis, these men renew our hope. We are inspired by their resolve and faithfulness, and their zeal to share the truth of the Gospel and bring healing to the Church. We ask God's blessing upon them and their important ministries.

A moment
of transition

Bishop Caggiano recently celebrated Baccalaureate Masses at three of our diocesan high schools. In his Facebook post, the bishop wrote that he considers it a blessing to pray with seniors and their families as they prepare to begin a new chapter in their young adult lives. "Graced with the power of the Holy Spirit and having been educated and formed in our Catholic schools, our seniors will begin college armed with the tools they need to continue to grow in wisdom and grace," the bishop noted, as he reflected on this important moment of transition in the lives of young people:

"It is important to remember that moments of transition, such as graduation, are very important in the life of any young person. While they represent the start of exciting, new opportunities that college affords, such moments of transition also represent a challenge for young people, who will need to establish new friendships and find communities of faith in which they can be fed and encouraged spiritually.

Research indicates that many young people, who enjoyed a wonderful high school experience that helped strengthen their Catholic faith, can easily fall away from the practice of the faith when they go to college, in part because they lose focus, direction and encouragement during the initial transition into college. For this reason, we need to strengthen our outreach to college freshmen, in part to ensure that they make the transition with a focus on maintaining and protecting their Catholic faith.

We must also pray that our new freshmen in college find true supportive friendships as they begin their lives on campus, for good friends can help our freshmen to deepen their discipleship in Jesus. For now, let us rejoice in the many accomplishments of our high school seniors and pray that the collegiate chapter in their lives will be a blessed one!"



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

PASTOR

FATHER CYRUS M. BARTOLOME, from Parochial Administrator, Church of the Assumption Parish, Westport, to Pastor, Church of the Assumption Parish, Westport. Effective June 9.

FATHER JOHN P. CONNAUGHTON, from Director of Seminarian Formation, to Pastor, St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel Parish, Stamford. Effective July 1. Father Connaughton will remain Diocesan Director of Vocations

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR

FATHER ROGERIO PERRI, from Parochial Vicar, Saint James Parish, Stratford, to Parochial Administrator, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Bridgeport. Effective June 30.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

FATHER PETER J. ADAMSKI, newly ordained to the Diocese of Bridgeport, to Parochial Vicar, Saint James Parish, Stratford. Effective June 1.

FATHER CHRISTOPHER J. FORD, newly ordained to the Diocese of Bridgeport, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Gregory the Great Parish, Danbury. Effective June 1.

FATHER KRZYSZTOF KUCZYNSKI, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Lawrence Parish, Shelton. Effective June 30.

FATHER DAVID ROMAN, newly ordained to the Diocese of Bridgeport, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Aloysius Parish, New Canaan. Effective June 1.

FATHER ANDREW A. VILL, from a temporary leave of absence, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown. Effective July 1.

INCARDINATION

FATHER MARK DSILVA, from the Diocese of Varanasi, to the Diocese of Bridgeport. Effective May 31.

FATHER ELIO ALBANO SOSA, from the Institute of the Incarnate Word, to the Diocese of Bridgeport. Effective date was May 31.

GRADUATE STUDIES

FATHER SAMUEL V. SCOTT, to Church Management studies through Villanova University. Effective May

14. Father Scott will remain Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Danbury.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

FATHER MICHAEL L. DUNN, to Chaplain, Aquinas Fellowship Program. Effective June 30. Father Dunn will remain Pastor, Saint Gregory the Great Parish, Danbury.

TEMPORARILY RELEASED
FROM DIOCESAN ASSIGNMENT

FATHER GREG J. MARKEY, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Lawrence Parish, Shelton, to Chaplain, Thomas Aquinas College, Northfield, Massachusetts. Effective June 30. Father Markey has been released from the Diocese of Bridgeport for a period of three years.

MONSIGNOR DARIUSZ ZIELONKA, from the Diocese of Bridgeport, to the Archdiocese of Miami. Effective April 8. Monsignor Zielonka has been released from the Diocese of Bridgeport for a period of three years.

RESIDENCE

REVEREND MR. MICHAEL J. V. CLARK, from Episcopal Chaplain to Catholic Academy of Stamford, to residence at Saint Thomas More Parish, Darien. Effective June 30. Deacon Clark will remain Episcopal Chaplain to Trinity Catholic High School.

FATHER BRUCE F. ROBY, from Saint Peter Parish, Danbury, to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Danbury. Effective June 30. Father Roby will remain Chaplain to the Newman Center of Western Connecticut State University.

SENIOR ACTIVE PRIEST

FATHER PAUL F. MERRY, from full-time Chaplain, Saint John Paul II Center, Danbury, to part-time Chaplain, Saint John Paul II Center, Danbury. Effective June 30.

RETIREMENT

FATHER JOSÉ B. ALVES, from Pastor, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Bridgeport, to retirement. Effective date is June 30.

MONSIGNOR LAURENCE R. BRONKIEWICZ, from Pastor, Saint Mary Parish, Ridgefield, to retirement. Effective July 31. Monsignor

Bronkiewicz will reside at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence, Stamford.

DEACON JOHN TUCCIO, from Saint Jude Parish, Monroe, to retirement. Effective June 4.

DEACON

DEACON JOSEPH CANN, newly ordained to the Diocese of Bridgeport, to Deacon, Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield. Effective June 15.

DEACON STEPHEN HODSON, newly ordained to the Diocese of Bridgeport, to Deacon, Saint Luke Parish, Westport. Effective June 15.

DEACON ERIC KEENER, newly ordained to the Diocese of Bridgeport, to Deacon, Saint Mary Parish, Bethel. Effective June 15.

DEACON JOSEPH KLIMASZEWSKI, newly ordained to the Diocese of Bridgeport, to Deacon, Saint Lawrence Parish, Shelton. Effective June 15.

DEACON RICHARD LAWLOR, newly ordained to the Diocese of Bridgeport, to Deacon, Saint Mary Parish, Ridgefield. Effective June 15.

DEACON DANIEL O'CONNOR, from Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, to Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Stratford. Effective June 15.

DEACON JOHN PIATAK, from Saint James Parish, Stratford, to Saint Ann Parish, Bridgeport. Effective June 30.

DEACON MICHAEL RONAN, newly ordained to the Diocese of Bridgeport, to Deacon, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown. Effective June 15.

COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS

The following priests have been appointed to serve on the College of Consultors, effective June 30:

Father Paul N. Check
Father John P. Connaughton
Father Robert M. Kinnally
Father Arthur Mollenhauer
Father Marco Pacciana

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

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Editorial



We're allowed to be angry

A YOUNG WOMAN'S VOICE

BY ELIZABETH CLYONS

Libby Clyons is Communications Associate for the Diocese of Bridgeport. She can be reached at elizabeth.clyons@diobpt.org.

I was recently talking with a friend who had experienced a significant loss in her life. As our conversation continued, we touched on all the different types of losses one can experience throughout life, whether it is the death of a loved one, the loss of relationship or friendship, or even the loss of a child.

My friend expressed that she felt guilty because she was left with feelings of anger and questioning toward God after this loss. "I thought 'why would He put this

person in my life, only to take them away shortly after?'" she said.

The thing is, we may never know that answer, this side of heaven. But, in times of anger or questioning, I find it helps to remember the many times that I have not known the reasoning behind things, of which I have not known the outcome and the Lord has always proven that He will not abandon us.

We're allowed to be angry. He encourages our questioning. The important part is that in question-

ing His ways, we are not questioning His existence. In a December 28 weekly general audience, Pope Francis said that to complain to God in moments of doubt and fear like Abraham did is not something bad but rather is a form of prayer that requires the courage to 'hope beyond all hope.'

While in life there may be times of frustration and darkness, "hope is still there and it moves us forward," the pope said.

"I won't say that Abraham loses patience, but he complains to the Lord. This is what we learn from our father Abraham: complaining to the Lord is a form of prayer. Sometimes I hear confessions where people say, 'I complained to the Lord.' But no, continue to complain; He is a father and this is a form of prayer. Complain to the Lord; this is good," he said.

In times of difficulty and questioning, my relationship with God has always grown. It has grown because in those times I have had

to intentionally seek the places that He was present in my life, rather than become complacent.

I think God welcomes that kind of dialogue with us. It is much better that we express our frustration to Him rather than shut Him out completely.

A few years ago, I read a story about a woman who was hit by a truck while riding a bike. She survived the accident, but she was faced with a long and painful recovery. "For a while I couldn't even pray," wrote Colleen Alexander in *Guidepost Magazine*, "I was too angry. 'God,' I wanted to say, 'why didn't you just let me die on the asphalt? Why do I have to suffer like this?'"

Her story continued, "One morning I wouldn't even let the nurses clean my wounds. I was in too much pain. The chaplain came to see me later that day. He sat with me and read Scripture.

'I have no right to blame God,' I said to him guiltily. 'You do have

that right, Colleen. Of course you do. Look in the Bible. Look at the range of emotions expressed in the Psalms. We can say anything to God. He can take it.' He explained that if a friend were angry with us, wouldn't we want to know? Wouldn't we want to hear? So does God. Soon I became unflinchingly honest in my prayers. I still am. Don't let pain isolate you spiritually. God is there with us at the best of times and the worst."

During the pope's December 28 general audience, he continued to speak about Christian hope and the often difficult path that accompanies that hope. "I became angry with God, I told Him this, this and that.' But He is a father and He understands you; go in peace. You must have this courage. This is hope," the pope said.

In coming to God with our anger, our frustrations and our questioning, we can come to know how merciful He truly is. ■



All roads lead to beauty

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

"Some will change a man," said my friend, Father John. It sure changed me.

At first, I didn't want to go. Whether for a night or a week, leaving home never appeals to me. When I go somewhere, my wife has to do my job as well as hers. Managing a five-ring circus is hard enough with a partner. Doing it alone is Herculean.

But a generous benefactor called and said, "Come to Rome for a pilgrimage and we'll pay for it." That's not the kind of thing that happens every day. So I went.

Day One consisted of the transcendent splendor of St. Peter's Basilica, surely the most magnif-

icent structure ever built by man. Michelangelo's famous Pietà draws the crowds, but it's far from the only jaw-dropping work of art in St. Peter's. The magnificent sculpted baldachin above the high altar is by Bernini, as are many of the awe-inspiring marble statues of popes and saints.

I'm a middle-aged slob from New Jersey. My ancestors picked potatoes. In any other era of history I'd have been cannon fodder in the army of an ambitious monarch. In no fantasy version of my life did I ever imagine myself strolling the grounds of the Vatican or standing before the throne of St. Peter.

The Lord has done great things for me.

The papal tombs in particular knocked me out. It was humbling to pray before the relics of martyrs and saints, including those of the rock upon whom Jesus built his church. The scale of St. Peter's is overwhelming. It's sort of like the Grand Canyon. Words aren't really up to the task of describing it.

Things only got better.

Successive days were spent touring the major basilicas. I gazed in wonder. More splendor. More grandeur. More Bernini. It reminded me of the title of a book I read recently about the radical American Catholic Dorothy Day: "The World Will Be Saved by Beauty."

The churches of Rome are very beautiful.

At the Basilica of St. Augustine, before the tomb of St. Monica, I asked God to round up his lost sheep. I gave him the names of a few who are particularly important to me.

At the tomb of St. Agnes, I prayed that my three little girls would become beacons of belief. At the tomb of St. Ignatius, I prayed that my two young sons would grow courageous in the

faith. In the catacombs of St. Callixtus I prayed for persecuted Christians around the world.

At every stop I prayed that my wife was having an easy time in my absence.

The weather wasn't particularly Roman. I expected heat and sun, but it was mostly cold and raining. No matter—I like it that way. Those are good conditions for a fast-paced walking tour of a dense and cobblestoned city. One afternoon we hit 15 churches in 14 minutes.

I was with a small group of Catholic journalists. We attended the weekly papal audience in St. Peter's square. The throngs there were assembled from the four corners of the earth, waving flags and speaking in tongues. As James Joyce so rightly noted, 'Catholic' means "here comes everybody."

Our guide, a most impressive American priest, translated the Holy Father's welcome to us in real time. Throughout the week, he generously translated Church history, architecture, doctrine and tradition, not to mention many restaurant menus. If our Church is to survive its current crises, it will be because she is served by

men like Father Roger.

A side note: Americans have a tendency to forget how young we are. Our country is still in the peach-fuzz stage. In Rome, I saw many things crafted by human hands 1,300 years before Washington crossed the Delaware. A timely reminder: The dramas occupying us are not eternal. They will fade.

When in Rome, of course, one does more than pray. The food we ate was Grand Canyon-esque, too. Wine-soaked lunches of antipasti and grilled branzino. Dinners of buffalo mozzarella and carbonara, washed down with more wine. Tiramisu, tiny wild strawberries, ice cream doused with Grand Marnier. And then a little wine, some coffee, and perhaps a limoncello.

Mamma mia! Rome blew out my prayer life and my waistline in equal measure. I ain't even mad.

All roads lead to Rome, but generous benefactors don't grow on trees. I know how lucky I am. Should you ever have the chance to visit the City of the Seven Hills, don't hesitate for a moment. Go.

It will change you. ■



Parishes rely on capital campaign for long-term needs

By JOE PISANI

Father Terrence Walsh is happy the capital campaign is finally coming to a close for Christ the King Parish in Trumbull. The months of planning and fund-raising were successful, and the parish can finally put a much-needed new roof on the school building... for \$50,000.

Father, who was named pastor 2-1/2 years ago, said that when he left his career in sales and entered St. John Fisher Seminary, he had never owned a home. "One of the first lessons I learned as pastor was that things break—and you have to fix them."

With a 60-year-old parish that needs repairs to the physical plant, the We Stand With Christ Capital Campaign was just what Christ the King needed. The school building, which contains the parish hall, is used for everything from reli-

gious education to weekly Bible study, pancake breakfasts, pasta dinners, Catholic movie night and Confirmation faith nights.

Father also anticipates some smaller plumbing repair projects ... and hopes that, in the near future, he will be able to undertake a renovation to the sanctuary.

The We Stand With Christ capital campaign has already raised more than \$65 million of its \$75 million goal, making it the largest and most successful campaign in the 64-year history of the diocese. In recent weeks, parishioners have been asked to make pledges that will benefit the long-term needs of churches and diocesan ministries.

The campaign is led by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and a 26-member executive committee with the support of priests, deacons, religious and lay leaders, whose co-chairs are Brian Young

of New Canaan and Father Reggie Norman, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Wilton.

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

While a number of parishes will complete the campaign at the end of June, others will launch their effort in the fall and a number plan to start in 2020.

Father Walsh is confident that Christ the King will surpass its goal of \$713,610 and he praises the parish community for its generosity.

"They understand the need and they recognize the importance of sacrificial giving," he said. "It is a great testimony to them, and I am really grateful



for their support ... and positive about the future."

He says the campaign also points to the need for the laity to be involved, adding, "There was no way I could have visited 1,000 families." The campaign committee members were responsible for reaching out to fellow parishioners, answering questions and asking for pledges.

"Our committee believed in the campaign and they love the Church and our parish," Father Walsh said. "They also understood the bishop's decision and the importance of sustaining the Church even during these difficult times."

Father Frank Hoffmann said that St. John Church in Darien is finishing up the campaign after having surpassed its goal of \$1,762,000 and is now preparing to undertake its next major initiative—the parish's 125th anniversary next year.

He was very pleased with the response to the campaign and said, "Every time I think of how we've gone past that number, it is like an alternate reality for me."

For St. John's, it means they will be able to complete some deferred maintenance in time for the anniversary celebration. The

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Foundations in Faith grants total \$425,000

BRIDGEPORT—On May 23, the Foundations in Faith board of trustees meeting began and closed with a prayer of gratitude for the donors, priests, parish staff and the Catholic community who are all striving to grow closer to their faith and rebuild a community of compassion and devotion.

A full agenda included the St. John Paul II Fund Grant Review Committee recommendation for a total of \$115,000 in funding for religious education and youth ministry programs in parishes across the Diocese of Bridgeport. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano stated that priority should be given to the projects or programs that demonstrate fresh new approaches in how we engage our parish members in faith formation.

According to Kelly Weldon, assistant to the chairperson for Foundations in Faith, the Grant Review Committee consisted of five members: two Foundations in Faith board members, two staff at the Diocese of Bridgeport and one retired Director of Religious Education who is a strong

community leader. The Grant Review Committee has met as a group four times for a total of approximately 20 hours per committee member. Every application

need to shore up a solid platform to grow future innovative programs."

"We are very excited about numerous vital new projects and look forward to showing them off



AT LAST YEAR'S RECEPTION for JP II grant recipients, members of Holy Spirit Parish accept their award with smiles.

was read, rated, reviewed and discussed as a committee.

"We were looking for innovation but also listening to needs that exist related to religious education," says Weldon. "The committee dug deep and used great care to leverage the St. John Paul II funding for innovation as well as providing funding for parishes that

and eventually replicating them in neighboring parishes," Weldon stated. "Of concern, however, was the obvious existence of the 'digital divide,' an issue that plagues Connecticut. Some parishes in our under-resourced communities lack the basic IT infrastructure to access current teaching tools for the youth and

adult faith formation programs. It was also apparent that many parishes do not have money in their budget to hire a youth minister for the high school age youth."

As one application reflected, "Confirmation does not mean graduation from learning about and experiencing the Catholic faith. If we engage our teens after Confirmation, they will stay and grow into the next and needed generation of Catholic leaders."

The Grant Review Committee agreed that parishes should make every effort to have an energetic, proactive youth minister and thus thought it was important to make a few, one-time investments. The committee felt that parishes will need to build the cost into their future budgets. It is evident that there is room for collaboration and youth minister job-share opportunities are worth exploring. After meaningful discussion, the Foundations in Faith board unanimously approved the funding recommendations. The awardees will receive letters this week and a list of grants will be published on the

Foundations in Faith website with regular project updates.

In addition to the St. John Paul II Fund grants, three other funds received board approval for funding. The St. Charles Borromeo Fund distributed \$95,000 in awards for St. John Fisher Seminary, the Office of Vocations and Redemptoris Mater Diocesan Missionary Seminary. The St. John Vianney Fund, set up to support our retired priests, awarded \$40,000 to Queen of the Clergy retirement residence for priests, located in Stamford, Conn. The Elizabeth Ann Seton Fund distributed \$175,000 to support initiatives that provide special resources to our Catholic schools in order to keep tuition costs low and affordable for as many young people as possible.

Foundations in Faith currently has a total of eight funds; four are active and four await funding from the We Stand With Christ Campaign.

(For more information and updates related to these Pastoral Care funds please visit: www.foundation-infaith.org or email: kelly.weldon@diobpt.org.)



Bishop visits St. Anthony for campaign kickoff

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

FAIRFIELD—“Lay leadership is key to the renewal of the Church,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at the reception launching the “We Stand With Christ” capital campaign at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Fairfield.

The bishop told those in attendance that St. Anthony is a unique parish because it is led by Dr. Eleanor Sauers, former director of religious education who was named Parish Life Coordinator by the bishop after the passing of Father John Baran.

Members of the Jesuit Community along with Father Michael Boccaccio bring sacramental and liturgical ministry to the parish.

“You’re here because you care about this parish and the way you are able to be a Catholic community,” said the bishop in thanking the men and women who gathered for the event.

The bishop said a high participation rate by parishioners would be an affirmation of Dr. Sauers’ leadership and the vitality of the lay-led parish.

More than 100 parishioners turned out to meet with the bishop and be introduced to the \$75 million campaign that benefits parishes as well as new diocesan foundations that endow programs in faith, charity and education.

“We’re going from maintenance to mission,” said the bishop, noting that the funds raised by campaign will help create innovation and change in the future as the Church seeks to re-evangelize in Fairfield County.

“The campaign is an important moment in the life of the Church. At a time when we are navigating troubled waters, the campaign gives us opportunity to strengthen the parish community and the overall mission of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ,” the bishop said.

The bishop said the idea for the campaign was formed on the day 9,000 people turned out for the Synod Mass at Webster Bank Arena.

After an early-morning prayer vigil, one thousand young people processed with him from St. Augustine Cathedral to the arena for the closing Mass. The bishop said he thought of the young people and their dreams and hopes, and realized that the diocese would need resources to move

ahead with reform and renewal.

“I knew we had to do things differently. The synod was a moment of grace that moved us forward. Now the We Stand With Christ campaign that was born at the synod is giving us the resources to address evangelization, catechesis and lay leadership, which are essential for the renewal of the Church.”

Dr. Sauers said Father Baran’s vision of a faith community was “Christ-centered” and that he encouraged lay leadership and participation at every level.

“The needs of the parish community and the diocese have grown,” said Dr. Sauers, who added that the We Stand With Christ campaign clears a new path for the diocese. She said that under Father Baran’s leadership, St. Anthony was always a parish that looked outside to help others in the community.

“We do not exist for ourselves. The Gospel mandates that we care for people on the margins and the



wider world of need. We have a call to help others,” she said.

In reference to the \$1,042,000 parish goal announced at the gathering, Dr. Sauers said through the generosity of the campaign leadership, the parish is already off to a good start.

“We have a great foundation from parish leadership, but I am asking all to be ‘in,’” said Dr. Sauers.

Funds will be used to expand the choir loft and upgrade the parish hall with improvements to the

kitchen and restroom, create a more accessible entrance and add an elevator to the building.

Both Dr. Sauers and Bishop Caggiano challenged the parish not only to reach its goal but also to work for a high participation rate so that all parishioners will be invested in the campaign.

At present, the highest participation rate during the campaign has been achieved by Our Lady of Guadalupe in Danbury, where 49.1 percent of parishioners made

gifts to the campaign.

The bishop said the parish is made up largely of working people and he was deeply grateful for their commitment and enthusiasm.

After his brief opening remarks, the bishop and Anne McCrory, chief legal officer of the diocese and a parishioner of St. Anthony, fielded questions about the campaign and the newly created Foundations.

McCrory said the three Foundations are 501 C3 separate corporations governed by independent lay boards with expertise in finance along with knowledge of programs in charity, education and faith. Monies that go to the foundations can only be used for that purpose and the foundations will make distributions on a regular basis.

Bishop Caggiano added that he is committed to building boards that reflect the diversity of the diocese. He said the foundations are already providing funds for future innovation and transformation. ■

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FROM PAGE 10

slate roof on the church, which some have said resembles an English country church, will be repaired. In addition, worn wood floors will be refinished, pathways and entrances will be refurbished, and there will be replantings on the grounds.

Another project he foresees is a new parking lot, which will carry a price tag of \$300,000. Repairs, of course, are a common for a church that traces its founding to 1895.

In addition to the maintenance, Father Hoffmann hopes to direct some of the funds toward formation programs, a speakers’ series that would attract a community-wide audience, and digitizing decades of parish records.

Father, who has been pastor for five years, said the success of the campaign can be credited to the generosity of his parishioners and the efforts of committee members.

In recent months, he met with many families and said, “That was one added benefit to the process. Many people I visited I didn’t know directly. They were only names and faces, so this gave me a chance

to meet them.”

At St. Roch Church in Greenwich, many parishioners are descendants of the families who built the church a century ago, and Father Carl McIntosh says their strong attachment to the church, along with their devotion to St. Roch, motivated them to participate in the campaign and consider the future needs of the parish as its centennial celebration approaches.

The church foundation was laid in 1920 by Italian masons with rock hewn from a nearby quarry, and in that basement, the first Masses were held so parishioners would not have to walk to Sacred Heart Church in Byram to attend Mass during the winter months.

The overriding need of St. Roch’s is to have the stonework of the church facade and bell tower repointed, in addition to repairs on windows affected by water damage.

Father expects the parish to reach its goal before the campaign ends and said some people have been very generous because they recognize the urgency of the maintenance project. The campaign, which has been going on

for four months, recently entered its final phase. For the past few weeks, he has been reminding the parish of the importance of the campaign and plans to have envelopes in the pews to encourage last-minute pledges. He has said that everyone should contribute and no amount is too small.

After the campaign kicked off, he invited people to the rectory to discuss the prospectus, explain where the money would go, and the detail the parish needs. “It was very well received,” he said.

He also expressed his appreciation for the executive committee, which worked hard to reach out to parishioners and then approach them for donations.

“The campaign committee did the follow-up and each team member had a certain number of parishioners they would meet with, and that went very well,” Father McIntosh said. “After I explained our needs, the parishioners were very supportive of the campaign.”

Father Cyrus Bartolome, who was installed as pastor of Church of the Assumption in Westport on June 9, has begun assuming the responsibilities of his predecessor, Father Thomas Thorne,

who retired.

Assumption surpassed its goal of \$1.3 million and has a list of necessary renovations that will be completed in the coming months as it looks toward the celebration of its 150th anniversary in seven years.

“We are going to start the first phase of the renovations,” Father Bartolome said. “We have to repair the sidewalks because it is mandated by the town and for the safety of the people.”

The church has two steeples, both of which need to have the slate replaced. In addition, McGrath Parish Hall in the basement of the church will be renovated.

Parish faith formation projects will also receive funds from the capital campaign.

“It’s a great parish, and I am excited about being here,” Father Bartolome said. “I thank Father Thorne for making it an easy transition. There are things that need to be done, and I am learning as I go. So many people are willing to help, and so many people are dedicated to this parish. And I thank them.” ■

Stamford Parishes

Parishes merge after collaborative process

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—After a long period of dialogue, discussion and discernment over the past twelve months, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano formally signed two decrees on Friday, June 14, 2019, merging four parishes into two new entities, one in Stamford and one in Riverside/Greenwich.

The first decree will merge the Parish of St. Gabriel with the Parish of St. Cecilia in Stamford to create the newly named Parish of St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel.

The second decree merges the Parish of St. Agnes in Greenwich with St. Catherine of Siena in Riverside to create the Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes.

All four worship sites will remain open and Mass schedules will be adjusted.

"This determination has been made to strengthen the pastoral care of the People of God," the bishop said in the decree, which states that "the parishes be merged through an extinctive

union so as to form one parish."

The consolidation of the parishes goes into effect on July 1, 2019, after a ten-day comment period announced on the 14th.

"The decision to merge has come about after extensive con-

"A merger can be a very graced opportunity for growth with two faith communities coming together."

sultation with local parish leadership with the involvement of Bishop Caggiano. In addition, the Council of Priests were consulted for their views," said Patrick Turner, diocesan director of pastoral and strategic planning, who facilitated the processes.

Turner said the consolidations grew out of the work of the dioce-

san synod 2014 and the mandate to create welcoming, vibrant parishes.

"The synod and the subsequent pastoral planning process challenged us to look at strengthening parishes, establishing priorities and identifying strengths and challenges," he said, noting that the mergers are designed to lead to stronger faith communities.

"These mergers are intended to address a number of pastoral trends in our diocese including; diminishing Mass attendance, fiscal sustainability in the face of declining offertory income, decreasing sacramental celebrations and clergy availability," said Turner.

The bishop visited with St. Agnes in Greenwich and St. Catherine of Siena, Riverside on December 15, 2018 and June 6, 2019 respectively. He consulted with leadership at St. Gabriel and St. Cecilia in Stamford on December 1 and December 2, 2018, respectively. The bishop also formally consulted on the mergers with the Council of Priests on May 16, 2019, after several conversa-

tions with the Council of Deans.

Turner said the paired parishes formed collaborative committees with equal representation to discuss the details of the parish consolidations. They met every two or three weeks since March to move the process forward and share updates with parishioners. Turner met regularly throughout the year with the individual parishes to prepare for the collaborative process.

"The bishop has made it clear that in the spirit of the synod he wanted to undertake this effort through a consultative and collaborative process rather than making decisions from above. When people look at the data trends and the parish snapshots, they can come to an understanding of the challenges and opportunities," he said.

Father William Pratt, recently installed as the pastor of St. Catherine of Siena, will become the first pastor of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes Parish, and Father John Connaughton will become the first pastor of St. Cecilia-St.

Gabriel Parish on July 1. "I have been incredibly impressed by the leadership of the two pastors... they have worked closely with the collaborative committees in creating a vision for what they hope the newly merged parishes will be."

The territorial boundaries of the merged parishes will be amalgamated to become the boundaries of the newly named parishes.

Turner said that collaborative processes are currently underway in several other regions of the diocese. "We are looking at a number of other parishes in the diocese where this type of collaborative process may be needed. Turner spoke at a recent pastors meeting about these upcoming mergers and other possibilities in the future."

"One of things important for people to understand is that a merger can be a very graced opportunity for growth with two faith communities coming together to do things together that they couldn't necessarily do on their own," said Turner. ■

FATHER ADAMSKI FROM PAGE 7

on dialysis until she received a transplant from an anonymous donor in 2005.

However, they confronted the greatest challenge of their life together on October 28, 2010, outside of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

"We had just left the doctor's office and he told her she had early onset Alzheimer's," Father Peter recalled. "We embraced on the sidewalk, knowing there were no survivors of Alzheimer's. It was the worst diagnosis Kathy ever received." She was 61.

In the years that followed, he became her primary caregiver and was able to conduct business from his home as the CEO of a manufacturing company. However, as her disease progressed, the stress increased on their family.

"I couldn't even leave the house to walk the dog without putting three Post-it notes around to let her know where I was," he said. One time he forgot and while he was at a doctor's appointment, she called him in tears and said, "Peter, I

don't know where you are! Are you ever coming home?"

In 2014, she was scheduled to have her bladder removed, but the surgery had to be postponed because Peter was hospitalized after suffering an episode of transient global amnesia, a neurological disorder brought on by stress. He realizes now this allowed them to have three more weeks together...before her passing.

"It was a very difficult surgery because of all her prior surgeries," he said. There were serious complications after the operation, and the doctor told them that if she went back into the operating room, she had less than a quarter-of-a-percent chance of survival.

They threw everyone out of Kathy's hospital room so they could discuss what to do. "My thought was 'Let's bring her back into surgery to see if we can save her.'" But Kathy told him, "Peter, if you love me, let me die. Bring me home and keep me out of pain as best you can and let me die at home."

A day later, she was under hospice care, lying on a hospital

bed in their living room. Peter was standing by her, holding her hand and stroking her hair, and at one point he asked, "What do you think about the idea of me becoming a priest?"

Then, he put his ear close to her mouth so he could hear her, and she said, "You go for it, Peter, and if there is any way, I will comfort you."

Three days later, she died with Peter by her side while he was praying the Our Father. He watched her take her final breath. Now, whenever he says that prayer, he closes his eyes and remembers those last moments with her.

Reflecting on their years together, he says, "I learned so much from her. She was so compassionate and so smart. If everyone had the kind of marriage that Kathy and I had, with Christ at the center, this would be a whole different world."

Ordination to priesthood at 65

Father Peter Joseph Adamski completed his studies at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass., for candidates 30 and older and

was ordained on June 1 at the Cathedral of St. Augustine. On the day of his ordination, he said, "I feel awesome, I feel blessed and full of zeal right now, and I just want to get to work in the vineyard!" (He had the distinction of being the only seminarian eligible for Medicare.)

The next day, he celebrated his Mass of Thanksgiving at

Church of the Holy Spirit. Msgr. Kevin Royal was the homilist and concelebrant, along with Msgr. Peter

Cullen, Father Brian Kiely, rector and president of the seminary and three classmates.

On July 1, he will begin his assignment as parochial vicar at St. James Church in Stratford.

"I will bring a closet of multicolored t-shirts to my ministry that I can draw upon to help young couples who are contemplating marriage and older couples who are struggling in their marriage," he says. "I have lived the experience of being married,

of raising a child, of climbing the corporate ladder and of losing sight of Christ as you worship this golden idol of success in business. I know what that is like. I know what it is like to lose a job and to care for a loved one who is sick. I bring all that to my ministry."

Looking back on 65 years of life, he says he has lived with

"I know I was created by the Almighty God to be a priest."

the calling to the priesthood for five decades and that the Holy Spirit led him every step

of the way to where he is now. "I know I was created by the Almighty God to be a priest," he says. "From the moment of my conception, I was made to be a priest. I just didn't know the route the Holy Spirit would lead me on, through a beautiful 40-plus years of marriage and the painful loss of a spouse. I would do it all again in a heartbeat. I am at peace now, knowing I am a priest. This is what I was created to be." ■

Leadership Institute

Twenty ways to prepare for Mass

Provided by Patrick Donovan, director of the Leadership Institute. Reprinted (in part) from *Guide for Celebrating Sunday Mass* by Father Paul Turner.

As the face-to-face sessions were being held for those involved in liturgical ministries, several people made suggestions on how the faithful can prepare themselves for Mass. These practical tips are offered here for your consideration. By working together, we can create powerful liturgical experiences that engage our head, hearts, hands and voices.

Prepare at home. Develop a habit of daily prayer. Include some of the words of the Mass in your repertoire of prayer at home. These will help prepare you for Sunday worship with the community. Pay attention to the times that you sacrifice for others, and the times you rejoice with others as well.

Prepare the children. As a parent, you are the first teachers in the ways of faith. If you have young children, talk about the readings for Sunday Mass ahead of time so they are familiar with what they will hear during the Liturgy of the Word. Encourage them to sing and to follow along. Sit where they can see what is happening at Mass.

Arrive on time. Come to Mass on time, if not a little early. You can meet other people, catch up on their week, learn about their joys and struggles, and prepare yourself to worship as the Body of Christ. If you arrive late, you have not joined with others in the opening hymn. If you take your seat while the readings are being proclaimed, you will distract others from listening to the voice of God speaking to them. Arriving on time shows respect for others in the community, and to God who calls us together.

Greet the priest. If your priest is standing by the door, say "hello"—before or after the Mass. But, if you have something important to tell him or discuss with him, be sure to contact him some other time instead. Standing at the door of the church and away from his office, vested for Mass, he is probably not able to make an appointment with you or even to remember an intention that's important to you. He really does care, but the number of



people walking by is so large that he cannot remember everything people say to him before and after Mass. If you need to go to confession before Mass, try to go during the times your priest has already set aside. He may not be able to help you without prior notice in the precious minutes before Mass begins.

Sit in front. You probably have a favorite place to sit. But if there are empty seats in front of you, move up. Participating at Mass demands your full attention. Nothing else should distract you. The closer you are to the action, the more easily and fully you will be able to participate.

Shut off electronic devices. You may have a phone, a watch, or some other device that may create a sound or distract you with messages. You show respect for others in the assembly if you shut off these devices so as not to disturb their prayer. You will also concentrate better on the work you are now called to do.

Be welcoming. Move to the center when you know that more room is needed. Learn the names of those who sit around you. When you see parents with young children, remember that a smile goes a long way in making others feel at ease.

Sing. When you are invited to sing, do it. You will experience a deeper sense of prayer and a richer participation in the service. Your voice will blend with the voices of others, raising a chorus of praise to God. It will be beautiful for God to hear—but only if you sing.

Acknowledge your sins. We all sin, and God loves us when we are honest about it. Your sins do not keep you from coming to Mass. Your humility helps you participate even better.

Pray. When the priest says,

"Let us pray," he means it. In the silence that follows those words, think hard about the reasons you are at Mass today, the intentions you hold in your heart. As you listen to the priest pray the Collect, find a place in it for the intentions you bring to Mass this day.

Listen to the readings. When the readings are being proclaimed, listen intently. Put down the participation aids and anything else that may distract you. You are in God's house. God is speaking to you. Surely you want to listen. In the silence that follows each reading, think over the words that struck you and open your heart to them.

Pray for others. In the universal prayer (the Prayer of the Faithful), you exercise your baptismal priesthood by praying for others. Think consciously of all those who need prayer around the world today.

Contribute to the collection. Make an offering that will be included in the procession of the gifts. Your financial sacrifice signifies the offering you make of yourself. If you contribute nothing at all, you have to find other ways to join in the sacrifice of the Mass. Sadly, some people do not contribute money out of anger or frustration with something pertaining to the Church. Your offering does support the needs of your parish, but more importantly it is a sign of your sacrifice to God. If you withhold help from your parish at the collection, your sacrifice may appear stingy in the eyes of God. Give joyfully and generously, as Christ gave himself to you.

Thank God. When the Eucharistic Prayer begins, the priest will recount many reasons for which we give God thanks. As he says, "Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God," think

concretely about your reasons for giving God thanks today. Include these reasons in the Amen you sing at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Adore Christ. When the priest raises the host and the chalice during the Eucharistic Prayer, look up. Adore Christ who makes himself present to you.

Share peace. Whenever you are invited to offer a sign of



peace, share it with those nearby. Keep it focused on expressing the peace that is in your heart. This peace should help you prepare to receive Communion with others in the church.

Receive Holy Communion. Those invited to the Supper of the Lamb are blessed, and that includes you. If for some reason you are ineligible for Holy Communion, try to reconcile the situation so that you may participate fully in the Mass.

Receive reverently. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal asks each country's Conference of Bishops to determine the posture to be used for the reception of Communion and the act of reverence to be made by each person as he or she receives Communion. In the United States, the body of bishops determined that Communion should be received standing, and that a bow is the act of reverence made by those receiving. Be prepared

to receive Holy Communion either in the hand or on the tongue. If you wish to receive Holy Communion in the hand, make sure your hands are clean, free of bandages and/or gloves. Make a throne with your hands. When the person distributing Communion says, "The Body of Christ," to you, reply with a strong, "Amen," which means, "it is so."

Receive Communion from the cup. When Communion from the cup is offered, you can experience a deeper participation in the Eucharistic Covenant that God made with us. At the Last Supper, Jesus invited the disciples to eat and drink. The same command applies to each of us. Eat his Body. Drink his Blood. This meal is the foretaste of the heavenly banquet. Experience the fullness of the presence of the Risen Christ under the form of wine.

Give thanks. After receiving Communion, use the silence to thank God for the gift of the Eucharist. Be grateful that the Holy Spirit will help you this week through the grace of this sacrament.

Go. Stay for the end of Mass, and then go with other members of the community into the world to bring the Good News there. Don't leave early! If you leave after Communion, you avoid giving thanks to God for the Eucharist, hearing the announcements for activities during the week, receiving the blessing from the priest, and hearing the deacon's command to go as a body with him into the world. Christians have work to do. We love being at church. We love the Mass. We love being present with other members of the Body of Christ. But Christ expects more. He expects us to go. We never leave the Gospel behind. We take it with us. We never leave the community behind. We leave with them. We also take the fruits of this Eucharist, which we have faithfully celebrated in memory of Jesus.

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Obituaries

Deacon Kevin Moore, 75

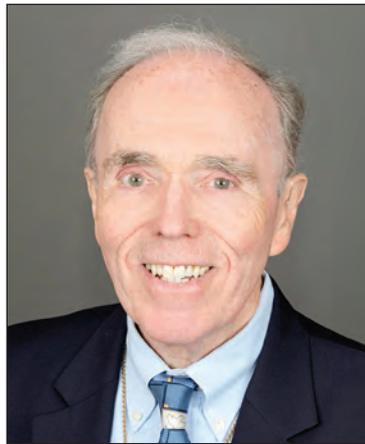
BRIDGEPORT—It is with great sadness that the diocese has learned of the death of Deacon Kevin Moore, 75, of Trumbull on Friday, June 7.

Deacon Moore is fondly remembered by many as an unassuming man of great faith and dignity who tirelessly served others in his ministry and professional life. All are asked to please pray for the repose of the soul of Kevin and for the consolation of his wife Ellen and their family.

Kevin was a native of the Bronx, where he attended Holy

Spirit Elementary School and Cardinal Hayes High School. He also studied two years in the minor seminary of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity in Holy Trinity, Alabama. He received a BBA from Iona College and an MBA from the University of Connecticut. He and his wife Ellen, a retired school psychologist, have lived in Fairfield County since 1971. The Moore family includes Meghan Ellen, Kevin Paul and his wife Katelyn.

He was ordained a deacon



DEACON KEVIN MOORE

by Bishop Curtis in 1981 and has served in Our Lady of the Assumption Parish since 2002. He has also ministered in St. Maurice Parish, Stamford and in Holy Cross Parish, Fairfield.

Kevin Moore was a CPA who spent most of his business career in the public sector. In addition to his ministry as a deacon, he served the Diocese of Bridgeport in the parish finance office. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and a veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard. He was an active member in the Charismatic Renewal, National Marriage Encounter and in the National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI).

Sr. Lucy Caporaso, SSND

WILTON—Sister Lucy Caporaso, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, died on June 13, 2019, at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton at age 74.

She was born in Bridgeport, in 1945, the daughter of Leonard and Concetta (Marranzino) Caporaso, both of Bridgeport.

After pronouncing her vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame in 1965, as Sister Leonard Mary, she began teaching at St. Catherine of Siena School in Trumbull, Conn. Later she was missioned to Leonia, New Jersey, St. Lawrence, Huntington, and Trumbull Catholic Regional School, before returning to St. Catherine of Siena and later to St. Rose, Newtown; Holy Spirit School, Stamford; Notre Dame High School, Fairfield and St. Ann, Bridgeport. At Notre Dame, she was director of admissions.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province, c/o Development Office, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Conn. 06897.



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DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT JUNE 30—JULY 27

JUNE		
30	Rev. Arthur E. Norton	2004
	Msgr. Thomas P. Mooney	1956
	Msgr. John E. Tomis	1986
JULY		
1	Rev. Anthony J. Intagliata	1990
2	Rev. Alfred J. Carmody	1958
5	Msgr. John J. Hayes	1964
6	Msgr. Philip N. Salmone.....	1967
8	Rev. James J. Kane.....	1956
9	Rev. Sean F. Flynn.....	1978
10	Rev. Edward F. Doyle	1981
	Deacon Stephen Sebestyen.....	2011
12	Rev. Edwin Coyne.....	2013
13	Msgr. James P. Devine	1972
	Rev. A. Fred Constantino	1980
17	Msgr. Walter R. Conroy	1997
	Fr. Robert Terentieff.....	2011
19	Msgr. Bartholomew J. Laurello.....	2004
20	Rev. John M. Conlisk.....	1990
	Rev. Peter DeMarco	2015
	Rev. Kevin P. Fitzpatrick.....	2008
	Rev. Chester Kicia, O.F.M.	2003
	Msgr. John J. Wigh	1995
21	Rev. David H. Krahel.....	2008
22	Msgr. Nicholas P. Coleman, P.A.	1963
24	Fr. Paul Lalic.....	2011
25	Rev. Hubert P. Carrig	1978
26	Msgr. Francis M. Wladasz.....	1959

High School Sports

Notre Dame's slugging shortstop: 19 homers

By **DON HARRISON**

In bygone days, the typical slugger was a large man or a large woman. Frank Howard and Ted Kluszewski come to mind in

she walloped 19 home runs as a Sophomore this spring, easily surpassing the Notre Dame record and leading all of Connecticut's 2019 scholastic players.

Even more impressive,



SHORTSTOP MacQUARRIE STONE-FOLMAR, just a Sophomore, walloped 17 home runs for Notre Dame—a school record—entering the 2019 CIAC Class M state softball tournament.

baseball.

Notre Dame High School's MacQuarrie Stone-Folmar—or Mac, as she's known to Lancers softball coach Jeff Bevino, teammates and friends—typifies the new breed of long-ball hitters. A trim 5-foot-5 All-State shortstop,

though, is the fact that she has equaled the Nutmeg State homer mark for a single season. Gillian Pajonas—ironically, also an All-State shortstop—of St. Paul of Bristol had walloped 19 in 1999, according to statistics compiled by the National Federation of

State High School Associations (NFHS).

"I've had five or six Division-I softball players (encompassing stints at Notre Dame and Foran of Milford), and Mac is on a path to be as good or better than all of them," says Bevino. "In the field, she makes plays that others just don't get to. And even though she's young, she's quite a leader. She leads by example, with her work ethic, and she leads by ability."

Stone-Folmar's power numbers speak for themselves. Her home runs were accompanied by a .526 batting average, 57 runs batted in and a surreal 1.268 slugging percentage. The latter two figures also topped the state and set school records. She, along with Junior pitcher Breana Brown (22-5 W-L, .571 average), Senior catcher Meredith McDonald (.533, 10 HRs), Junior outfielder Claire Tesky (.489) and Freshman outfielder Tiffany Soporn (.466, 9 HRs) were the primary reasons for the Lancers' 22-5 record and semi-final finish in the CIAC Class M state tournament.

Athletics have long been an integral part of Mac's parents' lives. Her mother, Heather Stone, is the longtime head softball coach at Western Connecticut State University and, not incidentally, a member of her alma mater's Athletic Hall of Fame. She was a star catcher at Westconn. Her dad, Drew Folmar, is the offensive coordinator at Elon University in North Carolina and played quarterback at Millersville (Pa.) University.

"I played baseball until I was 13," says Mac. "I've been around the game my whole life."

At Rumsey Hall, a K-through-9th grade private school in upstate Washington, Conn., she excelled in no fewer than four sports—softball, basketball, field hockey and football.

Football? Indeed, yes. What position did she play? Quarterback.

"I know she threw at least one touchdown pass," says her mom. "She's in their record book for that."

So, how did Notre Dame of Fairfield discover an outstanding 14-year-old student-athlete who happens to live more than 30 miles away in New Fairfield? There is a curious connection. One of Bevino's assistant coach-

es, Jason Hart, heard about this precocious youngster from his daughter, Natalia, an outfielder on the Westconn team.

Heather and daughter considered Immaculate of Danbury, another Diocese of Bridgeport school, as well as two private schools, Canterbury (New Milford) and Taft (Watertown), before deciding that Notre Dame would be the best fit.

"We liked the small class size, and we knew that, athletically, Notre Dame had strong basket-

ball and softball programs for girls," Stone said.

Last year, Breana Brown and Mac became teammates on the Brewster (N.Y.) Rockets, a girls' summer league team—coached by Heather Stone. Brown quickly saw Mac's prowess, and they've become close friends.

"We're a big family," Foster-Stone says of her Notre Dame squad. "We all support each other. All of our team is on the same page. We all want to win. We all want to be (state) champions." ■

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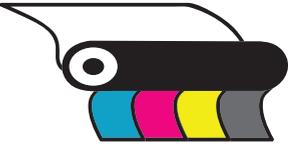
Immaculate's new Ice Hockey coach

DANBURY—Beginning in the 2019-20 season, Immaculate High School will return to an independent ice hockey team with a new coach and an excited commitment to build an independent team and take on the challenges of the highly competitive world of Division I high school ice hockey.

Winning Head Coach Brian Lugo will lead coaches and team members to put on their skates and new Mustang uniforms and take to the ice at the Danbury Ice Arena for practices and games beginning next winter. The team played as a co-op for several years with New Fairfield High School and went from a DIII to a DI classification when they earned a 13-5-3 record two years ago. Now, with many returning skaters and an experienced coach, the independent Mustang team is poised for another successful season. ■



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Column: Thomas Hicks



Each has his own special gift from God

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

Talent is mysterious. We can observe talent when it is expressed, but we cannot assess the nature of talent, where it comes from, why some have a certain talent and not others. Different things come naturally to different people—like a bird alighting firm

upon the bough of a tree; the action is performed with astonishing ease. The talent comes from somewhere. We don't create it. Talent seems to be innate. There's something that's born into a person. Fritz Kreisler, a famous violinist, said, "I was born with music in my system. I

knew music scores instinctively before I knew the alphabet. It was a gift of Providence."

The Scriptures tell us that we all have been given certain gifts or talents. There is Romans 12:6: "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them." And 1 Corinthians 7:7 states that "each has his own special gift from God, one of one kind and one of another."

The Scriptures also tell us that God does not mean for our talents to be hidden away (Parable of the Talents). The Scriptures emphasize that our talents are meant to be used to serve others. As St. Peter wrote, "put yourselves at the service of others" (1 Peter 4:10). Daniel Berrigan said, "All is gift. Give it away. Give it away." We all need an awareness that we do in fact have something to contribute and we have the responsibility to do so.

We first sense our talent when something sparks an interest, even casts a spell. Someone has what David Brooks ("The Second Mountain") calls "an annunciation moment." The annunciation moment gives a person an early hint of where his/her talent lies. Someone may enjoy talking about something, may feel needed in certain situations.

Talent is a gift that must be accompanied by hard work. To use one's talent with excellence, there must be great determination and effort. How do extraordinary achievers get to be so good at what they do? The answer is practicing in solitude, hours a day. There is solo practice, serious study alone. College students

who tend to study alone learn more than those who work in groups. It's been said that it takes ten thousand hours of deliberate practice to gain true expertise. Even elite athletes in team sports spend enormous amounts of time in solitary practice. David Brooks tells how, when Bill Bradley was teaching himself to play basketball, he set himself a schedule. Three and a half hours of practice every day after school and on Sunday. Eight hours on Saturdays. He wore ten-pound weights on his ankles to strengthen them. His great weakness was dribbling, so he taped pieces of cardboard on the bottom of his glasses so he couldn't see the ball as he dribbled it. When his family took a trip to Europe by boat, Bradley found two long corridors below decks where he could dribble his basketball at a sprint, hour upon hour, day after day ("The Second Mountain"). All the great athletes have similar stories.

Behind the apparent ease, grace and spontaneity of some people are years of discipline and training. Without that discipline, talents are not nurtured and developed. The psychologist, Erik Erikson, pointed out that to have talent and not use it is a load to bear. There may be no pain worse than that. There is a sense of guilt. Unused gifts turn into "pure poison." The sin of sloth can allow one to settle for being less than one can be. Excellence comes to the steady goers, those who plod and persevere. Otherwise, talent can dry up and blow away.

We can be wasting our time

doing something when we realize we are not doing what we are supposed to be doing. A person knows it, and knows it in a very deep way. Happiness calls for sensing that what one is doing is what God has called one to do. There is the Christian conviction that we are "called." A person who has found his/her vocation doesn't feel s/he had a choice. One should want to cry what Gerald Manley Hopkins cried: "What I do is me; for that I came." ("As Kingfishers Catch Fire").

We should recognize and rejoice in the talents of others. We should affirm people's talents. Being affirmed gives zest, confidence, and maintains motivation.

Recognizing one's talents implies recognizing one's inborn limitations. We accept what we are and what we are not.

What is said about talent, applies to good teaching and preaching.

God is master of His gifts and He gives more to one than to another—the unknowable mind of God.

You cannot teach talent, you have to select for talent.

Human excellence praises God.

Luther expressed some things beautifully: "My learning is not my own; it belongs to the unlearned and is the debt I owe them. My wealth belongs to the poor."

The Buddha said "do your work with mastery."

A final quote, from Scot Galloway ("The Algebra of Happiness"): "Your job is to find something you're good at and, after 10,000 hours of practice, get great at it." ■

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Column: Joe Pisani



So smart they're dumb

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

My friend Michael came from a long line of atheists. You could say it was a family tradition. A tragic family tradition. His father was a prominent psychoanalyst, and Michael was a recognized journalist. Despite their intelligence and professional achievements, they failed to grasp the fundamental truth of existence...that God exists.

The atheists I know consider themselves free thinkers in the tradition of Voltaire and Bertrand Russell, not to mention Stephen Hawking. That's their curse. They believe they have all the answers or, even worse, they aren't willing to consider they didn't have all the answers... and that there might be another answer.

As St. Paul said in his Letter to the Romans: "They became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools." Or as my mother always said, "They're so smart they're dumb."

I recently read a headline that proclaimed, "STUDY SHOWS ATHEISTS ARE MORE INTELLIGENT THAN RELIGIOUS PEOPLE." The research concluded that on average religious people are less intelligent than atheists because they have lower IQs.

"It is well established that religiosity correlates inversely with intelligence," concluded Richard Daws and Adam Hampshire of Imperial College in London after an online survey of 63,000 participants, who completed a series of cognitive tasks that involved reasoning, attention and memory. Who can argue with science? However, I'm convinced there's just as much fake science out there as fake news.

Almost every atheist I've met thought they were smarter than the rest of us, and if they weren't smarter, they certainly acted as if they were because to their thinking, how smart can someone be who believes in God and that Jesus is the Son of God, who rose from the dead?

Fortunately, high IQs aren't a privileged path to God. After all, it was Jesus who said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to little children."

If salvation were a matter of brain power, we'd be doomed. Fortunately, God developed a better barometer, which is centered on love and available to everyone, regardless of intellectual capacity. In the end, our eter-

nal reward will be based on how much we love, not on how much we know.

My atheist friends are amused by my faith. They see me go to Mass at lunchtime and think it's the curious medieval practice of a borderline fanatic. Guilty as charged. I offer no self-defense, and when our discussions get around to God, I state my case simply. No Aquinas, no Anselm and no Bonaventure.

I tell them: "If you sincerely want to know whether God exists, all you have to do is ask. God will always answer that appeal." Of course, doing so requires an act of humility, and many atheists are either too proud, too angry or too close-minded to ask, because their belief systems suffer from a sort of hardening of the arteries.

It always seemed to me that atheism is a matter of intellectual pride, which is a sin that most assuredly leads to a downfall. Or a matter of anger because we tend to blame God for the suffering and tragedies in our lives and in the world. "Atheism is not a doctrine, it is a cry of wrath," Fulton Sheen said.

Then, there's laziness. Some people ignore God altogether because they're obsessed with the

pursuit of possessions, pleasure and prestige. But nothing except God will satisfy the spiritual longing inscribed on the human heart, which is something St. Augustine realized long before he became a saint.

Some of my family members and friends carry the cross of living with non-believers, and they've reached the painful conclusion that debating God's existence can only make a bad situation worse, so they pray that God in his own time will bring their loved ones to the Truth.

In his book, "From Atheism

to Catholicism," Brandon McGinley has collected conversion stories of former atheists, and every one recounts what

"God's grace is always at work, looking to bring atheists and agnostics home."

someone did—a spouse, a friend, a priest—to give witness to the faith and how it ultimately led a person wandering in

darkness into the light.

God's grace is always at work, looking to bring atheists and agnostics home, and we can help the process by prayer and Eucharistic adoration and openly professing what we believe—that there is a God and he loves us. ■

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Nuestra Voz

St. Joseph abre las puertas a niños hispanos

By MARICARMEN GODOY

BROOKFIELD—A diez minutos de Danbury se encuentra ubicada la Academia católica Saint Joseph, una escuela primaria que hoy abre las puertas a los niños de todas las religiones y en particular de origen latino que residen en el área.

Luego de que la escuela Saint Joseph estuvo a punto de cerrarse debido a la reducción en la cantidad de niños inscritos, el obispo Frank Caggiano decidió apostar una vez porque este centro escolar siga vigente para todos los niños del área. Caggiano puso en manos de la maestra Pam Fallon, una profesora de la iglesia Santa Rosa de Newtown, las riendas del nuevo rumbo de Saint Joseph.

Lo primero que hizo el obispo fue cambiar de categoría a la escuela y desde ese momento dejaría de ser una escuela primaria para asumir el nivel de academia, lo que significa que los niños tendrían una educación personalizada y se fusionarían los grados escolares. Por ejemplo, los alumnos de sexto grado podrían fusionarse con los de séptimo en algunas clases escolares.

Esto ha dado paso a que el

español, las matemáticas, las ciencias sociales y las ciencias químicas y físicas sean exploradas en los mismos niveles por los niños de tercer grado con los de cuarto o los niños de séptimo con los de octavo, de acuerdo a su rendimiento individual.

Gracias a esta iniciativa surge la actividad de laboratorio por medio de la cual es posible hacer helados bajo la teoría de la rapidez en movimiento circular, donde desde una bicicleta los niños mueven los pedales dándole movimiento a las llantas y desde ahí el azúcar y la fruta con el hielo en cubos se mezclan para hacer crema de helado, experimento que pueden disfrutar tanto los infantes de los primeros grados, como los niños del último grado.

Debido a que la comunidad hispana de Danbury y sus alrededores está creciendo aceleradamente el Obispo decidió poner énfasis en el idioma español, por lo que la Directora de Educación Pam Fallon decidió contratar a la profesora de origen colombiano Gloria P. Velásquez, para que dicte la cátedra de Lenguas (World Language Teacher).

Y aunque es incipiente el



LA ACADEMIA DE EDUCACIÓN Saint Joseph está recibiendo a niños hispanos que deseen estudiar en sus aulas educativas desde el jardín de infantes hasta el octavo grado; los niños que viven en Danbury y sus alrededores pueden participar en becas educativas y programas extra curriculares.

nivel del idioma de algunos alumnos, su conocimiento acerca de la cultura Latinoamericana se encuentra en ascenso, ya que hace parte de la instrucción de los niños aprender acerca de las costumbres, tradiciones, y particularidades geográficas del continente Americano; lo que conlleva a que comprendan que “América” no es sólo los Estados Unidos sino todo un continente que empieza en el polo norte y termina en el polo sur y que la diversidad es el pilar de la comprensión sobre idioma y cultura.

Sony, un niño de trece años, en su clase de español frente a sus compañeros expuso sobre México. Desde ahí narró del porqué existe el mariachi, porqué comen picante y porqué se llama el país Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

Hunter, en cambio, contó sobre Brasil, al que llamó el país más grande de Sur América y

el país con el mayor número de católicos en el continente. La samba, el carnaval, las cariocas y ser parte de uno de los países con mayor eco diversidad fue defendido con mucha pasión por el niño.

La Academia se encuentra ubicada en 5 Obtuse Hill Road, en el pleno corazón de Brookfield, cuenta con 104 alumnos desde jardín de infantes hasta octavo grado. Las aulas tienen un máximo de diez alumnos, con una planta de profesores de doce maestros de tiempo completo y cinco de tiempo parcial. Se especializan en producción de televisión, asuntos técnicos basados en la robótica y en este momento están incursionado en los idiomas como parte del enfoque a la globalización.

La escuela cuenta con interés en los aspectos religiosos y a pesar de que cuentan con niños de otras creencias religiosas como judíos, evangélicos y

musulmanes; sin embargo, todo el plantel de maestros debe ser católicos.

A través de los esfuerzos combinados del personal, los padres y la administración, la Academia Católica St. Joseph adopta una filosofía académica basada en fomentar una comunidad cristiana comprometida con la excelencia académica. El programa de preparación para la escuela secundaria se esfuerza por desarrollar todo el potencial de cada estudiante, basado en el aprendizaje personalizado alentando a los estudiantes a convertirse en líderes, a dominar las habilidades descritas en las pautas curriculares y a convertirse en personas llenas de fé.

El plan de estudios desde jardín de infantes a octavo grado en las escuelas católicas de la Diócesis de Bridgeport apoya el mejoramiento continuo del rendimiento estudiantil y está diseñado no solo para cumplir, sino también para superar los estándares estatales y nacionales. Ayuda a los estudiantes a alcanzar su máximo potencial no solo ahora, sino también en la educación superior y en su vida adulta.

Los maestros tienen credenciales académicas y años de experiencia docente. Los estudiantes constantemente obtienen puntajes extremadamente altos tanto en las pruebas estandarizadas nacionales como en las pruebas de admisión a las escuelas privadas del área.

Si usted quiere inscribir a su niño en la escuela y desea participar en una beca escolar puede contactarse con Lisa, enviando un correo electrónico a: lsweeting@sjsbrookfield.org, o puede visitar el portal: www.sjsbrookfield.org.

PERMANENT DIACONATE ORDNATION FROM PAGE 3

a great gift,” he said.

The bishop encouraged the men, “Commit your life to Jesus and see the marvels of God’s love unfold before your very eyes.”

The Ordination Mass was concelebrated by Father Shawn Cutler, pastor of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield, Father Brian Gannon, pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull, Father Reggie Norman, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in

Wilton and Msgr. Robert Weiss, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown.

The Deacons of the Mass were Deacon Timothy Bolton, coordinator of diaconate vocations, Deacon John DiTaranto, coordinator of diaconate continuing formation and Deacon Gerry Lambert, coordinator of diaconate formation.

The servers of the Mass were the Seminarians of the Diocese of

Bridgeport along with the servers of St. Theresa Parish. The Master of Ceremonies was Deacon Patrick Toole.

The gifts were brought up by the wives of the newly ordained: Frances Cann, Susan Hodson, Kathleen Keener, Laura Klimaszewski, Christine Lawlor and Kathy Ronan.

Music was provided by the St. Theresa Church music ministers.



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By **Curtiss*Ryan**

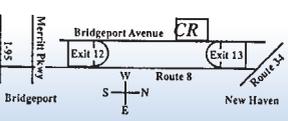
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THE BLACK ROCK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES IS BACK! Concerts run Tuesdays **June 18-Aug. 15** from **6:30-8:30 pm** at St. Ann Field in Bridgeport. \$5 admission.

Project Rachel Ministry presents five upcoming Entering Canaan retreat dates:

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

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

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

PLEASE JOIN SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH IN DANBURY for the Annual Global Rosary Relay for a Day of Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests on **Fri., June 28**. Adoration that day, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, will begin at **8:30 am** at Sacred Heart Parish, in the church, following Mass at **8 am** and the recitation of the rosary. Adoration will continue until **8 pm**. In the evening, at **7 pm**, there will be a rosary and prayers offered for priests. For more info: 203.748.9029 or visit their website at: www.sacredheartdanbury.org.

LOCAL LAY DOMINICAN CHAPTER Are you being called to a deeper understanding of Faith and Truth? Come follow us in the footsteps of St. Dominic through prayer, study, community and apostolate. Our Lady of Fatima, affiliate chapter at St. Theresa Church is growing! Please join us for an Informal Inquiry Meeting on **Thurs., July 18 at 7 pm**, St. Theresa Church in Trumbull in the lower parish center. For more information, call, text or email: Michelle Rowe: orapronobis20@gmail.com or 203.218.6882, Michael Miller at: Michaelmiller_910@hotmail.com or 203.526.7655 or Joan Cuomo at: richardcuomo939@comcast.net or 203.215.0438.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CHAPEL in Bridgeport will be holding a tag sale on **Sat., June 29** from **8 am-3 pm**. For more information contact Johanna at: 203.372.3740.

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS OF GREATER DANBURY will gather on **Sat., June 29**, at **9 am** to help St. Ann Melkite Parish clean up the church grounds. On **Tues., July**

2, Tues., Aug. 6, and Tues., Sept. 3 at 6:45 pm the group will have a Praise and Worship Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Parish in Danbury, followed by a social at a local eatery. On **Wed., July 17, Wed., Aug. 21, and Wed., Sept. 18 at 7 pm** the group will gather for Faith Formation and Discussion at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Danbury. The group will gather for S'mores and Stars on **Fri., July 26 and Fri., Sept. 27 at 8:30 pm** at St. Ann's in Danbury. The group will also be having a talk from Fr. Michael Boakye Yeboah, a visiting priest from Ghana on **Fri., Aug. 16, at 7 pm** at Sacred Heart Parish Café in Danbury.

THE OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION will be hosting the Scouting Awards Night on **Sat., June 29** at St. Aloysius Parish Stapleton Hall beginning at **6:30 pm**. For any questions regarding the awards ceremony, contact 203.416.1670 or email: officeof-faithformation@diobpt.org.

REDEMPTORIS MATER will hold an Open House on **Sun., June 30** from **10 am to 6 pm** in Stamford. There will be tours of the seminary every 20 minutes throughout the day and opportunities to meet the young men in formation for the priesthood. The visit will end with a barbecue to which everyone is invited. To RSVP visit: www.rmbridgeport.org/open-house.

CARNIVAL OF FUN will be held **Tues-Sat, July 9-13** at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Riverside from **6 pm**. Free

admission. For more info: www.stcath.org.

COME AND SEE if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order. The Secular Franciscan Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield on **Sat., July 20 at 9:30 am**. After Mass, there will be a social and meeting held in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! For further info. call Pat Heile, OFS

at: 203.255.8801 or email at: phile5713@aol.com.

ST. MARGARET SHRINE'S VETERAN'S MEMORIAL deadline for donating a Veteran's Brick, in order to ensure installation by our 2019 Veterans Mass, is **Sat., Aug. 10**. The names of the Veterans, on the newly donated bricks, will be read at our 9th Annual Veterans Mass, in September 2019, and be included in our Mass Program Book. For info on donating a brick, call: 203.345.3244 or email artfalco@optonline.net.

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH in the Lordship section of Stratford will be conducting a free 10 week program. The group will meet every **Wed. from 6:30-8 pm** in the Parish Center. If interested call Janet Gillick, certified facilitator at: 203.377.4817 or call the Parish Center at: 203.377.4863.

THE 2000 HAIL MARYS Every first Saturday of the month at Saint Gabriel Parish in Stamford, 30-40 devotees gather to pray 2000 Hail Marys between **6 am and 3 pm** in the St. Philip

Neri Chapel.

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

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Contact your Youth Minister or Pastor for more information Register online at www.bit.ly/FanTheFire2019 (click on events) or call the Office of Faith Formation at 203-416-1670 or email officeoffaithformation@diobpt.org Registration opens June 1st

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Hats off to the Class of 2019!

In this section, *Fairfield Country Catholic* recognizes and congratulates the top scholars of diocesan private and Catholic high schools and congratulates all students on their success in graduating. Hats off to your great achievement and God bless you as you continue on your journey!

By **ELIZABETH CLYONS**

St. Joseph High School
TRUMBULL—On June 1, St. Joseph High School graduated 197 students who boast a 100 percent college acceptance rate and have collectively earned nearly 25 million dollars in college scholarships. In September 2019, St. Joseph High School expects an enrollment of 818 students.

Valedictorian Anna Argulian has attained the highest academic record among her class and

delivered the Valedictorian's Farewell Address at the close of Commencement. Anna came to St. Joseph High School from Flood Middle School in Stratford, Conn. She is president of the Women's Studies Club, historian for the National Honor Society and a member of the Math, English and Spanish Honor

was chosen as a Connecticut Governor's Scholar. Outside of school, Anna participates in taekwondo, chess and photography. In the fall, Anna will attend the University of Chicago and plans to major in Neuroscience.

Christopher Rossetti, Salutatorian, has earned the second highest academic average in



SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, TRUMBULL – Anna Argulian, valedictorian; Christopher Rossetti, salutatorian

Societies. In addition, she is an editor for the school's literary journal, *Amaranth* and in 2018,

his class and came to St. Joe's from Seymour Middle School. He is a member of the National



TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, STAMFORD – Jessica Connolly, valedictorian; Olivia Jania, salutatorian



Honor Society as well as the Math, English and Spanish Honor Societies. James is also an editor for the *Amaranth*, plays on St. Joe's volleyball team, is the leader of the Frisbee Club and a member of the Jeopardy Club. Christopher has been accepted into multiple colleges and has yet to finalize his commitment. He is considering a major in either Math or Science.

"We are very proud,"

remarked Dr. William Fitzgerald, head of school. Anna has chosen the University of Chicago (over Dartmouth) and as a Boston College alum, I'm hoping Chris will choose BC over a number of worthy alternatives. Wherever they go, they will be missed at St. Joe's. There are not two finer individuals to lead us into this season of reflection on the accomplishments of the great Class of 2019."

► *CONTINUED ON PAGE 22*

Stamford

Bishop blesses new Catholic Academy Upper School

STAMFORD—On a bright beautiful morning that was Pentecost Sunday 2019, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano blessed the newly-renovated classroom and lab space that will house the Catholic Academy of Stamford upper school this fall.

The mood was reflective and anticipatory as several hundred people attended Mass at St. Gabriel's Parish. This special Mass was presided over by

Bishop Caggiano, whose homily centered on the gift of the Holy Spirit commemorated this day. Likening the Spirit's enabling of the first disciples to the hope for The Catholic Academy, the bishop then led a procession up the driveway to the new upper school space.

As the faithful gathered first outside the new building at the entrance to what is currently the Trinity Catholic High School

courtyard, he read a special prayer for the school's dedication, before blessing those gathered. Head of School Pat Brady, Lower School Principal Natalia Cruz, Upper School Principal Christine Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Stacey Steuber and a dozen or so faculty and staff were in attendance. The bishop, escorted by Deacon Michael Clark and others, then proceeded inside to bless the hall-



BISHOP FRANK J. CAGGIANO RECENTLY BLESSED the newly-renovated space that will house the Catholic Academy Upper School in Stamford.

ways and each classroom in the new upper school west wing.

A reception was held following the blessing. The school will be formally dedicated and opened in the fall as students arrive. Classroom furniture and furnishings will begin to move in next week. The exterior walkways and

entrance to the new school are expected to be completed during the summer, prior to school's opening.

May God bless the Catholic Academy of Stamford, all its faculty and staff, parents and students as we near a new beginning.

A SAMPLING OF THE
CLASS OF 2019
College Acceptances

 Fairfield College Preparatory School
FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG

Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 20

"We are thrilled for Anna and Chris," said Dr. James Keane, principal, "not simply because of their academic achievements, but because in terms of character, leadership, involvement and integrity, they represent the best of the very best of St. Joseph High School. We could not be more pleased or proud."

Trinity Catholic High School

STAMFORD—The Class of 2019 of Trinity Catholic High School celebrated their commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 30. The auditorium erupted in joy and celebration when Dr. Steven Cheeseman stepped to the microphone at the beginning of the ceremony and announced that he had spoken to Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on the way to Stamford and had good news. "I'm happy to say that the bishop asked me to announce that this will not be the last graduation ceremony at Trinity," Dr. Cheeseman said, as the hall filled with cheers.

During the ceremony, Jessica Connolly and Olivia Jania were

recognized as the school's 2019 Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively.

In attaining the highest academic record among her class, Jessica Connolly delivered the Valedictorian's Address at Trinity's commencement ceremony. Jessica earned the highest average in Religion, Honors Biology and Honors World Studies all four years of high school. She was a member of the National Honor Society her Junior and Senior years. Jessica was a member of the Trinity varsity tennis team the past three years. She also played volleyball her Freshman and Sophomore years.

Outside of school, Jessica has danced competitively for over 12 years at the Pender Keady Academy of Irish Dance where she qualified for the World Championships seven times between 2012-2018. She will be attending Villanova University in the fall as a business major.

Olivia Jania, Salutatorian at Trinity this year, was awarded Honors with Distinction every

quarter of her high school career (Fall 2015-May 2019). She had the highest average and awards in economics and service. Olivia played volleyball all four years of high school, was a member of the National Honor Society, an ambassador and Student Council VP her senior year.

Olivia was nominated to be one of the "Top Teens to Watch" in Moffly Media's 2019 annual student edition. She will be attending Villanova University this fall.

Patricia E. Brady, head of school for Trinity Catholic and The Catholic Academy of Stamford, said of the pair, "Jessica and Olivia worked diligently to achieve their best while at Trinity. They are leaders and accomplished students who know what they want in life and pursue it."

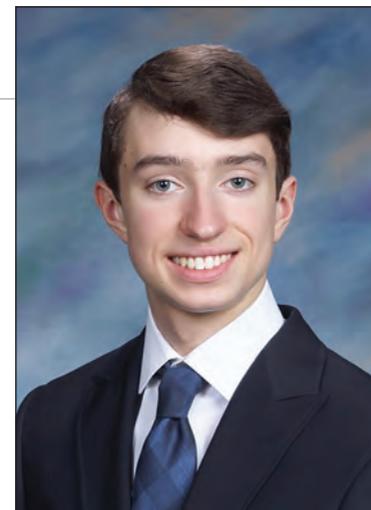
"We are proud of Jessica and Olivia's accomplishments here at Trinity," states principal Scott Smith. "They represent the very best of the Trinity Class of 2019 and we are proud of what they will accomplish in their future."

Notre Dame High School

FAIRFIELD—On May 31, Notre Dame High School



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Katherine Heffernan, valedictorian; Tyler Ouellette, salutatorian



graduated 134 students who boast a 99 percent college acceptance rate and have collectively earned nearly \$13 million in college scholarships. In September 2019, Notre Dame High School expects an enrollment of 480 students. At the graduation ceremony, principal Chris Cipriano spoke to the graduates about the power of gratitude and the words "thank you."

Katherine Heffernan, from Wilton and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Heffernan, has been named the Valedictorian for the Notre Dame Class of 2019. Katherine has been involved in a variety of ND extracurriculars including the National and Spanish Honor Societies, Campus Ministry, Spanish Club, the Love Life Club, Art Club, Creative

Katherine and her family belong to Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton. Principal Chris Cipriano commented, "Katherine has been a four year academic superstar and will undoubtedly find much success at USC and in the future. She will be missed very much here at ND."

Tyler Ouellette, from Seymour and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ouellette, has been named the Salutatorian for the Notre Dame Class of 2019. Tyler's resume includes serving as a Link Leader for first-year students, a Campus Ministry volunteer and Eucharistic Minister, a three-year Appalachia trip participant and a member of the National and Spanish Honor Societies, Students for Life, Book Club, Philosophy Club

Breakfast of Champions 2019 Award Recipients

The recipients of the St. Thomas Aquinas Award were selected for excellence in academics and exemplifying Gospel values.

St. Thomas Aquinas Award

(Academics, Community Service, Christ-like Behavior)

8th Grade Recipients

Luis Brea—All Saints Catholic School, Norwalk

Eden Cheung—The Catholic Academy of Stamford, Stamford

Dominic Chila—St. Joseph School, Danbury

Andrew Cimmino—St. Thomas Aquinas School, Fairfield

Isabella Corona—St. Rose of Lima School, Newtown

Katie Dineen—St. Catherine of Siena School, Trumbull

Aiden Doolabh—St. Gregory the Great School, Danbury

James Doyle—Our Lady of Fatima School, Wilton

Michelle Ferrone—Greenwich Catholic School, Greenwich

Alexander Godino—St. Joseph Catholic Academy, Brookfield

Skyler Johansen—St. Mark School, Stratford

Lichel Johnston—Assumption Catholic School, Fairfield

Meghan Kopchick—Holy Trinity Catholic Academy, Shelton

Anna Kopec—St. Mary School, Bethel

Caroline Mancini—St. Aloysius School, New Canaan

Madison Moore—St. Andrew Academy, Bridgeport

Anthony Ngo—St. Augustine Academy, Bridgeport

Clarissa Santa—St. Ann Academy, Bridgeport

Brianna Seaborn—St. James School, Stratford

Sofia Testa—St. Theresa School, Trumbull

Camil Toscano—St. Peter School, Danbury

Matthew Uy—St. Mary School, Ridgefield

12th Grade Recipients

Thomas Alvarez—Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford

Jeremiah Andre—Kolbe Cathedral High School, Bridgeport

Aidan Kiley—St. Joseph High School, Trumbull

Tyler Ouellette—Notre Dame High School, Fairfield

Sara Reiss—Immaculate High School, Danbury

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



KOLBE CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL, BRIDGEPORT – Gabrielle Gaboriault, valedictorian; Phat Tran, salutatorian



Writing Club and Key Club. She is an inaugural member of the Frank and Marisa Martire Leadership Institute at school and helped to create the Students for Life Club. Katherine is also a member of the C4Y diocesan youth choir. Katherine will be attending the University of South Carolina in the fall with a focus on early childhood education.

and Game Design Club. Tyler was also an inaugural member of the Frank and Marisa Martire Leadership Institute at school and recently received the St. Thomas Aquinas Award from the diocese for academic success and his commitment to the faith. Tyler will be attending Drexel

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

June 2019

Breakfast of Champions

Highlighting student achievements

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—"You are here because you have excelled... you have distinguished yourselves and for that we are truly proud of you," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, addressing the elementary and high school students gathered at this year's annual Breakfast of Champions.

Hundreds of invited guests including pastors, administrators and parents attended the breakfast in Queen of Saints Hall at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport to honor the awardees who received



either the St. Thomas Aquinas or St. Sebastian award.

Elementary and high school students chosen for the St. Thomas Aquinas award demonstrated academic excellence and lived faith through service to others. High school recipients selected for the St. Sebastian Award have shown leadership in sports as captain of an athletic team and have achieved success in that particular sport.

Dr. Steve Cheeseman, superintendent of schools, congratulated the boys and girls for their achievements, saying, "They did not get here alone."

Bishop Caggiano expounded upon that by thanking all the parents, teachers, administration and pastors in attendance for their continued support of the students. "Your schools don't run on their own," he said. "They run because they have dedicated women and men who lead them...because they love you very much and want you to succeed in every

way possible...that's what makes Catholic education truly Catholic."

"We live in challenging times," the bishop addressed the parents, "I cannot imagine what these young people face...we are grateful that you entrust your young people to us."

"We strive to create environments that are supportive of the

whole child," said the bishop, "so we can help mold them in mind, body and spirit in the image of Jesus Christ."

The bishop defined a champion as a person who surpasses all his or her rivals. "But it has a much more important meaning," the bishop continued.

"A champion is someone who will be given a great prize," the bish-



op addressed the students. "You my friends are champions because you have had the opportunity to come into a Catholic school so that you could be set to earn, to be given, to be awarded, to be graced, the prize of everlasting life."

"To be a Catholic school means we are Catholic first," the bishop explained, "Jesus Christ at

the center of all that we do. What we are leading you forward to do is to meet Jesus in the glory of heaven and that's a prize worth studying for, fighting for and living your life for."

(To learn more about Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools visit www.dioceseofbridgeportcatholicschools.com)

Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 22

University in the fall and plans to major in graphic design. Tyler and his family belong to Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish in Derby. In describing Tyler, principal Chris Cipriano said, "Tyler has been a model student and a great example of a student living out his faith. From serving as a Eucharistic minister to volunteering both locally and in Kentucky, Tyler has been a leader in and out of the classroom."

Kolbe Cathedral High School

Bridgeport—Kolbe Cathedral High School graduated 74 seniors at its commencement ceremony on June 6, at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport, Conn. Of the 74 members of the Class of 2019, 100 percent of those students who applied to colleges and universities were accepted and were awarded college scholarships and grants totaling \$13.4 million. At the graduation ceremony, Henry Rondon, the

principal of Kolbe Cathedral, told the graduates, "Always remember that your number one goal in life is to get to heaven. Strive to achieve this goal and everything else will fall in place."

Valedictorian Gabrielle Gaboriault has earned the highest academic standing in her graduating class. Gabrielle came to Kolbe Cathedral High School from Blackham School in Bridgeport. During her time at Kolbe Cathedral High School, Gabrielle was a member of the Spanish and National Honor Societies. Gabrielle was chosen among a select group of her peers to represent Kolbe Cathedral High School in the Junior Achievement Business Challenge. Gabrielle has also lent her time as an E3 peer leader. Gabrielle Gaboriault is a bright and motivated student, a generous and responsible member of the community and a caring and loyal



IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL, DANBURY – Sarah Bohling, valedictorian; Kristen Cirone and Wenqi Angela Lai, co-salutatorians



friend. Gabrielle will continue her education at Yale University in the fall.

Phat Tran, Salutatorian, has earned the second highest academic standing in his graduating class. Phat came to Kolbe Cathedral High School from St. Augustine Cathedral Academy. Phat is a member of the National

Honor Society, the boys volleyball team and is an E3 peer leader. Phat has also volunteered as an altar server and has been extremely active in his youth group at St. Augustine Cathedral Parish. Phat is a hard-working, humble and joyful young man. Phat will continue his education at Fairfield University in the fall.

"Both Gabrielle and Phat have been valued members of our community and we wish them all the best as they continue their education and pursue their dreams," said principal Henry Rondon.

Immaculate High School

DANBURY—Immaculate High School graduated 124 seniors at its commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 1 at the Western Connecticut State University O'Neill Center in Danbury, Conn. Of the 124 members of the Class of 2019, 100 percent of those students who applied to colleges and universities were accepted and were awarded college scholarships and grants totaling \$26 million. At the graduation ceremony, president Mary Maloney told the graduates to "empower yourself to empower others and never forget that your success is not determined by how much you own but by how much you live and love."

Valedictorian Sarah Bohling of Brookfield will attend the University of Notre Dame as a Stamps Scholar and as a member of the Glynn Family Honors Society and major in Biochemistry. Sarah was an outstanding student at Immaculate, earning Distinguished Honors for her grades while successfully taking nine AP courses in her last two years of high school; additionally, she scored a perfect 800 on the SAT math section and a perfect composite score of 36 for

the ACTs. At Immaculate, Sarah was a member of the National Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society and the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. She received numerous awards and honors, including the Isabelle T. Farrington Award, the Campus Ministry Outstanding Participation Award, the President's Volunteer Service Award, the President's Education Award, the Harvard Prize Book Award and was World Language Student of the Month. Sarah was an active member of the school's Campus Ministry, Key Club, She's the First Chapter and Model UN team, and was a cheerleader.

Co-Salutatorian Kristen Cirone of Newtown will attend the University of Notre Dame and major in Accounting and Finance. At Immaculate, Kristen earned Distinguished Honors all four years of high school and was a member of the National Honor Society and the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. Kristen received the Diocese of Bridgeport's St. Sebastian Award, the Fairfield University Book Award and was captain of the IHS varsity field hockey, girls basketball and girls lacrosse teams (she helped lead the field hockey and lacrosse teams to the All Patriot Division and was a key member of the 2019 field hockey team that won the Class S State Championship). Kristen was also a Student Ambassador, International Student Mentor, Class Secretary and a member of several extracurricular clubs including Key Club, Campus Ministry, Peer Leadership Club, Special Friends Club, Film Club and Math Club.

Co-Salutatorian Wenqi Angela Lai of Brewster,

CATHOLIC ACADEMY OF BRIDGEPORT



OUR 90 GRADUATES IN THE CLASS OF 2019 WERE ADMITTED INTO THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:

Academy of Information Technology
Bridgeport International Academy
Bridgeport Military Academy
Bridgeport Public High Schools
Bullard-Havens Technical
Capital Preparatory
Center for Global Studies
Central Magnet High School

Fairfield College Preparatory
Fairchild Wheeler Magnet
Kolbe Cathedral High School
Lauralton Hall
Notre Dame High School
Platt Technical High School
Sacred Heart Academy
St. Joseph High School

Grounded in the Gospel of Christ • Schooled to Academic Excellence

We are proud of our young women and men.

1 school ♦ 4 campuses ♦ PreK-8th grade

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Vals and Sals

N.Y. will attend Washington University in St. Louis and major in Architecture. Wenqi also received Distinguished Honors at Immaculate and was a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society and the Science Honor Society. She received the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence and the Cornell Book Award. At Immaculate, Wenqi was a member of the Art Club, the International Club, the Math



FAIRFIELD COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Scholars Finn O'Connor and Alex Nordlinger

Fairfield Prep students Finn O'Connor and Alex Nordlinger were recognized as top scholars in their graduating class.

Top scholar Finn O'Connor is a talented, dedicated young man in the classroom, on the field and in the community helping those less fortunate. Finn has achieved summa cum laude honors every year of high school. He also received the prestigious Harvard Book Award, which honors a student who displays excellence



and has always sought the most rigorous AP courses the school offers. He was named a National Merit Finalist and was awarded the Brown University Book Award, which honors a student who best combines academic excellence with clarity in written and spoken expression. At graduation, Alex received the St. Edmund Campion, S.J., Award, which honors that senior who has demonstrated an enthusiastic quest for academic excellence, leading him to explore the possibilities of self, faith, goodness and justice in the world. In sports, Alex received the Coach's Award in soccer his Freshman and Sophomore years and was nominated captain as a Junior. As a Senior, he helped his team win the SCC Championship. Alex plays in a premier league and also is a co-founder of Top Soccer, a nationally recognized soccer program for children with special needs. He is additionally a member of the track team. Alex volunteers at the Weston Food Pantry, is a peer tutor, tutors young, economically distressed students in Bridgeport and is a key member of the Spanish Honor Society. Alex will head to the University of Notre Dame in the fall.

"We are extremely proud of Finn and Alex," said Dr. Tommy

League and Model UN. A clarinet performer who played in several youth orchestras, Wenqi also loves to visit museums and document her experiences—she visited over 60 museums in more than 20 cities across the world and secured her impressions by writing travel notes that included illustrations and still-life sketches.

In addition to five diocesan high schools, scholars from the Diocese of Bridgeport are prominent in the area private Catholic high schools. We are pleased to recognize their achievements.

Fairfield Prep

FAIRFIELD—Fairfield Prep held graduation ceremonies on Sunday, June 2. The 224 graduates took to the stage at Fairfield University's Alumni Hall. Matt Russell '01 spoke to the graduating class about adversity, saying, "Look beyond your own endeavors and be there for your classmates. Be a man for others."

in scholarship and high character, combined with achievement in other fields. At graduation, Finn was awarded the St. Francis Xavier, S.J., Award, which honors that student who, by his choices and actions, has taken advantage of the full array of opportunities and experiences offered throughout his four years at Prep. Finn has easily managed AP and Honors classes, athletics and community service. He led the Freshman, Sophomore and Kairos retreats and volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club of Stamford. He was honored as an SCC Scholar Leader and was the varsity goalie on the lacrosse team for the past three seasons, winning the SCC Championship each year. Testament to the great respect he has earned among his peers, Finn was selected by his classmates to give the senior farewell address at Commencement. Finn will head to Middlebury College in the fall to play lacrosse for the Panthers in the NESCAC league, one of the most competitive leagues in the country.

Hardworking and intelligent, Alex Nordlinger is a good citizen, a varsity athlete and a volunteer in the community. Alex has pushed himself academically



SACRED HEART GREENWICH – Meredith Wilson and Kristen Walsh, co-valedictorians

de Quesada, principal, "because of their academic achievements and their outstanding leadership throughout their Senior year. They and their class have left an incredibly positive mark on the Prep community."

Sacred Heart, Greenwich
GREENWICH—Sacred Heart, Greenwich graduated 80 young women at its commencement ceremony on Thursday, June 6. Of the 80 members of the Class of 2019, 100 percent of those students who applied to colleges and universities were accepted.

Sacred Heart, Greenwich recognizes Meredith Wilson

and Kristen Walsh as Co-Valedictorians for the Class of 2019.

Meredith Wilson, from Somers, N.Y., has spent four years at Sacred Heart. She was a participant in Sacred Heart musicals, co-president of Barat Foundation and former president of Operation Med School's New York branch. She will be attending the University of Notre Dame.

"When I visited Notre Dame, I was completely captivated by the culture of kindness and social justice that I witnessed alive on every corner of campus," says

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

CALLING ALL SINGERS!
DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS

Miss the Scheduled Audition Week?
Not to worry, Auditions are rolling all Summer!

It's easy to schedule, go to C4Ysings.com and fill out Registration form and you will be contacted for an Audition! That's it! If you love to sing, love your Faith and love meeting kids from all around our active Diocese, then join C4Y, the Bishop's Choir! This year, the Diocesan Youth Choir will be celebrating our 5th Anniversary season. Come sing with us!

Trinity High School

New school moves forward

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

STAMFORD—
Superintendent of Diocesan Schools Dr. Steven Cheeseman brought good news to Trinity High School commencement ceremony on May 30, when he announced that Trinity would remain open and move forward with plans for the future.

The auditorium erupted in joy and celebration when Dr. Cheeseman stepped to the microphone at the beginning of the ceremony and announced that he had spoken to Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on the way to Stamford and had good news.

"I'm happy to say that the bishop asked me to announce that this will not be the last graduation ceremony at Trinity," Dr. Cheeseman said, as the hall filled with cheers.

The announcement ended speculation that the school would close in the face of declining enrollment and a growing deficit for operations.

Dr. Cheeseman and Bishop Caggiano met with parents on May 23 and announced plans to accelerate the transformation of Trinity Catholic High School to a personalized and blended learning model grounded in traditional Catholic values and formation.

During the meeting, the bishop urged parents to register their students as soon as possible to help the diocese plan for the new school year.

The positive response of parents and the surge in enrollment led to the bishop's decision to continue the rebuilding effort. To date there are more than 180 students enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. Cheeseman said he is encouraged by the positive energy that has surrounded the announcement and the commitment of the board, teachers, volunteers and others who are working to create a new school model. He said that sustaining and growing enrollment will be the key to the future of the school.

The bishop and Dr. Cheeseman first announced plans for personalized learning in a meeting with parents held on January 8 in the school auditorium.

"The current challenges have actually provided us with an opportunity to move forward and accelerate our plans for the long-term, which will enable Trinity Catholic to innovate, to grow and to meet future needs," he said.

Dr. Cheeseman said that personalized learning has produced higher test scores in other diocesan



san schools and in both public and private schools across the country where it has been adopted.

Personalized learning incorporates traditional classroom teaching with new technology and innovative teaching styles. It is based on instruction, online learning, a central learning lab, group projects and seminars, internships and a path for intervention to better diagnose student difficulties and create mastery-based learning skills.

In order to implement the new teaching model, faculty members will be trained in workshops over the summer, Dr. Cheeseman said.

Under Bishop Caggiano's leadership, the diocese has invested significantly in the Trinity

Catholic campus highlighted by the recent completion of a two-year, \$5M renovation project including extensive renovations to the school's media center, classrooms, offices, labs and guidance wings, which were completed in late 2018.

Trinity Catholic High School is one of five diocesan high schools. The 40-acre campus will also include the Catholic Academy of Stamford upper school (grades 6-8), which is scheduled to move into a newly renovated space in the Trinity building this fall 2019-20 school year.

The Cardinal Kung Academy, launched last fall, is a division

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATES



Over the past five years, Notre Dame graduates have been admitted to leading colleges and universities across the country, including:

American University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College
Brown University
College of the Holy Cross
Connecticut College
Dartmouth College
Fairfield University
Fordham University
Gettysburg College
High Point University

James Madison University
John Carroll University
Lafayette College
Mount Holyoke College
Ohio State University
Penn State University
Pratt Institute
Providence College
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Sacred Heart University
Saint Anselm College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Smith College
Swarthmore College
The Catholic University of America
The George Washington University
Trinity College

Tufts University
University of Connecticut
University of New Haven
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan University
Yale University

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Wilson. "The welcoming spirit with which the student population is imbued quickly led me to feel as though I was at home. Additionally, I was thrilled and honored to be accepted into the university's Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program and Glynn Family Honors Program, and when speaking with current Notre Dame students who participate in these programs, I found that they embodied the values and sense of social consciousness that I hope will drive my own college experience. It was then that I knew for certain that I had found my place for the next four years, as Notre Dame would offer the exact type of personal growth that I am seeking."

Kristen Walsh, of Rye, N.Y., has spent seven years at Sacred Heart. She has been a dancer throughout high school. Most notably, for the past two years she has been a student in the pre-professional division at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in NYC, where she studies ballet, contemporary and various modern techniques. She also participated in competition dance for a year and has done summer dance intensives every year.

Her main service activity

during high school was a week-long trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota during June 2017. "It was such an incredible experience," says Walsh. "I ended up choosing Native American Education as my research topic for Senior Seminar. Last summer, I participated in the Politics, Law and Economics session of the Yale Young Global Scholars program. I spent two weeks at the university living among people from all over the world, attending seminars and lectures and completing a group capstone project on the roles and responsibilities of the media in our society. This year, I was also a peer leader, which was a great experience. I really enjoyed getting to know the freshman in my group and helping them navigate their first year in high school."

Walsh plans to attend UVA in the fall.

"Whether in the classroom, on the turf, in the chapel, at the anchor desk, in the lab or behind the podium, the graduating Class of 2019 accomplished so much at Sacred Heart, Greenwich," says Pamela Juan Hayes, Sacred Heart, Greenwich alum, Class

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

Immaculate High School

School dedicates its renovated chapel to Msgr. Hossan

DANBURY—At a special Mass celebration recently, Immaculate High School dedicated its renovated Chapel to the late Msgr. John B. Hossan, the founding principal of Immaculate High School.

“For over 50 years, Mass has been celebrated in this Chapel. This renovation assures that our school community will be able to celebrate Mass here for many years to come. Our founding principal, Msgr. Hossan, was instrumental in constructing this foundational place for prayer and reflection. This dedication honors his legacy and dedication to the charism of our school,” said Mary Maloney, president of Immaculate High School.

The renovation included the installation of two new stained-glass windows depicting the Immaculate Heart of Mother Mary and of Saint Joseph. The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, came to Immaculate High School earlier in the month to bless the windows in front of faculty, staff

and friends. The windows were a gift from Immaculate alumna Jo-Anne (Tomanio) Price ‘66 and will provide a beautiful and reverent backdrop for students’ daily Adoration, Masses, reflection and prayer.

During the dedication, the Hossan family donated Msgr. Hossan’s personal chalice, which he received the day of his ordination from his parents. This special chalice will be used at future Masses to remind everyone of Msgr. Hossan’s undying love for Immaculate and its students.

Immaculate High School is a private, non-profit Catholic college-preparatory institution serving students from 28 communities in Connecticut and New York. Founded in 1962, Immaculate High School allows students to focus on academic excellence, spiritual development, personal commitments and service to others. Located in Danbury, Conn., Immaculate High School is part of the Diocese of Bridgeport’s parochial school system.

(For more information visit: www.immaculatehs.org) ■



AT A SPECIAL MASS celebration recently, Immaculate High School dedicated its renovated Chapel to the late Msgr. John B. Hossan, the founding principal of Immaculate High School.

TRINITY

FROM PAGE 26

of Trinity Catholic High School. Its mission is to support parents in their role as primary educators of their children, by providing a Catholic classical honors-track college-preparatory high school education at a reasonable cost.

Last month, Bishop Caggiano announced a new scholarship opportunity to make Catholic high school education at Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford more affordable and available to more families in lower Fairfield County.

Trinity is the only diocesan-sponsored Catholic high school in the greater Stamford area. While most students are from Stamford, it also draws students from Norwalk, New Canaan and Westchester County.

(Trinity Catholic High School is located at 926 Newfield Ave, Stamford, Conn. 06905
Phone: 203.322.3401.

Online: www.trinitycatholic.org) ■

AWARD WINNERS FROM PAGE 22

The St. Sebastian Award recipients were selected for leadership in their respective high schools as the captain of an athletic team, as well as having won a State Championship.

St. Sebastian Award (Athletics—High Schools)

12th Grade Recipients

Kristen Cirone—Immaculate High School, Danbury, Field Hockey
Mackenzey Garden—Immaculate High School, Danbury, Field Hockey
Madison Halas—Immaculate High School, Danbury, Field Hockey
Sarah Jablonski—Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford, Basketball, Softball and Volleyball

Olivia Johnson—St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, Indoor Track & Field
Jesse Lawson—St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, Football
Ace Luzietti—St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, Football
Taylor Mascetta—Immaculate High School, Danbury, Girls Cross Country
Parker McKenzie—Immaculate High School, Danbury, Boys Cross Country
Robert Mihaly—St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, Football
Phil Pasmeg—St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, Football
Logan Plaisted—Immaculate High School, Danbury, Boys Cross Country
Angela Saidman—Immaculate High School, Danbury, Girls Cross Country
David Summers—St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, Football
Darren Warren—St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, Football

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Sister Joan Magnetti

Visionary leadership in Catholic education

By JOE PISANI

From her first years as a cloistered nun through her tenure as headmistress at Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich and Executive Director of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, Sister Joan Magnetti, RSCJ, has been committed to quality Catholic education for all students.

For more than five decades, she has followed the vision of her order's foundress, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, who formed the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1800 to make the love of God known through the Sacred Heart and to restore Christian life in the aftermath of the French Revolution by educating rich young women...and poor young women.

Sister Magnetti often recalled the words of St. Madeleine Sophie, who said, "You educate a woman, you educate a family; you educate a family and you educate a civilization."

After ten years, she is retiring as Executive Director of The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, which serves more than 925 children, many of whom are from the poorest families in the county.

Sister Magnetti has been recognized nationally for her commitment to Catholic education, her leadership, her innovation and her compelling desire to work with inner-city children. As she puts it, "Every kid deserves a good education, and it shouldn't have to depend on a wallet."

Joan Magnetti is, by her admis-

sion, a "Jersey girl," who grew up in West Englewood and attended public school until fifth grade and later Notre Dame Academy. She went to Manhattanville College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1965. A product of the 60s, she was influenced in large part by Vatican II and John F. Kennedy's presidency and believed that young people could make a difference. It is a belief she has shared with generations of students throughout her career.

She became quite impressed with the Sisters of the Sacred Heart at Manhattanville, almost all of whom had PhDs. "They were an extraordinary group of women," she says. "There was a kind of joyfulness about them, and



AT RECENT FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION GALA Sister Joan Magnetti is congratulated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

they had a very large world view. They cared about us as students, and the charity and love they showed us made an impression."

After graduating from Manhattanville, she entered the Society of the Sacred Heart, an international group of 3,000 religious women who seek to reveal the love of God through education.

"I knew education was their mission and the radicality of giving your life to God; I never thought of doing it differently," she says. "I love our religious order. I grew into a relationship with God and realized his love for me and wanted to serve him. I never thought about a career. It was all about God."

During those years, the sisters lived a cloistered life with five hours of prayer a day, which included Mass, the Divine Office chanted in Latin, meditation and meals in silence.

"Everything was very regimented," she recalls. "You couldn't even go home if your parents died or there was a graduation."

Sister always had a close relationship with her brother Donald, who entered the Jesuits and received his doctorate in Near Eastern Studies from Johns Hopkins University. He taught the Old Testament and Semitic languages at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary before receiving his law degree and becoming a professor of torts and trusts at Fordham University School of Law.

With two children in religious orders, their parents Margaret and Gerald Magnetti would often joke, "You can't say we didn't do our part to support zero population growth."

After Sister Joan finished her novitiate in 1968, she received her master's degree in theology from

Union Theological Seminary. She went to the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, where she taught history and religion and ran one of the houses on campus in addition to overseeing a CCD program for 450 children.

She later became headmistress at Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in Princeton, where she stayed for 13 years before returning to Greenwich as headmistress.

"I had a lot of work to do when I got there," she recalls. "There was a prejudice about Catholic schools not being academically strong...and it was a convent school."

There were only 295 girls in preschool to 12th grade and she faced fierce competition for enrollment from other private schools in the area.

"We worked hard and made it clear what our mission was. We were proud of being an all-girls Catholic school," she said. "When I left, we had 777 kids, a \$20 million endowment and a new middle school, science building and library. It was a lot of work and a lot of fun."

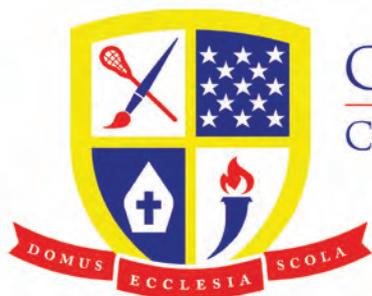
After 19 years, she retired in 2009, and shortly afterward, Bishop William Lori called her. He knew about her commitment to inner-city education and recruited her for the new position of Executive Director for Catholic schools in Bridgeport. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano later created the model of one school on four campuses.

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, which comprises St. Andrew, St. Ann, St. Augustine and St. Raphael, recently received its 10-year accreditation. Sister said it has had a balanced budget for the past three years and an enrollment

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." - Psalm 20:4



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St. Catherine Center for Special Needs Gala celebrates 20 years of joy and gratitude

FAIRFIELD—More than 325 people gathered Sunday to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs, which Bishop Frank J. Caggiano praised as being “at the very heart of the mission of the Church.”

Four individuals were honored for their volunteerism, leadership and partnership at the 20th Anniversary “Joy and Gratitude Dinner” held at Fairfield University.

“Let me be very clear,” Bishop Caggiano said. “Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs is at the very heart of the mission of the Church, for if there was one thing that characterized Our Lord’s ministry, it was that he always stood by those who were vulnerable and in need—those who the world would perhaps not want to serve.”

The bishop expressed his gratitude to donors, the staff, volunteers and the board, which he described as “the first of the pioneers to take on the real fiduciary responsibility of running the center, and they have done it with tremendous excellence and dedication and generosity and cooperation.”

He praised Charles Chiusano, who has been chairman for 12 years, and said, “You have done a marvelous job.”

He also singled out Executive Director Helen Burland and said, “It takes a remarkable person to keep a vision clear, alive and moving forward, and all the great things that happened over the past few years, in particular the expansion into the adult program, would not have been possible without you.”

He told her, “Everyone in these rooms is deeply indebted to you, but I am especially indebted to you for being a woman of faith, of vision, of tenacious leadership and of love for everyone under your care and every young child and adult entrusted to you.” Burland received a sustained ovation from the guests.

In her comments, Ms. Burland recalled the founding of the center under then-Bishop Edward Egan and said, “Many people who are in this room tonight embraced the vision to create a faith-based education program that would welcome children whose learning needs were special. I stand



AT THE RECENT ST. CATHERINE CENTER 20th Anniversary Gala, Executive Director Helen Burland is pictured with Marie and Sal Gilbertie.

before you proud to say that Saint Catherine Center is a vibrant, joyful mission committed to working with people with disabilities and their families....Beginning with the belief that all life is valued, we work to provide for God’s most vulnerable individuals.”

Saint Catherine Center is home to Saint Catherine Academy, a private special education school that offers an alternative program to children ages 5-21. In 2014, an adult day program was created to offer an alternative for young people who had completed their formal education but still needed a structured, supervised environment. In addition, the center supports services throughout the diocese to assist parishes and schools in welcoming people with disabilities to be full participants in their communities, Ms. Burland said.

She also expressed her gratitude to “our families, a very dedicated board, a talented and devoted staff, organizations like the Knights of Columbus and Order of Malta, numerous volunteers and generous donors.”

More than 40 children and young adults receive daily programming, and Ms. Burland recalled the successes she witnessed over the past year: “Over the course of the year, they have taught us how to speak without words, how to better define what success is, how to overcome the fear of water, how to cook in our kitchen, how to dance with joy and, most importantly, they taught us how to look beyond ourselves. To walk with them, we have conquered many obstacles this year, some serious health scares and some family tragedies.

Saint Catherine Center is a place of consolation, peace and healing for all who are touched by our mission.”

Charles Chiusano recognized the honorees: the late Jim O’Brien, who was given the Volunteer Service Award and was represented by Kathy O’Brien Porter; Marie and Sal Gilbertie, who received the Community Partnership Service Award; and Dian Jennings Mayo, who was given the Leadership Award.

Jim O’Brien, one of Saint Catherine Academy’s first board members, was known as a “guy

who quietly went about getting things done.” His expertise from a lifelong career and family business in lumber helped the construction of the center’s current facility adjacent to Holy Cross Church in Fairfield.

Dian Jennings Mayo of

population. That dream eventually became Saint Catherine Academy.

Marie and Sal Gilbertie, owners of Gilbertie’s Herb Gardens, received the Community Partnership Award for their long association with the center as a



Redding Ridge was recognized for her dedication and early influence in the establishment of the academy. In 1996, inspired by the needs of her older brother with disabilities, Mayo wrote a letter to then-Bishop Egan to express a “long-held dream” of hers to create a diocesan fund earmarked for special education of the adult

vocational worksite. Each week students and adults from the center work at the wholesale garden center in Easton, sorting and stacking planting pots.

(For more information about the center and its programs, visit the website at StCatherineCenter.org, call 203.540.5381, or email info@stcatherinecenter.org.)



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SISTER MAGNETTI FROM PAGE 28

of more than 925 students.

With 80 percent of the students coming from homes near or below poverty level, the Academy awards \$2 million in financial aid annually. Seventy percent of students are at or above the national norm in reading and math, and the high school graduation rate is 100 percent (compared with 63 percent for the Bridgeport public schools), and 99 percent go on to college.

"I have always wanted things not just to survive, but to thrive," she says. "So many schools throughout the country have closed, and I am thrilled with all that has gone on—we are thriving."

She also points out that the Academy produces better results than the public schools with fewer resources. "I am very proud of our achievements and of our board," she says. "I have never had such an incredible board in my career, and the bishop is one of our biggest supporters."

Board Chair Bradford Evans, a senior advisor in Morgan Stanley's investment banking division who has worked closely with Sister for the past ten years, says, "Besides being an outstanding leader and educator, Joan has been a wonderful colleague, mentor and friend who brings great warmth and wit to everything she does."

Sister Magnetti, who lives in Bedford, N.Y., with several Sacred Heart sisters and her golden retriever Maddy, will stay on temporarily as coordinator of major gifts to assist incoming Executive Director Angela C. Pohlen.

"Catholic education is so essential—and not just for Roman Catholics," Sister says, noting that 40 percent of the students are non-Catholic. "Our goal has always been to create an environment where kids can learn and find themselves and build strong character and have a sense that no matter what, they are loved."

Looking back on her career, Sister recalls a favorite saying of St. Madeleine Sophie, who always told her colleagues that she would have founded the order all over again...for the sake of one child.

That "one child" has motivated Sister Joan throughout her 50 years in education. She has seen successes that can be measured in small ways and in large ways, and recently shared the comment of a girl graduating from St. Augustine's, who wrote in her yearbook, "The most important thing I learned here is that God is always there to help me."

And that, to Sister, was a monumental success.

Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 26

of '64. "We're especially proud to see these talented students matriculate to strong colleges and universities that reflect their individual academic interests and passions so closely. We look forward to seeing how far their academics, faith and commitment to others take them in the future."

Lauralton Hall

MILFORD—Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Lauralton Hall awarded diplomas June 1 to 103 young women. In her address to graduates, Head of School Elizabeth Miller talked about Lauralton's mission—to empower young women to pursue their highest potential through lifelong learning, compassionate service and responsible leadership in a global society—and pointed to the results of a recent UCLA study about the effects of all-girls education as graduates transition to university.

Valedictorian Leah Cogguillo

of Milford will attend Yale University in the fall where she plans to major in engineering. In addition to her many academic achievements, Leah has had an outstanding athletic career at Lauralton as a varsity field hockey and lacrosse player. Among honors she has earned throughout high school. In May, Leah was named Lauralton's 2018-2019 Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar-Athlete for her excellence in academics and athletics as well as for her integrity, courage and discipline. In her remarks, she reminded classmates, "Within the Lauralton community, we are not just names, addresses and GPAs that will be logged and forgotten about. Our beauty and power is a consequence of our unity. At Lauralton, we have consistently and compassionately ventured beyond our inner circles, eager to understand and support ALL of our peers. The Class of



LAURALTON HALL, MILFORD – Leah Cogguillo, valedictorian; Katherine Connolly, salutatorian; Rachel Wywoda, Catherine McAuley Award

2019 exists as a whole, a network that endures."

Salutatorian Katherine Connolly of New Canaan will attend the University of Notre Dame, where she plans to major in business and finance with an eye toward pursuing a healthcare management career. Katherine also was a member of Lauralton's state championship swim team throughout her four years and twice earned Lauralton's Frances Warde

Service Award, living the Mercy spirit with 100 hours of service in a given academic year. In addition, Katherine's academic excellence helped secure a competitive internship at Yale's biomedical labs, where she worked last summer.

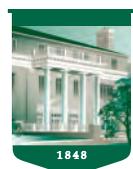
The school's highest honor for a senior, the Catherine McAuley Award, was presented to Rachel Wywoda of Milford. The award is presented annually to the senior who best demonstrates the

Lauralton mission of Mercy values, including compassion, courage, spirit of volunteerism and sound academic performance. Lauralton's award committee selected Rachel for consistently and enthusiastically serving as a role model and peer mentor and for generously giving time to her school—all while participating as a three-season athlete and managing the most challenging academic course selections. Rachel will attend Lafayette College.



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| Boston College (4) | Marquette University | United States Naval Academy |
| Boston University | Miami University, Oxford | University of Connecticut |
| Bucknell University (5) | Michigan State University | University of Notre Dame (3) |
| Clemson University | New York University | University of Pennsylvania (3) |
| Colby College | Northeastern University (2) | University of Richmond (3) |
| Colgate University | Northwestern University | University of Southern California (2) |
| College of the Holy Cross (2) | Pennsylvania State University | University of St. Andrews (UK) |
| Cornell University (3) | Princeton University | University of Virginia (4) |
| Denison University | Providence College | University of Wisconsin, Madison (2) |
| Drew University | Santa Clara University (2) | Vanderbilt University |
| Elon University (4) | Skidmore College | Villanova University (4) |
| Georgetown University (3) | Southern Methodist University (3) | |
| Hamilton College | Syracuse University (3) | |
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| Johns Hopkins University (2) | Trinity College | |

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