



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 2018 | VOLUME 35, NUMBER 9 | RESPECT LIFE ISSUE

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BISHOP ROBERT MCELROY
Most Reverend Bishop of San Diego

THE CHURCH IS A FIELD HOSPITAL:
POPE FRANCIS' PASTORAL VISION FOR GOD'S PEOPLE
Tuesday, October 30, at 7 P.M. in the University Commons



Mass of Reparation and Purification

Bishop calls for atonement and transparency

By BRIAN WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—"The leadership of the Church has failed in many ways, it has been tarnished... Healing will take a long time," Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said at the Clergy Mass of Reparation which took place on Saturday, September 15 on the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, in response to the sexu-

Peter Philipp, a member of the Healing Committee of the diocese and a survivor of clerical sexual abuse.

In his homily, the bishop said Church leaders failed victims and the faithful by "holding their tongues" and compounding the evil of abuse.

"Survivors of this evil, this sin, this crime deserve our love, support and accompaniment.

brothers have endured may never go away," he said.

"Let us not be afraid of our wounds. Let them become the cracks through which the grace of Christ gets in and one day will set us free."

The bishop said the Church can only move forward from this present crisis through reparation in the form of "works of mercy and acts of charity," and by being transparent in all things.

"As AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) reminds us, we are only as sick as our own secrets, and we must end the culture of secrecy in the Church."

The bishop said that priests who abused were "wolves in sheep's clothing," who betrayed the trust of the innocent in a way that burdened them for life.

The audience broke into applause twice during the solemn liturgy, first after the bishop's homily, and at the end of Mass when the bishop called on the faithful to support the priests.

"The good and faithful priests need our support and prayers," he said.

Before leading the prayer to St. Michael, the Archangel, which the bishop has mandated to be said in every parish after Mass, the bishop urged those in attendance to assist any victims of abuse who are still suffering.

"Encourage them to come forward. We need to accompany them. We will do this together one person at a time."

The morning began with a Holy Hour that included the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament where the Rosary was said in five different languages.

Fr. Joseph Marcello, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull and vicar for clergy,

served as Master of Ceremonies for the Mass. Music was provided by Dr. Samuel A. Schmitt, director of Sacred Music and organist of The Cathedral Parish.

Kathryn Aaron was the

Cantor. The Communion Meditation was guided by The Sacred Beauty Schola including Valerie Tarantino, Paul Chu, Josephine Landback, and Alexis Hoadley.

Parish Masses of Reparation

(As of October 10)

Sacred Heart, <i>Georgetown</i>	Sept. 23	12:30 pm
Saint Gregory the Great, <i>Danbury</i>	Sept. 23	8 am, 10 am, noon
Saint Mary, <i>Ridgefield</i>	Sept. 26	7 am
Saint Mary, <i>Ridgefield</i>	Sept. 28	12 noon
Saint Michael, <i>Bridgeport</i>	Sept. 29	4 pm
Saint Mary, <i>Norwalk</i>	Sept. 29	9 am
Saint Mary, <i>Bridgeport</i>	Sept. 30	11:30 am (Spanish)
Saint Thomas Aquinas, <i>Fairfield</i>	Sept. 30	2 pm
Saint Pius X, <i>Fairfield</i>	Oct. 1	6:30 pm
Church of the Holy Spirit, <i>Stamford</i>	Oct. 2	7:30 pm
Saint Ann, <i>Bridgeport</i>	Oct. 5	8 am (English) 6:30 pm (Spanish)
Saint John, <i>Darien</i>	Oct. 5	8 am
Saint Emery, <i>Fairfield</i>	Oct. 6	4:30 pm
Saint Mary, <i>Ridgefield</i>	Oct. 6	4:30 pm
Saint Joseph, <i>Danbury</i>	Oct. 7	7:30 am
Saint Marguerite, <i>Brookfield</i>	Oct. 7	11 am
Saint Rose of Lima, <i>Newtown</i>	Oct. 7	10:30 am
Saint Thomas More, <i>Darien</i>	Oct. 7	11:30 am
Holy Name of Jesus, <i>Stratford</i>	Oct. 10	6:15 pm
Holy Trinity, <i>Sherman</i>	Oct. 12	8 am
Christ the King, <i>Trumbull</i>	Oct. 13	11 am
Saint Mary, <i>Bethel</i>	Oct. 13	8 am
Sts. Cyril and Methodius, <i>Bridgeport</i>	Oct. 13	7:45 am
Notre Dame, <i>Easton</i>	Oct. 14	11 am
Our Lady of Grace, <i>Stratford</i>	Oct. 14	noon
Saint Mark, <i>Stratford</i>	Oct. 14	12 noon
Saint Thomas, <i>Norwalk</i>	Oct. 14	5 pm
Church of the Assumption, <i>Westport</i>	Oct. 15	7:30 am
Saint Jerome, <i>Norwalk</i>	Oct. 17	7 pm
Saint Stephen, <i>Trumbull</i>	Oct. 17	7 pm
Saint Bridget of Ireland, <i>Stamford</i>	Oct. 20	8 am
Saint Jude, <i>Monroe</i>	Oct. 20	4 pm
Saint Leo Parish, <i>Stamford</i>	Oct. 20	8:30 am
Saint Catherine of Siena, <i>Trumbull</i>	Oct. 20-21	All Masses
Sacred Heart of Jesus, <i>Danbury</i>	Oct. 21	9:45 am
Saint Peter, <i>Danbury</i>	Oct. 22	7 pm
Saint Joseph, <i>South Norwalk</i>	Oct. 23	7 pm
Saint Edward, <i>New Fairfield</i>	Oct. 25	6:45 pm
Saint Joseph, <i>Danbury</i>	Oct. 27	8 am
Saint Luke, <i>Westport</i>	Nov. 10	5:30 pm



al abuse crisis in the Church.

More than 800 priests, deacons, religious and laity filled St. Augustine Cathedral for the Mass, which the bishop announced earlier in September as a major spiritual step toward atonement and moving the diocese forward.

The Mass began in a somber and penitential way when the bishop removed his crosier and miter—the symbols of his authority—and prostrated himself before the altar as he led the congregation in the *Confiteor* and the singing of the *Kyrie*.

The first reading from the Book of Samuel, "in the sight of the Lord what David had done was evil..." was read by

They are a sign of courage in our midst, a sign of hope," the bishop said, noting that he has become friends with members of the diocesan Healing Committee and is grateful for their witness.

The bishop began his homily by recalling an accident he sustained as an 8-year-old boy that brought him to Coney Island Hospital with a gash on his forehead that left a scar.

He said he learned that day that healing can only begin "after cleansing, and that will not be achieved by a program, but by a heart that stays vacant for the Lord."

"Those who were abused were deeply hurt by the crime of abuse. The scars that our sisters and



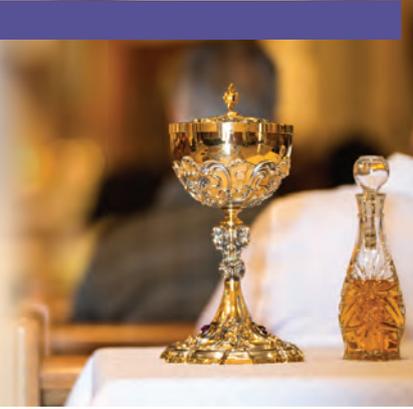
ON THE COVER

BISHOP CAGGIANO lies prostrate before the altar in an act of humility and penitence at the Mass of Reparation for clerical sexual abuse held at St. Augustine Cathedral. Hundreds filled the church for the somber and solemn liturgy. (PHOTO BY LISA DETULLIO RUSSELL)

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Latest News

Judge Holzberg to lead Accountability Investigation

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano announced on October 3 that retired Connecticut Superior Court Judge Robert L. Holzberg, who is a partner in the law firm of Pullman & Comley LLC of Hartford and Bridgeport, will serve as counsel and lead investigator for the Clerical Sexual Abuse Accountability Investigation being conducted for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Judge Holzberg, who has extensive experience as an investigator, mediator and arbitrator, will lead the Accountability Investigation by overseeing a comprehensive analysis and review of claims of clerical sexual abuse of minors, the diocese's knowledge of such abuse and its response to allegations and information presented to it concerning the alleged clergy abuse. As part of his investigation, Holzberg, a Middletown resident, will have complete and unrestricted access to all diocesan files, records and archives dating from 1953, when the diocese was founded, to the present, and the opportunity to interview diocesan clergy and administrators with information relevant to his inquiry. Pullman & Comley has not previously represented the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Work on the Accountability Investigation will begin immediately

and is expected to be completed by Spring 2019. Judge Holzberg, who is not Catholic, will direct a team of attorneys and investigators to conduct the investigation.

Results of the investigation will be presented in a public report that will address sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the Diocese of Bridgeport, along with the response of Church leadership to that abuse. The report will also contain any relevant recommendations to the bishop resulting from the review.

"Judge Holzberg epitomizes long-term, dedicated and conscientious service to the community," Bishop Caggiano said. "He possesses the highest integrity, and he has made substantial contributions to the administration of justice in Connecticut. We are grateful that he has agreed to lead this significant review."

"I am committed to supervising a comprehensive, impartial and transparent investigation into clergy sexual abuse of minors and the diocese's response to that abuse over the past 65 years. As a condition of taking on this assignment, I met with and obtained the commitment of Bishop Caggiano that I will have full and unlimited access to all materials relevant to this investigation and that I will have full discretion to conduct this investigation as I deem appropriate. Bishop Caggiano pledged



RETIRED CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ROBERT L. HOLZBERG

his full cooperation and commitment to this important initiative," Holzberg said.

Prior to his retirement from the bench in 2012, Holzberg successfully mediated claims against St. Francis Hospital in Hartford involving allegations of decades long sexual abuse of minors by a hospital employee. In 2014, Holzberg was retained by the Stamford Corporation Counsel to lead an investigation into allegations that a Stamford Board of Education high school teacher was involved in a sexual relationship with her student.

The bishop personally met with Judge Holzberg and assured him that he would have the full and unfettered access to diocesan records and files necessary for a

comprehensive review.

Bishop Caggiano announced plans for the Accountability Investigation on September 7 in response to the national clerical sexual abuse crisis and failures of Church leadership in accountability and transparency.

His letter was read in parishes throughout the diocese and widely distributed through the diocesan newspaper, website and social media. He announced plans for the report and outlined some of the spiritual and administrative actions that the diocese will take to ensure transparency and accountability.

"My hope is that these measures will begin to heal the wounds that we feel and address the legitimate desire for real

change that restores confidence in every level of leadership," he said.

The bishop also committed to presenting a financial report on settlement amounts for past claims of clergy sexual abuse of minors from the establishment of the diocese to date. The report will include sources from which funds were obtained to settle claims and provide an account of the financial support currently given to any priest who has been accused of sexual abuse of a minor and who is currently on administrative leave or has been laicized. The report will be released on October 31.

"These measures also build upon the extensive work we have done since 2002 to reach out to and support survivors of clergy sexual abuse in addition to providing the training and safeguards to protect our children and ensure that adults recognize the warning signs of any potential abuse," Bishop Caggiano said.

"I believe that the Church is facing a moment of crisis that demands honesty and repentance from the bishops and decisive action to ensure that these failures will never happen again," Bishop Caggiano said.

About Judge Holzberg

Retired Judge Robert Holzberg leads the Alternative Dispute Resolution practice at the law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC.

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All Souls Day Masses for the faithful departed

All Souls Day Mass will be celebrated in six cemeteries throughout the diocese on Friday, November 2, 11 am, rain or shine. The Masses, which will be offered for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, are open to the public.

"These Masses are a beautiful way for people to remember their loved ones this time of year," said Msgr. Thomas Powers, vicar general of the diocese. "We encourage Catholics throughout the diocese to pray that all those who have died may rest in the peace of Christ."

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano announced the first outdoor All Souls Mass two years ago in

the hope that it would become an annual tradition across the diocese. More than 150 people attended the first inaugural Mass, a number which only grew the following year.



Traditionally, Catholics visit cemeteries on All Souls Day to remember the dead and pray for their souls. During the Masses, the celebrants will remember in a special way all deceased bishops,

priests, deacons, consecrated men and women and lay faithful.

Last year, two Masses for All Souls Day were held at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Trumbull and St. John/St. Mary Cemetery in Norwalk.

The diocese expanded the number of locations based on the enthusiastic responses to last year's Masses.

Below is a list of locations and celebrants:

St. Peter Cemetery, Danbury:
Bishop Frank J. Caggiano

St. Mary Cemetery, Greenwich:
Msgr. Thomas W. Powers

St. John Cemetery, Norwalk:
Msgr. Walter C. Orlowski

Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Trumbull: Father Joseph A. Marcello

St. Michael Cemetery, Stratford:
Father Arthur Mollenhauer

St. John Cemetery, Darien:
Father John P. Connaughton

The All Souls Day Mass held in Danbury will be streamed live on the diocesan Facebook page; Facebook.com/bridgeportdiocese. Arrangements for the outdoor Masses are supported by Catholic Cemeteries and the Diocesan Real Estate Office.

(The diocese sponsors nine cemeteries around Fairfield County. For information on Catholic Cemeteries, call 203.416.1494.)

Local News

Mass of Hope and Healing

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

The annual Mass of Hope, Healing and Reconciliation will

held at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield. "No healing can occur unless we stand in the truth," said the bishop, who

of transparency and accountability.

The bishop also led a diocesan-wide Mass of Reparation and Purification in September, and has asked that all pastors celebrate a local Mass of Reparation in their parishes no later than October 31.

"It is my desire to attack this evil in a variety of ways, starting with a series of spiritual initiatives and administrative actions. Our spiritual efforts focus on the grave need for the clergy to seek reparation for the past sins of those who have sinned and harmed innocent children and young people," said Bishop Caggiano in his response to the sexual abuse crisis.

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

(If you are an adult survivor of abuse as a minor, and you would like to learn more about the Mass, upcoming meetings and other resources that are available in our diocese, please contact one of our Victim Assistance Coordinators—Erin Neil, L.C.S.W., at: 203.650.3265, or Michael Tintrup, L.C.S.W., at: 203.241.0987.)



be held on Sunday, November 18 from 2-4 pm at St. Francis Assisi Parish in Weston located at 25 Norfield Road, Weston CT 06883.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, together with a planning committee of survivors of clerical sexual abuse as minors invite anyone who has been sexually abused as a minor and others who have been impacted by sexual abuse to attend. Light refreshments will be served immediately following the Mass.

Last year's Mass of Hope, Healing and Reconciliation was

condemned sexual abuse and its lifelong impact on victims. Those who attended the Mass were able to hear the authentic and soul-baring testimonies of victims of sexual abuse.

This year's Mass comes in the wake of the recent sexual abuse scandals that have come to light on the national level. In response to this abuse, Bishop Caggiano has released a series of letters which outline real, concrete, administrative, spiritual and pastoral actions designed to achieve the highest level

St. Augustine Medal Ceremony

The Saint Augustine Medal of Service prayer service and awards ceremony will be held at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, November 17, beginning at 1 pm. A reception will follow at Kolbe-Cathedral High School on the grounds of the cathedral campus.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will lead the prayer service and present medals to more than 150 recipients from parishes and ministries across the diocese.

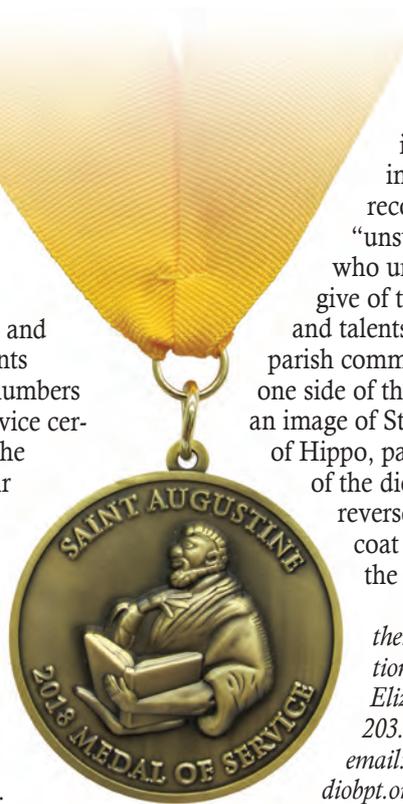
Honorees will be recognized for their volunteer service to parishes, schools and charities throughout Fairfield County.

"True generosity comes from those who are grateful for their lives and who faithfully use the gifts God has given them," said Bishop Caggiano. "We will celebrate the St. Augustine medalists as mentors, guides and prophets in their love and service. I look

forward to meeting them and their families and recognizing their great commitment to others through the Church."

Last year, friends and family of the recipients turned out in large numbers for the Medal of Service ceremony to celebrate the achievements of their loved ones.

Pastors, priests and deacons throughout the diocese accompanied the recipients as they came forward to be presented the medals by Bishop Caggiano.



The St. Augustine Medal of Service was instituted in 2005 to recognize the "unsung heroes" who unselfishly give of their time and talents to build up parish communities. On one side of the medal is an image of St. Augustine of Hippo, patron saint of the diocese. The reverse features the coat of arms of the diocese.

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

Living by the charism of life

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

Sister Catherine Joy Marie, S.V. first encountered the Sisters of Life on a trip to the March for Life in D.C. while attending Trinity Catholic High School. Although she didn't know it at the time, this was an encounter that would forever change the course of her life and which would eventually lead her to answer God's call to consecrate herself to the Lord through a vocation to religious life.

"Two sisters from our retreat house, Villa Maria Guadalupe in Stamford, came down on our bus. While waiting in the National Basilica for the Vigil Mass to begin, I was struck by the sisters



SISTER CATHERINE JOY MARIE, S.V. (far right)—A Stamford native, St. Catherine Joy professed her first vows to the Sisters of Life at Villa Maria Guadalupe in Stamford this past August.

silently praying—so simple and sincere. I realized that I knew they weren't just saying something, they were speaking to someone. Someone who knew them intimately and loved them deeply. I was struck for the first time that I wasn't just looking at a sister, I was looking at a bride," confides Sr. Catherine Joy.

Years later, Sr. Catherine Joy professed her first vows at Villa Maria Guadalupe in Stamford, on August 4, 2018, where Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrated the Mass of Profession. Sr. Catherine Joy entered the religious order after graduating from Providence College in 2015 where she majored in theology and biology.

The Sisters of Life are a contemplative, active religious community of women founded in 1991 by John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, and dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of human life celebrated.

"As Sisters of Life, we profess four vows: the three evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, and a fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. This fourth vow proclaims that every human being is a sacred, unique, unrepeatable expression of God's love in the world. At first profession, I received my first mission to live and love at our convent and apostolic center in Toronto, Canada. Life with Christ is always an adventure!" explains Sr. Catherine Joy.

The sisters live and act by the charism of life, and all of their apostolates flow from that charism. They believe that every human life bears the imprint of God and their apostolic missions reflect that belief. Some of their apostolic missions include accompanying pregnant women who are in need or alone, sharing Christ's promise of hope and healing with those who have suffered from the pain of abortion, hosting a variety of retreats, and sharing the beauty of God's plan for life and love on college campuses and across the country.

"Our life is anchored in our relationship with the Lord, and all our actions flow from this union with Him, the source of all life. In contemplating Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, the eyes of our hearts are opened so that we may recognize His presence in each person. Our Blessed Mother is the model of the unity between the contemplative and active life, and throughout the day we unite ourselves to our Lady of the Visitation who 'pondered all these things in her heart' as she carried Christ to the world," said Sr. Catherine Joy,

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Leadership Institute

New Liturgical Norms & Sacramental Guidelines

The norms, or rules, governing liturgical and sacramental practices in the Diocese of Bridgeport, will be revised over the next four years, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano announced.

“When we concluded the diocesan synod, one of the major initiatives which I confirmed was the need to revise the diocesan sacramental guidelines,” Bishop Caggiano said on October 1. “The sacramental guidelines are really the depository of all the norms and guidelines that allow us to pray effectively and reverently as a Church.”

The norms were last promulgated in 1983 under Bishop Walter Curtis.

Noting that things change over time Bishop Caggiano commented that it is important that we undertake these revisions to ensure that all sacraments and liturgical celebrations remain fruitful, collaborative, participative, and reverent.

The bishop met with the priests of the diocese on September 13 and discussed the norms, which were distributed as a provisional document. Final comments from priests are due October 10.

“As the guidelines involve hundreds of pages and every aspect of our prayer as a community, I decided to break the revisions over several years and to invite others into this process” Bishop Caggiano said. “For the last year, two dozen members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission have been meeting to work on this first set of revisions, which cover those who serve in the important ministries of reader (lector), musician, altar server, and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.”

“Lay participation in the liturgy is an essential component,” the bishop added. “These norms are meant to enhance, and, in some cases, regularize how these ministries are undertaken.”

“There must be a delicate balance between a liturgy that reflects the particular needs of a community, especially our



culturally diverse communities, and in keeping the liturgy consistent and authentically Catholic. The Commission has sought to accomplish this as the norms were revised,” the bishop said, acknowledging that “the norms will allow for diversity where diversity is allowed by Church law.”

“There will be changes,” the bishop said, “so it will be important to take our time and discuss the modifications that are coming. Once the norms are promulgated by sacred decree, we will live with the norms for one year and then review them to see if any further changes are necessary. This process will be repeated again and again until all norms are revised.”

Citing the angst that was caused by the sudden changes made to the celebration of liturgy in the United States in the years following Vatican II, the bishop has instead proposed a six-week catechetical journey in which all are invited and encouraged to participate.

Beginning October 15, 2018, The Leadership Institute of the diocese will issue several catechetical lessons for parishes to distribute. The first is a video in which Bishop Caggiano outlines his hope for the faithful and an overview of the revision process. Then, in the following weeks, articles will be circulated online and at parish Masses highlighting the importance of liturgy, the role of the laity, and each of the ministries discussed in the norms. These materials will be available in English and Spanish.

In addition to the written materials, Patrick Donovan, director of The Leadership Institute, announced plans for eight face-to-face meetings in

parish leaders to come together in October to view the norms, make suggestions, ask questions, and discuss the revisions with those who share in the ministries governed by the norms.”

In November, there will be an additional four meetings, Donovan said. Those meetings, he said, are for anyone who serves as a reader, musician, or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Donovan added, “Any changes to the ministry of altar serving will be managed at the local level.”

The November meetings will include a chance to listen to proposed changes, learn about the formation process, and discover how those who are already serving will be grandfathered into ministry, using a truncated formation process.

Those who wish to view the

resources or to sign up to attend any of the meetings in the coming weeks are invited to visit the Institute’s website, www.formationreimagined.org.

“This will be a guided process,” Bishop Caggiano said, “so that when the norms are promulgated on the first Sunday of Advent, all will understand what the norms are proposing and the principles behind them.”

“The Lord asks us to participate in his death and resurrection through grace—especially when we celebrate the Eucharist—and I am grateful to all who will accept this invitation to renewal,” the bishop said. “Through this catechesis and these revisions, may we become leaven for renewal in the rest of the world.”

(For more information, contact Patrick Donovan, director of The Leadership Institute at: 203.416.1657.) ■



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Papal Honors

'Messengers and Protectors'

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—In a joyful and reverent Evening Vespers service lifted by the music of the Diocesan Youth Choir and the Latin Schola of St. Augustine Cathedral, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano conferred Papal Honors on 20 men and women from the diocese.

"There are angels in our midst," said the bishop, explaining that the prayer service was held on the Feast of the Archangels, Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

The bishop said that angels are "messengers and protectors who bring the message of God and his presence in the world."

Praising the medal recipients for generously sharing their experience, talent and gifts with those in need, the bishop said, "They've become messengers of the presence, mercy and hope of God."

During the beautiful one-hour prayer service the bishop inducted ten men and women into the Order of Saint Gregory the Great and ten into the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Saint Sylvester, Pope and Martyr.

"Bless these insignia and those who will receive them. Renew

within these men and women the gifts of Your Spirit that they may continue to serve Your Church" the bishop said in the blessing of the medals, after the reading and his homily.

The recipients, many of them couples, came forward as Fr. Robert Kinnally, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in New Canaan, read their names and the bishop congratulated them.

"Our sisters and brothers are being given a great and richly deserved honor by Pope Francis, the successor of Peter himself," the bishop said.

"You've left the world for the better because of your witness of faith and love," said the bishop to

the recipients. "You have changed lives for the better throughout our diocese. The Holy Father wants to say 'thank you.'"

The bishop said that it is not only up to the angels to reflect God's presence, "All of us are the only instruments God has of His mercy, patience and kindness. You and I are the only hands, feet and

voices He has to reach the world." "Thanks for being our light in a world that is perhaps growing darker, and for charity in a word that is divided and polarized. You've reached the lives of so many and all people of goodwill are saying thank you today," the bishop said.

The 100-member diocesan youth choir led by Mary Bozzuti Higgins sang a memorable arrangement of Open My Eyes/Amazing Grace as a prelude and led the singing of the three antiphons. The St. Augustine Schola sang the Magnificat in Latin and joined the youth choir for the final Salve Regina.

Pastors, priests, friends and families, and all those in attendance joined the honorees in a reception following the service. A large white tent was set up along the Cathedral as guests enjoyed refreshments in the beautiful early autumn light.

Induction into the Order of Saint Gregory the Great

This honor is bestowed upon Catholics and, in some cases, non-Catholics, to express the esteem of the Holy See, and in recognition of their personal service to the Roman Catholic Church, through their exceptional labors



and the excellent personal example they have given in their communities and in their countries.

Mr. Rocco Cingari, Knight/Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford; Mr. George Landegger, Knight/St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield; Mr. Frank Martire, Knight/St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan; Mrs. Marisa Martire, Dame/St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan; Mr. Thomas McInerney, Knight/Church of Assumption, Westport; Mrs. Paula McInerney, Dame/Church of Assumption, Westport; Mr. Denis Nayden, Knight/St. Leo Parish, Stamford; Mrs. Britta Nayden, Dame/St.

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

ST MARGARET SHRINE

a diocesan shrine

SPIRITUAL RETREAT ART WORKSHOPS — 9 am to 12 pm

Saturday, October 27, and Saturday, November 17

Each individual workshop will lead the participant through prayer, sacred scripture, meditation and an Art experiential. The presenter is Annette Bonomo, MS, ATR-BC who uses her skills as a Retreat Coordinator, Prayer Leader, Bible Study Coordinator, Therapist and Artist to provide a reflective, prayerful and creative retreat art workshop for the pilgrim who seeks a deeper relationship with God. No art experience needed.

Please contact the Shrine 203-333-9627 — Cost \$35 per workshop. Everyone is welcome.

OUR ANNUAL ROAST FUNDRAISER — Sunday, October 21, 1 pm

at Oronoque Country Club, 385 Oronoque Lane, Stratford. This Fundraiser is to continue our renovations of the grounds, remember we are the only Diocesan Shrine and need your help to support our "Oasis of Peace" in the Diocese. Come enjoy an afternoon of laughter, dinner and a live auction all to support our Diocesan Shrine. Everyone is welcome. Call the Shrine for your reservation.

2523 Park Ave, Bpt 203-333-9627 SaintMargaretShrine@gmail.com

Masses: Mon-Sat 8:15am, Sat Vigil 4pm, Sunday 8, 9:30 (Italian), 11am

Come for a visit, tour, retreat, or day of prayer.

Vocations

Lay Dominicans find a home in the diocese

By **ELIZABETH CLYONS**

TRUMBULL—“We are very happy to bring this affiliate chapter to the Diocese of Bridgeport,” says Mr. Stefano Santilli, O.P., a member of St. Pius X Parish in Fairfield, who is helping to organize a chapter of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic with the support of Father Brian Gannon at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull.

The St. Mary chapter of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic, located in New Haven, assigned two fully-professed members—Mrs. Joan Cuomo, O.P., and Mr. Stefano Santilli, O.P.—to guide and oversee the establishment of an affiliate chapter in Trumbull. Additionally, Mrs. Cosette Heimann, O.P., Provincial President of the Lay Fraternities and a St. Mary’s member, will

also provide guidance and support to the new chapter.

“With the inception of our Perpetual Adoration chapel a year ago here at St. Theresa’s, welcoming the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic is a substantial sign that Eucharistic Adoration brings greater and greater blessings to individual souls, parishes and the world,” says Father Brian Gannon, who welcomes the affiliate chapter to his parish.

The Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic consist of lay men and women who seek to deepen their devotion to Christ by pursuing making profession and living a vocation of study, prayer, apostolate and community as Dominican Laity in everyday life. Lay Dominicans are fully incorporated into the Order of Preachers, and have been in existence since 1285. They



LAY FRATERNITIES OF ST. DOMINIC—Mr. Stefano Santilli, O.P., Father Brian Gannon, pastor of St. Theresa Church, and Mrs. Michelle Rowe, O.P. who is joining the Lay Fraternity. (THE PHOTO IS ATTRIBUTED TO MAEVE HEGLEY)

have also been known throughout history as Third Order Dominicans and Dominican Tertiaries.

The Dominican Friars are an order of preachers founded by

St. Dominic, whose goal is to spread and preach the gospel for the salvation of souls. The Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic play a special role in the order through their proclamation of the gospel

in their homes, parishes and offices. In this way, they are able to reach those who would not usually be exposed to the gospel message.

“This is something I wanted to do for my own spirituality and my own formation,” mentioned one of the members of the new affiliate chapter of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.

The new chapter of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic at St. Theresa Parish will be holding monthly meetings, typically on the third Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 pm beginning on Thursday, September 20 at the parish.

(For more information, contact Mr. Stefano Santilli, O.P. at: 203.524.4945, or by email at: ste.santilli@gmail.com or Joan Cuomo at: 203.215.0438, or by email at: richardcuomo939@comcast.net.)

ALL SOULS DAY MASS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018 (at 6 locations)

11:00 am, rain or shine

This Mass will be offered for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed. Catholics are encouraged that day to pray that all those who have died may rest in the peace of Christ.

ST. PETER CEMETERY

71 Lake Avenue Ext., Danbury

Principal Celebrant: **Bishop Frank J. Caggiano**

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GATE OF HEAVEN CEMETERY

1056 Daniels Farm Road, Trumbull

Principal Celebrant: **Father Joseph A. Marcello**

ST. MICHAEL CEMETERY

2205 Stratford Avenue, Stratford

Principal Celebrant: **Father Arthur Mollenhauer**

ST. JOHN CEMETERY

25 Camp Avenue, Darien

Principal Celebrant: **Father John P. Connaughton**

ST. JOHN CEMETERY

223 Richards Avenue, Norwalk

Principal Celebrant: **Monsignor Walter C. Orlowski**

ST. MARY CEMETERY

399 North Street, Greenwich

Principal Celebrant: **Monsignor Thomas W. Powers**



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT PLEASE CONTACT: ED TAMIMI 203-814-2286 or ETAMIMI@DIOBPT.ORG

Diocesan Blue Mass

Bishop pays tribute to First Responders

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

DANBURY—Bagpipes played a reverent tune at the annual diocesan Blue Mass honoring fire, police and first responders who serve the diocese. The Mass was held on Sunday, September 9 at 10:30 am at St. Joseph Church in Danbury in solemn commemoration of the 17th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. on 9-11.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the main celebrant along with diocesan priests who serve as police and fire chaplains in Fairfield County. Father Charles Allen, special assistant to the president of Fairfield University, served as chairman of the event.

Law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service personnel of all faiths in Fairfield County along with members of the general public were invited to attend the Mass and reception.

"This is the first time the bish-

op has offered to celebrate the Blue Mass in the Danbury area. We're deeply honored that he was able to do so at St. Joseph's," said Father Samuel Scott, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Danbury who hosted the event, and a member of the Blue Mass committee.

The Blue Mass takes its name from the blue uniforms worn by police, fire and emergency services personnel. Founded by Bishop William E. Lori, the Blue Mass was initiated to celebrate the life and heroism of those who died during the 9-11 terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C.

During his homily, Bishop Caggiano addressed all the men and women in blue, "Every time you respond with duty and honor, you do so as a messenger of the good news of the Lord."

Calling on St. Michael the Archangel, the bishop lifted up in



prayer those who work in public safety saying, "So we honor you, hidden ambassadors of Jesus Christ. May He always protect you."

The bishop thanked all gathered for being open to the call to pursue holiness through their public service profession.

Each year awards are presented to individual local police, fire and first responders for acts of

heroism and public service. Fr. Charles Allen read the citations, presenting the awards to the 2018 recipients.

For his service to the people of Stamford, CT, the Diocese of Bridgeport and the Knights of Columbus, and assistant Chief of Police Thomas Wuennemann of the Stamford Police Department presented the Blue Mass Award for 2018 and plaque to Officer Jerry Junes.

Junes is a 17-year member of the force and an investigator in Stamford's bureau of criminal investigations.

According to Assistant Chief Wuennemann, "In addition to being an outstanding police officer, Jerry Junes gives more to the community than any officer I know. He has run our Mighty Mites basketball program for over 20 years." The program involves

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Inner-City Foundation to honor Frantz & O'Connor

BRIDGEPORT—The Inner-City Foundation of Charity & Education will honor Greenwich's State Senator Scott Frantz and his wife Icy Frantz at its 27th annual benefit gala next month for their local philanthropy. The benefit, to be held on the evening of Saturday, October 27th at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich, will also honor Terry O'Connor, the executive director of The Cardinal Shehan Center in Bridgeport.

"We're delighted to be honoring the Frantz's, as well as Terry O'Connor," says Richard T. Stone of The Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education. "Their philanthropic work aligns with ours, which is to help the neediest among us right here in Fairfield County."

State Senator L. Scott Frantz represents the 36th District, which includes Greenwich, New Canaan and Stamford. A business

entrepreneur with a long history of service and commitment to our community, Senator Frantz serves as a board member of several nonprofit and club organizations, including: Corporate Angel Network (Advisory); Connecticut Republican Finance Committee; Veteran's Appreciation Council; Greenwich Country Day School; and the Greenwich Teen Center.

Icy Frantz is a longtime Greenwich resident, local philanthropist, and Greenwich Sentinal contributor. She taught a substance abuse prevention program at Greenwich Academy, was a member of the board at Greenwich Country Day School and ran the parents' association there. Icy currently sits on the board for the Greenwich Teen Center and writes for the *Greenwich Sentinel*.

Terry O'Connor, a former college basketball coach and on-air sports personality, has also had a long career of service in Fairfield County. For the past quarter cen-

tury, Terry has been the executive director of the Cardinal Shehan Center in Bridgeport, a non-profit organization that serves the recreational, educational, and social needs of moderate and low-income families and young people of lower Fairfield County, particularly inner city Bridgeport. In 2012, Terry took on added duties as executive director of the McGivney Community Center on the east side of Bridgeport.

The Inner-City Foundation was founded more than a quarter century ago in 1992, and since then has granted \$30 million to at least 200 programs and organizations in Fairfield County that are helping the neediest among us.

(For tickets, tables or to donate and help The Inner-City Foundation honor Scott Frantz, Icy Frantz and Terry O'Connor, visit innercityfoundation.org, call 203.416.1363, or email info@innercityfoundation.org.) ■

New Diocesan HR Chief



Tracy Casey has joined the Diocese of Bridgeport as the Chief Human Resources Officer.

Tracy comes to the diocese with over 20 years of human resources experience, most recently serving as the human resources director for the Glastonbury Public Schools. During her career, she has held a variety of positions across all human resources disciplines in both the private and public sector. While at Glastonbury, she developed the human resources function and transformed the benefits function.

Tracy is actively involved in her parish, Precious Blood Parish in Milford, where she is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and works in the Confirmation program. She is married to her husband, Marty, for over 27 years and has four adult children. Please join us in welcoming Tracy to her new position. ■

Diocesan News

Lorraine Gibbons named head of Shehan and McGivney Centers

By **JOE PISANI**

BRIDGEPORT—Lorraine Gibbons has been named Executive Director of the Cardinal Shehan Center and the McGivney Community Center, two agencies of the Diocese of Bridgeport, which have served youth from moderate and low-income families in lower Fairfield County for more than 75 years combined.

“Lorraine brings a strong sense of the role of mentoring and formation that the Cardinal Shehan Center and McGivney Center play in the lives of our young people and future leaders. In addition to her professional skills, she is held in esteem by leaders throughout the community, and will provide a new generation of leadership,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

Gibbons, who was Director of Development at the Shehan Center for 13 years, said she was excited to be named to her new position and that her focus will be on developing more training programs for youth, creating corporate partnerships, expanding tutoring opportunities and offer-

ing GED programs.

“I am very honored to be named to this position,” Gibbons said. “The Cardinal Shehan Center and McGivney Community Center have served thousands of young people who might never otherwise have had an opportunity to succeed without their guidance. I look forward to carrying on the fine tradition that they exemplify in Bridgeport and surrounding regions. As a woman who will lead both organizations, I want young girls to know they too can get to the top.”

Gibbons succeeds Terry O’Connor who is retiring December 31 after serving as Executive Director for 26 years at Shehan and six at McGivney.

“I’ve learned from the best,” Gibbons said. “Terry has been a great leader and mentor. Both the Cardinal Shehan Center and the McGivney Community Center under his leadership have risen to great heights. I plan to continue that upward trajectory for the centers. He’s taught me well, and he will be terribly missed.”

O’Connor said he was thrilled

that the search committee chose Gibbons after an exhaustive search. “She has the passion, enthusiasm and the ability to be a tremendous leader for both organizations,” he said. “Having spent the last thirteen years joined together at the hip here at Shehan, I have every confidence that Lorraine will take both organizations to new heights.”

The Cardinal Shehan Center is a non-profit organization in Bridgeport. For 55 years, the Center has served the recreational, educational and social needs of moderate and low-income families and young people of lower Fairfield County, particularly inner-city Bridgeport.

The Center’s mission of enriching lives through learning is accomplished by the after school and Saturday youth development program, summer day camp, various basketball leagues, sign-up programs, physical education classes for elementary schools and alternative education programs. The Center commits itself to offering a safe environment where positive, growth-enhancing opportunities are offered, regardless of race or religious affiliation.

“On behalf of the Cardinal Shehan Board, we are thrilled that Lorraine Gibbons will be leading the organization upon Terry O’Connor’s retirement,” said Board President James Lane, who is senior vice president of commercial real estate for Webster Bank N.A. “I’ve had the opportunity to work with Lorraine over the past several years and have been truly impressed with her commitment, passion and tireless work ethic to provide opportunities and improve the lives of Bridgeport’s youth. I look forward to working with her to build on the great success of the Shehan Center.”

The McGivney Community Center, which began as a summer camp program in 1992 for 50 young people, now serves more than 400 youth annually; 100 are enrolled in the after-school program, which draws students from 20 elementary schools and offers homework assistance, enrichment and recreation.

The summer program serves 90 students, from K-to-8, pro-

viding athletic, academic and enrichment activities to stem the “summer learning loss” so that students can return to school well prepared in September.

The McGivney Community Center’s mission is to provide stimulating and enriching programs that foster academic success and self-esteem in an environment that nurtures children’s intellectual, creative and physical growth. Its motto is “Kids at McGivney don’t come and go, they come and grow.”

McGivney Board President Robert O’Connor, CPCU, senior vice president of Peoples United Insurance Agency, said, “Lorraine is an excellent choice to take over the leadership of Shehan Center and McGivney Center. She is passionate about the mission of both organizations and has a deep knowledge and understanding of both of these centers and the important roles they play in the community.”

A native of Jamaica, Gibbons received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Rhode Island



LORRAINE GIBBONS

College and went on to earn an MBA from the University of New Haven. She has held a variety of positions in the non-profit, public and private sectors.

She previously was manager of shareholder relations for the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company and senior accountant. She has held positions as financial analyst for Great Country Bank and First Constitution Bank and was assistant branch manager for Westinghouse Electric Supply Company.

In addition, she has served on community boards for such organizations as Amistad Academy, the Barnum Festival, Burroughs Community Fund, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Mercy Learning Center, Bridgeport Public Education Fund and St. Vincent’s College. ■

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Diocesan Operating Budget

Diocese releases budget

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and the Finance Council of the Diocese of Bridgeport have approved a fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 operating budget with a total of \$21,471,010 in revenues and \$21,419,740 in expenditures, representing a \$51,270 projected surplus.

“This budget and projected surplus represents our obligation to operate with fiscal responsibility and manage our resources,” said Michael Hanlon CPA, chief financial officer (CFO) of the di-



MICHAEL HANLON CPA

cese. “The Diocese of Bridgeport is continuing on its turnaround path by reporting an operating budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 with a slight surplus for the second consecutive year.”

Hanlon said the budget fulfills previously identified goals and mandates to present a balance or surplus budget and the elimination on reliance of one-time revenue sources such as proceeds from property sales.

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

Salaries and benefits continue to represent approximately 49.0 percent of the overall budget, Hanlon said, noting that “we need to continue to reward our diocesan employees for their dedication to our mission, thus market-rate salary increases have been budgeted again.”

Contributions and grants allocated from Annual Catholic Appeal contributions to diocesan



mission-related entities represent approximately 21.8 percent of this budget. These contributions and grants support the missions of St. John Fisher Seminary, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, St. Catherine Academy for Special Needs, the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, the Cardinal Shehan Center and the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund with Foundations in Education.

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

Hanlon said that changes made last year in the cathedraticum formula were fully implemented this year. The Annual Catholic Appeal continues to fund Synod initiatives, faith formation and outreach to youth and other mission related programs.

He said the diocese continues to work to manage and control healthcare related expenses and benefits while providing affordable comprehensive coverage for employees and their families.

The diocese also realized savings by not filling some necessary positions and looked for other opportunities to reduce office related expenses and contracted services.

Hanlon said that Christopher Gillespie, the recently hired senior director of Technology Services, has identified cost saving measures that have reduced IT related operational expenses while developing a diocesan-wide information technology and communications system strategy that better serves schools and parishes.

The diocese also continues to eliminate the outstanding balance of the Knights of Columbus loan and related interest expense. This

loan has been reduced from \$15 million to \$6 million in the last four years and hopefully will be fully paid in the near future by earmarking proceeds from asset sales.

Hanlon said that Andrew Schulz, director of real estate and Anne McCrory, chief legal and real estate officer, have identified new areas of revenue while overseeing the diocesan property portfolio.

“They continue to do a remarkable job in maximizing proceeds from real estate sales and also identifying opportunities to generate alternative sources of revenue from property leases by marketing vacant diocesan owned buildings for use,” he said.

The long-term underfunded liability obligations related to the frozen diocesan lay pension plan continue to be an area of concern and challenge for the diocese.

“Initial steps have been taken to reduce this underfunded liability based on a strategy developed by the lay pension committee, consisting of finance council members. Additional funding sources will also be identified to reduce this liability.”

In December 2013, Bishop Caggiano took a major step toward financial transparency when he released the audited financial statements for years 2010, 2011 and 2012. Audited financial statements for the subsequent periods ending December 31, 2013 and 2014, as well as financial statements for the periods ending June 30, 2015, 2016, and 2017 have been released annually. All reports can be found online. He also addresses finances in his yearly “State of the Diocese” report, which will be issued in January.

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

The Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation

Operational Budget — July 2018- June 2019

Revenue

Annual Catholic Appeal	\$10,750,000
Cathedraticum Assessment	6,700,000
Rental and Other Income	2,319,420
Cemeteries Contribution	1,437,000
Contributions and Bequests	1,014,590
Total Revenue	\$21,471,010

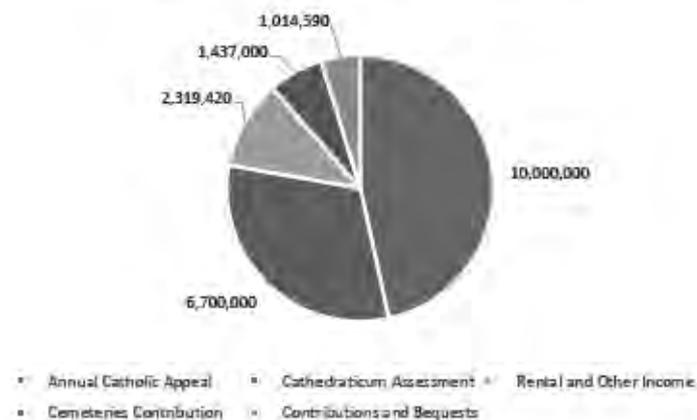
Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$10,492,782
Contracted Services	2,299,988
Grants and Contributions	4,682,176
Office, Postage and Printing	637,707
Professional Fees and Services	948,266
Travel, Seminars, Dues and Other	1,154,515
Occupancy and Insurance	850,008
Interest	240,000
Other Supplies and Expense	114,298
Total Expenses	\$21,419,740

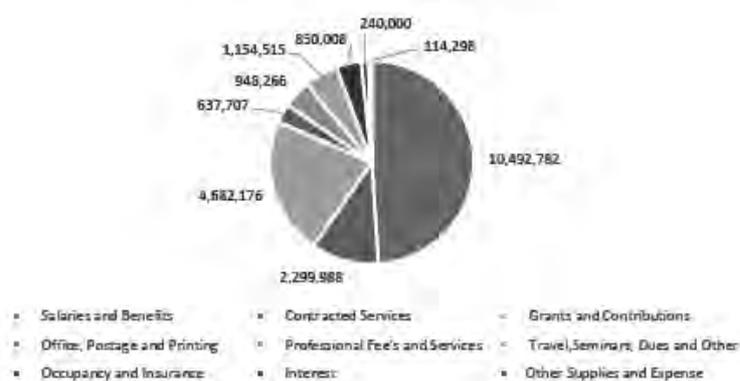
SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS — BEFORE DEPRECIATION

\$51,270

Operational Budget July 2018-June 2019 Total Budgeted Revenue \$21,471,010



Operational Budget July 2018- June 2019 Total Budgeted Expenses \$21,419,740



School News

New Principals

Kathryn Petrone

Principal, St. Joseph School, Danbury

DANBURY—Kathryn Petrone has been an educator in Catholic schools for many years throughout the tri-state area at



KATHRYN PETRONE

both elementary and high school levels. Promoting the Catholic mission of a school and guiding students toward Christ is second-nature to her. A lifelong learner, her certifications range from teaching music to superintendent level administration.

Mrs. Petrone holds degrees from Dartmouth College, New York University and Columbia University. She is especially interested in imbuing curriculum with Gospel values. Mrs. Petrone is recently married and is excited to settle into her new community at St. Joseph School of Danbury.

Jo Ann Mathieson

Principal, St. Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield

FAIRFIELD—Jo Ann Mathieson has spent her life in Catholic education, having attended 12 years of Catholic grade schools, college and graduate school. She holds a bachelor's degree in education, and a master's in theology and administration. She has served as a teacher or principal in Catholic schools (elementary, high school and collegiate level) for 30 years. She has a love for teaching theology with specializations in bioethics and Catholic social teaching. "My lifelong passion for Catholic education has only grown stronger through the years. Whether it is in primary grades, high school or adult education, watching the growing appreciation for all that



JO ANN MATHIESON

is true, good and beautiful has always been one of my greatest joys," says Miss Mathieson. Miss Mathieson was drawn to St. Thomas Aquinas School in Fairfield by its unique spirit of family.

John Paul II Grant recipients

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano invited all recipients of the Saint John Paul II grants to a reception on Tuesday, September 4 at the Catholic Center to celebrate their award. Around 60 clergy, staff and laypeople who share in their parishes' ministry faith formation endeavors were in attendance. The recipients were presented with a commemorative certificate in recognition of receiving a grant promoting innovation in faith formation.

Grant recipients' plans encompassed a wide range of ideas, some of which included revitalization of youth ministry and faith formation, creating a vacation bible camp, planning a service immersion program and the purchase of new and improved materials for catechesis.

Responding to Bishop Caggiano's invitation to lifelong formation, in February 2018, parishes were invited to reimagine faith formation at every level by announcing the Saint John Paul II Fund for Religious Education and Youth Ministry, which offered grant opportunities to assist their efforts. The grants were specifically designed to help diocesan parishes/organizations serve those populations they may not have been able to serve before and to fund significant changes in the very fabric of their outreach to the faithful in their parishes. They ranged from \$500 to \$10,000 in total. Proposals that sought widespread reform were preferred over smaller proposals. Requests in excess of \$5,000 were to be so innovative that they sought to change the very fabric of formation

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



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Catholic Schools

Bishop gives thanks for 'Miracle' of Kung Academy

By JOHN GROSSO

STAMFORD—Last spring, a passionate group of men and women entered into Superintendent of Catholic Schools Steve Cheeseman's office with a dream: opening up a new school dedicated to classical and affordable Catholic education.

They sought approval from Dr. Cheeseman, and then presented their idea to Bridgeport Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, who was fully supportive.

There was just one problem. The group came forward with the idea in the spring of 2018, and they wanted to start the new school in September.

"I must confess, at first I thought, 'that's crazy,'" said Dr. Cheeseman at the official ribbon

cutting of the Cardinal Kung Academy on September 5. "But it takes a little bit of crazy to try something new. And of course, here we are, gathered today to bless the school!"

Though the heat index approached 100 degrees on a sweltering late summer afternoon in Stamford, there was not a single complaint from the 20 students gathered for the ribbon cutting and blessing, nor the teachers, administrators, or parents gathered. Rather, a spirit of optimism and promise that often accompanies the new school year permeated the air.

Nancy Grimm, a member of the original group that approached the bishop about the possibility of opening a new school earlier this year, led off

the ceremony with brief words of welcome and shared a bit about how the group arrived at this historic moment.

"It takes a leap of faith to join a school that is only a few months old," said Grimm, who is also a parent of a student attending the academy, "but that faith will be rewarded. Our teachers and our staff are so excited to get started. And our patron, Cardinal Kung, will intercede for us."

Grimm was followed by Superintendent Steve Cheeseman, who offered his remarks of gratitude for the work of Grimm and the Board of Cardinal Kung Academy.

"Without your tireless devotion and hard work, we would not be here today," he said.

Bishop Caggiano concluded



CARDINAL KUNG ACADEMY—Bishop Caggiano welcomed the new students of the Cardinal Kung Academy, a division of Trinity Catholic High School, in Stamford. The bishop thanked all involved and blessed each classroom and administrative space as he wished all a successful school year.

the ceremony, offering his thanks to all involved, and offered a few parting words of wisdom on the school's patron.

"First, let us give thanks for the miracle that is this school," he began. "The patron of this school, Cardinal Kung, was a man of tremendous faith, who believed with all of his heart that Jesus was his savior—and he spent years in prison because he would not betray him."

"We must learn from his example, and live a life of virtue and faith, and the rest is up to God!"

After delivering his address and cutting the ribbon at the front of the school, the crowd sang the Salve Regina in thanksgiving for the occasion.

The ceremony concluded as Bishop Caggiano blessed each classroom and administrative space, and gathered in joy with all present for a brief reception.

(Cardinal Kung Academy is a division of Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford. For information, contact Cardinal Kung Academy by email: cardinalkungacademy@gmail.com or phone: 203.918.0992.)



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St. Joseph Catholic Academy

Reimagining the Catholic school classroom

By PAT HENNESSY

BROOKFIELD—"I know that you will love this school. And you will do great work," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano to the students at the new St. Joseph Catholic Academy (SJCA) in Brookfield. "Throw your heart and your mind and your soul into this experience."

The bishop was speaking to students during a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated in St. Joseph Church on September 6. The Mass celebrated the opening of the new academy.

Formerly St. Joseph School, SJCA opened its doors in August to a personalized, multi-age blended learning experience. In addition to pre-K 3 and 4, the academy is arranged in learning bands for grades K-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8. With this configuration, teachers encourage each individual student to learn at his or her own pace. When every child is challenged at their appropriate level, students gain confidence and their learning becomes self-directed, interesting and exciting.

The new academy was born of inspiration, determination and hard, dedicated work. "Last winter, St. Joseph School was at a crossroads," said Father George O'Neill, pastor of St. Joseph Parish. "While he was on a pilgrimage, the seed of an idea was planted in Bishop Caggiano's heart by the Blessed Mother. He was able to see a path forward, a sense of renewal and springtime."

The path forward required the encouragement of the School



DR. CHEESEMAN AND STUDENTS OF SJCA—Bishop Caggiano celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in Brookfield, celebrating the opening of the new St. Joseph Catholic Academy.

Advisory Board, parents, administrators and, most of all, teachers in the new learning configuration. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven Cheeseman assisted at the ribbon cutting ceremony following the opening Mass. "Your teachers worked all summer," he told the students. "I don't think they got any vacation this year."

Teachers were encouraged and assisted by the new administrative team at SJCA. Head of School Mary Maloney is also president of Immaculate High School in Danbury and is the former principal of St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown. Director of Education Pam Fallon, who came to SJCA after serving as a middle school Language Arts teacher at St. Rose, had served the Nashua, N.H. public schools as the district's interdisciplinary curriculum specialist and as the assistant principal at Fairgrounds

Elementary School, an urban school with 850 students. It was there that Fallon became familiar with the multi-age, personalized learning education platform. In 2009 she was named Teacher of the Year.

"The students in the multi-age program experienced such great success. Academic rigor, service and leadership skills were some of the competencies mastered by students," she said.

Fallon and the SJCA staff have been engaged in intense professional development over the past months to ensure that the curriculum, resources and classroom arrangements for the new St. Joseph Catholic Academy were ready for the first day of school. "The excitement and enthusiasm of our teachers and staff has been extraordinary," Fallon said.

Teachers have been working with the diocesan school system's new personalized learning coach, Stacy Clements, to develop multi-age components for the upcoming school year. The new structure has one aim in view, Clements explains. "We ask, 'How do you meet your students' needs?' The

new model is intended to help them meet their full potential."

Clements will continue to meet with teachers on a regular basis throughout the coming year.

Fallon, Maloney and Dr. Cheeseman were unanimous in their thanks to Tom and Paula McInerney, for their \$5.5 million gift to Foundations in Education to finance a Personalized Learning Initiative. In addition to the groundbreaking program at SJCA, the initiative will fund pilot programs at five other diocesan schools this year.

"We are reimagining what the Catholic school classroom can look like and we are excited about what the future holds for our schools and our students," Dr. Cheeseman told teachers, parents, and staff at St. Joseph Catholic Academy. "This is the most exciting project I've worked on since I came to this diocese." ■

==== LIVING BY THE CHARISM OF LIFE FROM PAGE 4 =====

expressing the significance of being a part of both a contemplative and active community.

Before professing first vows, a sister will have been with the community for about three years. The first nine months is called postulancy, which is a time of living and learning in community. They then receive their habit and religious name and live in the novitiate for two years. The first canonical year of novitiate is a time of deeper prayer, integration and study at their motherhouse in Suffern, NY. During the second apostolic year they live at a few of their local convents to experience their different apostolates. They learn, live and pray with the vows during this time

and then have the gift of going on an eight-day Ignatian retreat right before profession.

On her feelings upon professing her first vows, Sr. Catherine Joy shared, "From the cross Christ proclaims His deep, limitless love for each human person with His whole being. When I first encountered Christ's personal and unique love for me, I desired to say "I love you" back with every ounce of my being. In religious consecration, I am able to respond to Jesus' love that gave all, by offering Him my whole life—my possessions, love, will, my entire being—back in love. What joy it is to say now that He is mine and I am His!" ■



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EDITORIAL

Bishop Addresses
Vatican Youth Synod

Bishop Caggiano is one of six U.S. bishops currently in Rome participating in the Vatican Synod of Bishops on young people, faith and vocational discernment, which will run through the month of October. In his first "intervention" before the Holy Father and other bishops at the Synod on October 4, he urged the gathering to discuss the sexual abuse crisis with our youth who demand honesty and authenticity. His words were widely reported by Catholic New Agency and other news services around the world. At a time when the diocese moves ahead with its own response to the abuse crisis (see story on page 3), the bishop's four-minute talk galvanized those who seek transparency and accountability from Church leadership. Fairfield County Catholic is pleased to post his remarks below.

Holy Father, my brother bishops and my sisters and brothers in the Lord, allow me to share two points that weigh on my heart as we begin this synodal journey.

The first is the need for the Church to continue to directly address the issue of the sexual abuse of minors and youth by clerics in many regions of the world. It is both a crime and a sin that has undermined the confidence and trust that young people must have in the Church's leaders and the Church as an institution, so that they may again trust their priests and bishops to exercise true spiritual fatherhood, serve as adult figures in their lives and as authentic mentors of faith. The Instrumentum Laboris speaks insightfully of young people's growing disaffection with civil and social institutions and their desire to address issues of discrimination and exploitation. Building upon this, we must continue to face courageously and honestly the betrayal of young people by clerics to whom they were entrusted. This sin must never again be found in our midst. Only in this way can the youth of the world believe our synodal call to offer them reassurance, comfort, hope, and belonging.

The second issue involves the role that technology now plays in the development of young people. The Instrumentum Laboris rightly identified the key phenomenon that visual images play as the prime medium through which young people understand reality. However, it does not fully explore, nor take advantage of the formative power that technology now exercises upon the full development of young people. For example, the document notes that music and the arts are powerful ways to open up spaces of interiority among young people that the written word may not do as effectively. Young people are more apt to seek creative solutions and collaborate with a variety of relationships. This shift is as much determined by physiology as it is by culture or theology. I urge the Synod to seek ways to investigate further these fundamental changes now experienced by young people so that the pastoral initiatives we embrace can be as comprehensive as possible.

Allow me to conclude by offering one concrete way towards achieving this goal. It was Saint Thomas Aquinas who taught that the human person can encounter God by three privileged paths: truth, beauty and goodness. In terms of technology's formative influence on young people, I would respectfully suggest that it is the path of beauty that must be better explored for the sake of evangelization and catechesis. In my experience with young people, the questions that haunt them are not simply intellectual ones. They are first and foremost affective questions (i.e., "questions of the heart"), that ask about their self-worth, the reasonableness of hope, the ability to commit to another and to be loved in return. We must unlock the power of beauty, which touches and captures the heart, precisely by utilizing the many opportunities now afforded by digital communication and social media to accompany young people to experience beauty in service of the Gospel.

Let us offer the sacred liturgy as a celebration of the beautiful, the transcendent, with an engagement of the affective senses. Let us work to capture the heart of all believers to encounter a God who does not promise a sterile existence but a life that is itself beautiful, rich in meaning, that invites one's heart to dare to believe that this earthly life is worth living and worth fighting for in light of an eternal life where the restlessness of the heart will find its final rest in the salvation that alone comes from Christ Jesus the Lord.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

St. Rose at 60: A rich history and a bright future

St. Rose School opened its doors on September 3, 1958, and was originally a first

Step Up programs. Initially run by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, St. Rose School has been

throughout the afternoon confirming that once a person walks the halls of St. Rose School it is



through fifth-grade school. Within three years it added a middle school. Many years later, in 1989, a kindergarten was added and eventually, in 2000, a preschool emerged and is housed in the former convent with thriving 3-year-old, 4-year-old and

guided by several religious orders through the years. In 2008 an addition was made to the school adding a state of the art science lab and modern gathering hall/gymnasium, a library, music room and more.

School spirit filled the air

forever in their heart. Dedicated to academic excellence, stellar service and living the Gospel values, St. Rose School has been a second home to thousands of students for 60 years and it continues to thrive. 60 years and going strong!



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

PASTOR

FATHER NORBERT SIWINSKI, O.F.M. Conv., new to the Diocese from the Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe Province of Franciscan Friars Minor Conventual in Poland, to Pastor, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date was September 13.

RESIDENCE

FATHER ZBIGNIEW ZIELINSKI, from residence at Saint Jude Parish, Monroe, to residence at Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, Fairfield. Effective date was September 1. Father Zielinski will remain Judge for the Diocesan Tribunal.

LEAVING DIOCESE

FATHER MICHAL NOWAK, O.F.M. Conv., from Pastor, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Bridgeport, he returned to Poland. Effective date was September 13.

*Father Joseph A. Marcello
Vicar for Clergy, October, 2018*

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USPS no.: 12-117. Periodical postage paid at Bridgeport, CT 06601, and additional mailing offices.

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Circulation

Every registered Catholic household in Fairfield County is entitled to a subscription. To cancel, change or add an address, please email: fcc@diobpt.org

Annual Subscription Price

\$20 (within diocese)
\$50 (outside diocese)

Postmaster

send address changes to:
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Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892
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Editorial



St. Francis of the Suburbs

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

Joe Pisani has been a writer and editor for 30 years and can be reached at joejpisani@yahoo.com.

My neighbors call me St. Francis, but they snicker when they do. I'm not rebuilding the Church or giving up my possessions, but I talk to the animals, sort of, sometimes.

In our front yard, is a statue of Francis of Assisi with bird baths and bird feeders. My wife Sandy insists I've taken it to the extreme ... or to use her actual words, "You can't do anything in moderation."

You see, over the past two years, I've put up 15 bird feeders, suet cages, and other assorted devices for sunflower seeds, meal worms, orange slices, Welch's grape jelly, hummingbird nectar,

peanuts and safflower seeds. Our yard has become a Whole Foods for the birds, although to my dismay, I'm attracting even more squirrels, chipmunks, woodchucks, deer and rabbits that descend on us like barbarians sacking Rome.

I've had a devotion to St. Francis all my life, and I love the tales of how he preached to the birds and tamed Brother Wolf. If he lived today, he'd probably have a group of rescue dogs following him around town like Cesar Millan.

"All things of creation are children of the Father and thus brothers of man," Francis said.

"God wants us to help animals if they need help. Every creature in distress has the same right to be protected." He certainly was ahead of his time in his thinking.

I grew up in a place called Pine Rock Park and our home was surrounded by woods, fields and streams so I had rabbits, frogs, birds, turtles, snakes and dogs. It wasn't the same for our four daughters, who have never been fond of snakes or any other woodland creature for that matter.

The closest I've come to Brother Wolf was a three-legged coyote that ran through the yard while we were barbecuing. At first, my family thought it was an injured German Shepherd until I told them, "Nooo, that's a coyote." Then, hysteria erupted. I won't even describe what happened when they saw a bear in the blueberry bushes.

My love of birds has provoked a few family squabbles because they think the money I spend on seed could be spent more profitably repairing my car air conditioner.

We occasionally have exchanges like this:

WIFE: "The turkeys are standing near the door waiting for you to come out!"

ME: "They have to eat too."

WIFE: "So do we."

ME: "WWFD? (What would Francis do?)"

Our yard is like the Bronx Zoo on a busy day. I have a wagon filled with seed that I pull around to the feeding stations, and before you know it, I'm being followed by chickadees, titmice, blue jays, woodpeckers, nuthatches and grosbeaks, not to mention chipmunks that sneak into the pails when I'm not looking.

St. Francis, whose feast day is October 4, is the patron saint of animals and the environment. He didn't have Wild Birds Unlimited or the Audubon Society, but he knew the natural world is a wonderful manifestation of God's love and creative power. He also understood that the way we treat animals says a lot about how we treat others: "If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with

their fellow men," he said.

In his encyclical about care for the environment, Pope Francis wrote, "St. Francis' response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists."

The other day I was looking out the kitchen window, when a house wren perched on the feeder. It opened its mouth and burst into song and its tiny breast seemed to be heaving with joy as it sang a heavenly melody. This tiny, tiny creature was giving praise to his Creator. Yes, we should consider the birds of the air.

"The very flowers of the field and the birds which His human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with His radiant presence," Pope Francis said.

The smallest creatures can teach us the greatest truths about God. All we have to do is listen and learn. ■



Our Lady of the Lamp and Hammer

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

It is a dark and drizzly night. The Hennesseys are enjoying a convivial evening, socializing at the home of The Friendly Family. All is going unusually smoothly. There's always a hitch when the Hennesseys go a-visitin'. But tonight? No hitch. Just laughter and good cheer.

Curfew looms. Mr. and Mrs. Hennessey check in with each other. It takes only a look. The youngsters have reached the natural limit. Time to wrap it up. Declare victory on this lovely outing and head home.

Air kisses, handshakes, hugs,

and goodbyes. "Everybody into the car," croons Mr. Hennessey, a handsome fellow with a lovely Irish tenor voice. He slips so effortlessly from friendmode to dadmode. See how he rolls.

Children pile in. The key turns and the engine starts. The Hennesseys wave as their minivan reverses out of The Friendly Family driveway.

Then, on cue, the thumping. Bwap bwap bwap bwap. The unmistakable sound of a deflated tire.

Mr. Hennessey's lovely Irish tenor voice drops into its base range. "Hello hitch," he mutters to no one and to everyone.

"We've been expecting you, old friend."

"Don't worry," says Mr. Friendly springing down the driveway with a confidence at odds with the reality of the circumstance. This is a sticky hitch for a late hour. Mr. Friendly is defiantly upbeat. "We can take care of this lickety-split."

Mrs. Friendly is positively exuberant. She has lately had experience with just such a hitch, changing a tire at the side of a busy road. By herself. Here we are in a driveway surrounded by loved ones and friends. This hitch should be fixed in a cinch. Lickety split.

The spare is extracted from its hidey-hole. Mrs. Friendly solves the darkness by grabbing a living-room lamp and running an extension cord from the garage. The jack is placed. The bolts are wrenched. The drizzle drizzles. The shirts are drenched.

A few minutes later Messrs. Friendly and Hennessey are on their knees, wrestling with a wheel that won't budge. The flat tire

appears stuck to the rear axle. A hammer is produced. Ting ting ting. Nothing doing. Some WD-40 is applied. Still nothing doing. The tire will not be moved.

The better part of an hour goes by. The living room lamp illuminates only failure. The baby is still awake. It's a crazy hour for a baby to be awake. The unexpected reprieve has all the children buzzing. They have what cartoonists call the goo- goo- googly eyes.

It's an afterparty.

"They're never up this late," says Mrs. Hennessey. She has been trying to maintain a sense of order. "Tomorrow is going to be fun." She doesn't mean it.

"I'm sorry this is happening," says Mr. Hennessey. He has been trying to maintain a sense of dignity. Were it not for the presence of The Friendly Family, his beloved wife, and their five frothing children, he would be weeping openly. He knows this.

The adults are all at the ends of their wits. Tires aren't supposed to be this stubborn. Nights aren't supposed to be this dark

and drizzly. All the things aren't supposed to go wrong at once.

"I don't know what else to do," says Mr. Hennessey. His lovely Irish tenor has disappeared. He makes a new noise. It is the little sound of sad surrender.

"Let's try one more time," says Mr. Friendly. He is such an optimistic guy. How does he not know what Mr. Hennessey knows? The world is trying to break our hearts here tonight.

Both men grip the tire with their WD-40 hands. Before he pulls, Mr. Hennessey says a prayer. To himself. In his head. In his heart. "Hail Mary, full of grace, the lord is with thee."

Boom. Off comes the tire. A cheer goes up among the googly-eyed. The two dads waste no time putting on the spare.

"Mr. Friendly," says a relieved Mr. Hennessey as they work. "You may not believe this, but I said the Hail Mary just now. And it worked." Mr. Friendly not only believes it, he shrugs. He shrugs as if to say, "Of course it did."

It always does. ■

Respect Life

40 Days for Life

DANBURY—Members of the diocesan community gathered in Danbury for the “40 Days for Life Vigil” on Saturday, September 29.

“Our community united with many others from coast to coast—and internationally—for a major simultaneous pro-life mobilization—the 40 Days for Life campaign,” said Christine Murphy of Danbury who organized the vigil.

Murphy, a parishioner of St. Mary Parish in Norwalk, said the vigil was held in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood facility located at 44 Main St., Danbury.

“This was the largest 40 Days for Life Campaign ever, with vigils taking place in 415 cities around the world. Faithful believers are praying that these efforts will mark the beginning of the end of abortion,” she said.



She said the mission of the campaign was to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting and peaceful activism.

“The vigil was one of repentance to seek God’s favor, and to turn hearts and minds,” said Murphy. “We can’t wait to see

what God will accomplish when people of faith across our community and beyond unite for 40 days of prayer and fasting.”

(For more information on the 40 Days for Life campaign, visit their website at: www.40daysforlife.com/danbury or contact Christine Murphy at: cmurphy1224@comcast.net or 203.733.9597.)

Project Rachel

Day of Prayer and Healing: The healing journey begins with a “Day of Prayer Healing.” It consists of a healing witness talk, a video on the dynamics of healing from abortion, an opportunity to share if they so desire; and, most importantly, the offering of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Sacrament of the Mass in which they memorialize their children. A first step, this day gives them hope of healing from the pain they have often been living with.

Monthly Gatherings: The Gatherings (monthly healing groups), deal with specific issues of healing from post-abortion trauma, including denial, grief and shame, which are addressed through scripture meditations followed by questions and group sharing. Participants are able to grow as a community, facing their fears together and learning to deal with their individual experiences and abortion connectors that are crucial to identify in order to reach healing.

Hope and Healing Weekend Retreat: The Hope and Healing Weekend Retreat is an opportunity for those who have been involved in the process of the Day of Prayer and Healing and the gatherings to delve more deeply into their abortion experience. Conferences on post-abortion issues such as shame, acknowledgement of sin and forgiveness of self are given throughout the weekend by women who have been through the healing experience as well as the priest spiritual director of the retreat. Special annual events such as the Mercy and Advent Retreats are also available for continued healing.

Sibling Retreat: The Sibling Retreat allows a safe, confidential environment for those impacted by their parent’s abortion to connect with others who experience similar feelings. Like the other Entering Canaan retreats, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist are an important part of the healing process for the siblings.

(If you would like to know more about Project Rachel Ministry, visit the website: hopeafterabortion.com; if you would like to know more about Entering Canaan, visit the website: www.enteringcanaan.com. Please contact 203.895.3554 or projectrachel@diobpt.org for more information about the Day of Prayer and Healing and confidential registration for the retreat.)

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Respect Life

Compassion at the border

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

BRIDGEPORT—The nine days that Maria Palacios, a member of the Catholic Charities of Fairfield County (CCFC) Immigration Team, spent at the border in July as part of a humanitarian relief team left her with a sense of hope as well as dismay about the conditions she encountered.

On July 24, she departed for the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas where she joined a national Catholic Charities relief effort for immigrants.

At that time, the courts had ordered the federal government to reunite families that had been detained and separated at the border, and the respite center she visited was working with the children and parents who had been sent there from other sites.

Palacios traveled to Texas as a result of a call from Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, who requested that Catholic Charities across the country send professionals to provide support and assistance in the emergency effort.

On July 25, she wrote in her travel journal, "To say that the situation at the border is overwhelming is an understatement. Everything is extremely fast moving because the center is receiving

100 to 200 families each day. Families that have recently been released from ICE custody are left at a bus station where Sister Norma and her team pick them up and bring them to the center."

Once at the center, the families were housed, assisted with their immigration paperwork, fed, clothed and helped with arrangements to reconnect with their family members who were located in many settings across the country.

"Our days here are long and exhausting," she wrote in her travel journal on July 31. "There is always something that needs to get done and someone that needs to be assisted. Sometimes it's impossible to simply find time to eat."

Prior to coming to the Diocese of Bridgeport, Palacios worked at Catholic Charities of Las Cruces where she provided case management for clients in need of U-Visas and those who were part of the Women Against Violence Act (WAVA). She also spent last year teaching middle school newcomers in the border town of Chaparral, New Mexico with Assumption Mission Associates, a Jesuit Volunteer Corp.

While working with the families, her heart went out to the children. "Most are terrified to leave their parents," she wrote. "I was filling out the change of address with one father that had a

five-year-old child with him. The father had to step away about six feet away from where I was while his daughter was writing on a notebook. When she looked up and saw he was gone, she started crying asking "Y mi papa? Donde esta my papa?"—"and my dad, where is my dad?" My heart broke and as I held back the tears I calmed her down and pointed to her dad."

One mother told Palacios that she had been separated from her nine-year-old daughter for two months. She said that she cried for weeks non-stop in the detention center and the officers would tell her to stop crying and "man-up." She had left her country after losing hope due to the gangs in her hometown.

The experience left her questioning why the situation had to be handled that way.

"I am disappointed in the way the entire situation was created.



MARIA PALACIOS (right)—The nine days that Maria Palacios, a member of the Catholic Charities of Fairfield County (CCFC) Immigration Team, spent at the border in July as part of a humanitarian relief team left her with a sense of hope as well as dismay about the conditions she encountered.

It showed a disregard and lack of compassion for the families."

However, her work and the voices of so many people who spoke out, volunteered or sent donations renewed her sense of hope and mission.

"There were all these great volunteers who donated clothing and cooked food and brought it to the families who were waiting for days to be reunited. The experience gave me a new appreciation for order, organization and most of all leadership. Overall it

was an amazing experience. I am grateful to be part of this history."

Palacios said she knows she's doing the work that God wants her to do and she hopes to pursue a law degree to better serve people with immigration issues.

"Even though the days are long and the work is constant, I know that God is giving me the strength to continue to do this service. I also do this with the love and strength from everyone back home that has been sending me endless support," she wrote. ■

Remembrance Day

TRUMBULL—A group of women from the Diocese of Bridgeport commemorated the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children by praying the Rosary for the unborn.

They gathered at 3 pm at the memorial site in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery on Daniels Farm Road in Trumbull for pro-life prayers and remembrance.

The group also visited the memorial site last year to pray for the unborn. For more information visit: abortionmemorials.com ■



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Capitol Punishment

Evolution or Revolution?

By **GEORGE F. KAIN, Ph.D.**

When Pope Francis recently declared that the death penalty is “inadmissible” for consideration in any criminal case, some of us actively involved in the anti-death penalty movement were intrigued by the initial responses from many of our Catholic friends and casual supporters of abolition. The directive which allegedly “changed” Catholic Church teaching on the issue of capital punishment was characterized by some as primarily a warning to other countries who actively practice executions for them to end their barbaric, wanton use of the death penalty. Upon closer examination, however, the “new” teaching concerning the use of the death penalty must be seen as a call directed as much to Catholics living in the United States as it is to those living in

other, more “barbaric” countries. There are a number of reasons that the Catholic community at large must understand the history and significance of the Pope’s declaration, which is now part of the Catechism of the Catholic

“If we are called to be a witness to the truth, we can do so as we stand together.”

Church (CCC #2267). That section of the catechism now will read:

“Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit

extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.

Consequently, the church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person, and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.”

In consideration of Pope Francis’ effort to raise our aware-



ness of the importance of the renewed Catholic teaching on the death penalty, here are some practical considerations regarding the change that he made, how this change occurred, and what it should mean for all of us.

All Catholics need to consider their own views, and need to support governmental leaders who respect all life without distinction. This teaching is a call for all Catholics who might be “on the fence” on right-to-life issues to greater accountability. Practically speaking, this renewed teaching is designed to restore, and unify all Catholics on all right-to-life issues rather than leaving room for

fragmentation through the use of loopholes and special conditions. Church communities can now stand strong and in unity. If we are called to be a witness to the truth, we can do so as we stand together, empowered through our vehement objection to the death penalty. Acceptance of and reflection on this teaching can therefore actually serve as a catalyst to strengthen and intensify our worldwide call to end abortion and euthanasia as well.

Catholic leaders need to unify and strengthen their desire to create a healing environment for victims to achieve true justice,

➤ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 25*

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Protecting God's Children

Leadership Summit discusses moving forward

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—"There is tremendous hope in a difficult climate," said diocesan director of Safe Environments Erin Neil, at the Safe Environments Leadership Summit recently held

responded, "but aren't you glad we did?"

Survivors discussed how abuse changes lives and how important it is to look for and notice signs. "If you think it might be [abuse]...report it," said Philipp.

The survivors each explained

also learned about resources for survivors, procedures on maintaining Safe Environments in the diocese, and an overview of Safe Environments training programs for children and parents.

Presenting at the summit were Erin Neil, director of Safe Environments for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Rose Talbot-Babey, coordinator of Adult Faith Formation for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Patrick Donovan, director of the Leadership Institute for the Diocese of Bridgeport, and Deacon John DiTaranto, Safe Environment Program assistant, and Astrid Alvarez, VIRTUS Training & Development specialist for the Diocese of Bridgeport. Survivors included Peter Philipp, Peggy Fry, and Joseph Cann, father of an abuse survivor.

The Safe Environments

program in the Diocese of Bridgeport has a full time director, Ms. Erin Neil, L.C.S.W. Safe Environments programs oversee the implementation of Charter mandates including victim assistance, criminal background checks, written Codes of Conduct and child sexual abuse awareness and prevention training for priests, deacons, lay

employees, volunteers, children and youth.

(For questions or concerns relating to Safe Environments, background checks, VIRTUS Awareness Training, resources for victims of abuse or mandated reporting, please contact: Erin Neil, L.C.S.W., Director of Safe Environments by phone: 203.416.1406; 203.650.3265 or email: eneil@diobpt.org.)



SURVIIVORS SPEAK—Survivor group members Peter Philipp, Peggy Fry and Joseph Cann shared difficult and heartbreaking stories of their own experiences with abuse and answered questions from the more than 60 religious educators at the Safe Environments Leadership Summit.

at the Catholic Center.

"Christ is our true healer and he will help guide us through this time as he has in all times," said Neil who gave a brief overview of the Dallas Charter and also introduced survivors of clerical sexual abuse who now lead the diocesan Committee for Hope and Healing.

Neil said revisions that began on the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in 2013 have already been in place in our diocese since 2003. These revisions include extending the charter to include all individuals working with young people and to include vulnerable adults. These revisions were passed and are to be put in place in other dioceses in June of 2018.

Survivor group members Peter Philipp, Peggy Fry and Joseph Cann shared difficult and heartbreaking stories of their own experiences with abuse and answered questions from the more than 60 religious educators in attendance.

They expressed the joy they felt upon getting to experience the Mass of Reparation, which took place at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, September 15.

Philipp told the gathered that he turned to Fry during the Mass and said, "I am so sad that we had to have this," to which she

their difficult yet crucial journey toward healing.

"We are going to work at healing our Church...you are our beginning," expressed Fry.

Philipp explained, "We [in our diocese] are very lucky to have Bishop Caggiano as our leader."

Survivors expressed how grateful they were that Bishop Caggiano held a "listening session" for survivors when he first arrived in the diocese.

"I thought no one wanted to hear my story...but the bishop listened," said Fry. "He said 'tell me what you want me to know about you' and listened to 15 of us tell our stories."

Fry expressed how the Church will not be able to heal until 'we get to the bottom of it,' "You may not have been affected yourself but you have been affected because you are the Church and this has happened to the Church."

In response to the discussion, an attendee voiced her hope for the Church, saying, "I still believe, more than ever, in this diocese, in Bishop Caggiano, in the Safe Environments program."

"With an emphasis on moving forward," Peter Philipp expressed, "the new Church is going to be a stronger Church."

Those attending the summit

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Respect Life

'Conversion of heart needed' to address racism

By JOHN GROSSO

PROVIDENCE—The Catholic Church must implement consistent practices that result in concrete progress in the fight against

"We stand in the spirit of justice, love, and peace."

racism, said participants from five New England dioceses and Providence College who gathered for an evening symposium on "Racism in the Catholic Church."

"Catholic social teaching on race suffers from a lack of passion. Racial justice is not now

nor has it ever been a passionate matter for most Catholics," said Bishop Shelton Fabre, Bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, and Chair of the USCCB Ad-Hoc Committee Against Racism.

More than 300 gathered for the evening, which was hosted in the Diocese of Providence and co-sponsored by the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Speaking after a stirring performance from the McVinney School youth choir, Bishop Fabre, the keynote speaker, offered a perspective on what the Church has historically done to combat the sin of racism, where we are now and what we can do in the future.

"In order to affect change, we as a Church must have a genuine con-

version of the heart," said Bishop Fabre, "Conversion is a long road to travel for the individual, for institutions and for a nation, but in Christ, we can find the strength necessary to make the journey."

After recounting the history of the Catholic Church's response to racism, Bishop Fabre cited the progress made by the USCCB Ad-Hoc Committee Against Racism through a slew of initiatives, including listening sessions, resource development, tools for parishes and schools and much needed policy changes.

"It is only from a place of humility that we can look honestly at past failures, ask for forgiveness and move toward healing."

After the keynote from Bishop Fabre, four panelists from various backgrounds spoke about



BISHOP SHELTON FABRE—Bishop Shelton Fabre, Bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, and Chair of the USCCB Ad-Hoc Committee Against Racism spoke at Providence College at an evening symposium on "Racism in the Catholic Church."

their experience of racism in the Catholic Church.

"Speaking as a Catholic African American, I can tell you that the Church does not feel like home. We don't feel comfortable," one panelist said.

There was an audible murmur in the crowd after that statement, and many spoke up to voice their agreement with it.

Taking the podium once more to respond to the emotion, Bishop Fabre responded: "The Church must move forward and to do so, we place our confidence in Jesus Christ, for with Christ, we stand in the spirit of justice, love, and

peace."

After the emotional testimony, the panelists spoke of the spirit of optimism they shared at the Ad-Hoc Committee Against Racism's plans to enact real and lasting initiatives to help rid the Church, the country and the world of racism.

Bishop Fabre shared in that optimism.

"We will make our way towards progress with faith in God's grace, hope in our own determination, confidence in the workings of the Holy Spirit and love for each other as fellow children of God."

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Serving the Poor

‘Everybody has at least one mission’

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—“We all have a mission, whether young or old, big or small, healthy or sick... right here in our own parishes and our own homes,” says local businessman and charitable volunteer, Vince Santilli.

The long-time parishioner of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, along with his wife Jeanine and three children, says he often reflects on the challenge of Pope Francis to become a “missionary disciple” of Christ.

Santilli, a former banking executive for People’s United Bank, now serves as CEO/ Executive Director of Homes for the Brave, a Bridgeport based non-profit organization that works to provide housing services to those experiencing homelessness, with a special focus on service to men and women veterans.

“I think everybody should have at least one mission,” Santilli explains, as he considers his work at Homes for the Brave, as well as his volunteer involvement and his recent journey at the end of June to Haiti, where he worked with the poorest of the poor in Cite Soleil, the country’s



A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE—Vince Santilli (far left) visited Father Tom Hagan of Hands Together (left center) in Cite Soleil, Haiti with his son Thomas (far right) and family friend Dylan (right center). Responding to the cries of the poorest of the poor is one of Santilli’s missions in life.

largest and poorest slum.

During his visit, Santilli worked closely with Father Tom Hagan and Hands Together— an organization based in Port-au-Prince which seeks to give hope to the poor living in rural Haiti through a variety of human development programs, including: water well digging, agricultural programs and production, assisting the poorest schools, clinics and parishes in the northern diocese of Gonaives and in Cap Haitien.

Hands Together was found-

ed in 1986 by Fr. Tom Hagan after he led a group of Lafayette College students to Haiti and was compelled to respond to the needs of the poor there. He left his post as Catholic Chaplain of Princeton University and moved to Port-au-Prince in 1997. Since then, Hands Together has emerged as a key educational and development organization working in Cite Soleil.

They have built free schools where there were none and provided every student with a daily

hot meal. Hands Together has 7 campuses, including a high school, as well as a free clinic and an elderly outreach and housing program. They are one of Cite Soleil’s largest employers, giving decent, service-oriented jobs to hundreds of residents.

Santilli met Fr. Hagan while he was attending college at the University of Pennsylvania, where Fr. Hagan was the chaplain. Santilli says of Fr. Hagan, “He has had a major impact on the way we lead our lives.”

Santilli discussed the farm in Gonaives, where 450 people were generating food for themselves and their families. Describing the type of poverty he witnessed in Haiti, Santilli recalled, “We understand that even people here in some cities in Connecticut and in other parts of the country are experiencing extreme poverty, but in Haiti misery is a better descriptor and even might be being too generous.”

Santilli describes Cite Soleil as a “3 square mile slum with 500,000 people, no electricity and scarce medical care, where the rats outnumber the people 10 to 1, and the people are desperately hungry all the time.”

“It is one thing to hear about it, another to see it in person,” Santilli says, “Even our poorest live like kings and queens in comparison.”

Throughout the years, Santilli has visited parishes in the diocese to speak about his experience with Hands Together and the importance of giving to charitable organizations such as this. He shares about the conditions in Haiti, the amazing work that Hands Together does, and the responsibility we all have, especially as Catholics, to respond to this.

This is his fourth year doing mission appeals. He has spoken at St. Joseph’s in Danbury, St. Luke’s in Westport, St. Catherine of Siena in Trumbull, and Assumption in Westport, as well as throughout the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania and the Archdioceses of Providence, Boston, Newark, Albany, Rhode Island and all across Connecticut.

“I find it very fulfilling to do my part to respond to those cries of the poorest of the poor,” says Santilli, reflecting on both his work at Homes for the Brave and Hands Together.

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Vocations

Clark to begin formation at major seminary

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

DARIEN—On Saturday, September 8, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrated Mass at St. Thomas More parish during which Michael Clark was admitted to candidacy.

Michael Clark was born in Chichester, England on May 5, 1983 to Timothy and Lesley Clark.

He studied at Cambridge University, graduating with a master's in theology and law in 2005. He studied for and was called to the bar in 2008 and practiced law as a barrister for five years. At the same time he was singing professionally at Exeter Cathedral and later moved to Buckfast Abbey as director of music, establishing a new professional choir of men and women from scratch.

In 2012, he entered seminary to study philosophy and theolo-

gy. He received an STB from the Pontifical Gregorian University in 2016 and studied at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute.

In 2016, Clark visited Diocese of Bridgeport as a guest, not expecting anything more than a pleasant vacation. When he returned to seminary the people of Fairfield County were a constant preoccupation in his prayer and he began to discern the possibility of a call to serve as a priest in Bridgeport.

Clark was due to be ordained to the diaconate in July, but left the Diocese of Plymouth in England at the request of Bishop Caggiano, in order to come and “breathe the air of Fairfield County.”

Clark arrived at St. Thomas More in Darien in November of 2017 as a guest of the diocese to discern the call further and started a second assignment at the Catholic Academy of Stamford/Trinity Catholic High School in



MICHAEL CLARK—received his Rite of Candidacy at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano on September 8. “I feel very blessed to have had such a deep experience of parish life as part of my formation,” says Clark.

August 2018.

Below, Michael shares some of his thoughts and feelings as he begins his major seminary journey.

“It was something of a homecoming to return to St. Thomas More parish for Candidacy after a summer away. It was my first assignment in the diocese and as

such, will always hold a special place in my heart. It was wonderful to greet parishioners who I’m blessed to call friends and to share stories of a long hot summer.

But this was no ordinary homecoming, because my difference of attire from regular clothes to a clerical suit was symbolic of a deeper change within me.

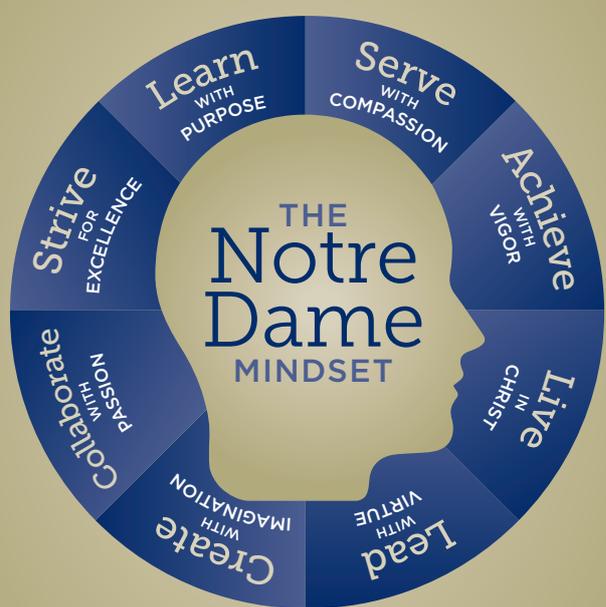
I came to Darien a stranger from a foreign country with a task to discern whether or not I might be able to call Fairfield County home. Due to the extraordinary generosity of the whole parish community I was quickly welcomed into the family; and as such I was able to see the Lord’s

face in the people he wants me to serve. Without knowing it, I was changed: for I could not have stood up and made promises to the bishop stating my intention to complete my preparation for ordination were it not for the support and love of the parish.

It was humbling in the extreme to greet people as they wished me well and assured me of their prayers. I pray for St. Thomas More parish every day—and now that I have moved into St. John Fisher Seminary, I am privileged to have yet another great English saint as a patron, though perhaps I have an even greater affinity with the Cardinal Martyr, because I studied at the same University and walked some of the same streets as he did, albeit some 500 years later.

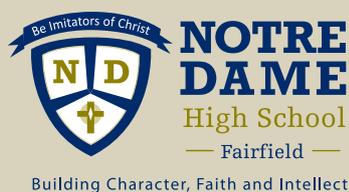
Nevertheless, I feel very blessed to have had such a deep experience of parish life as part of my formation, because it showed me so clearly that the gospel is not just a set of propositions; it is a dynamic relationship with Christ, nurtured by the sacraments and lived in community with all the joys and sorrows that ensue. It was the people of St. Thomas More parish who taught me that—and such a gift is priceless.” ■

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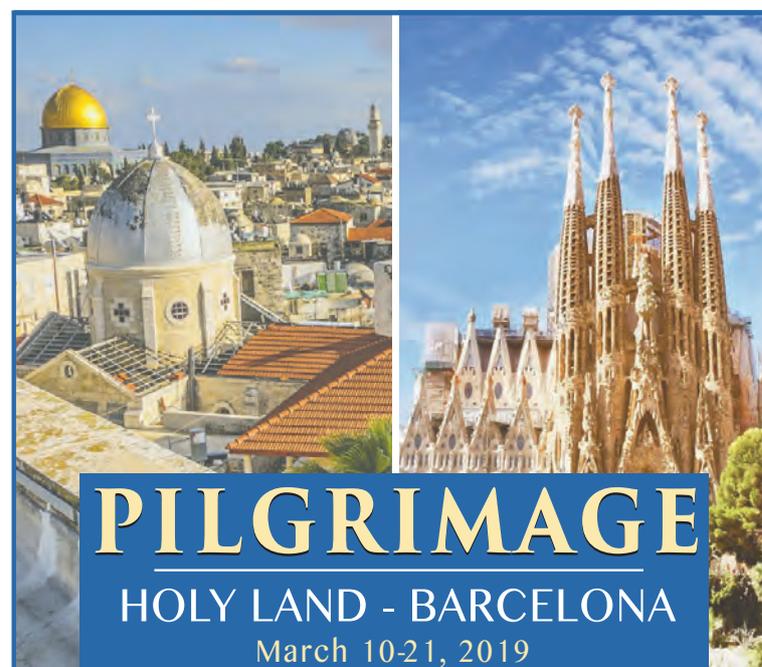
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Special Needs Mass

A Mass of joy!

FAIRFIELD—This year, the annual Mass for those with Down syndrome, their families and friends was celebrated on September 16 at St. Pius X Church. The Mass would best be summed up in one word... "joy". For annual attendees, that "joy" is daily, but for many attending weekly Mass, it was refreshing.

As it says in the New American Bible, "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete"(John 15:9-11).

No one can deny the joy and light of Jesus Christ that shines forth from these children with Down syndrome. They are truly a gift to our community. They bring happiness wherever they go and to whomever they meet. You see it on their faces, their beautiful smiles and the families who love them so much and who are trying to be the very best they can be for them.



You could see the "joy" they brought to all who attended the Mass, the family members, friends, teachers, paraprofessionals and caregivers. It was a lovely sunny day outside and sunshine radiated in St. Pius X Church that day as well! We are certainly looking forward to the Mass next year.

The mission of the St. Robert Bellarmine Apostolate is to support and strengthen individuals with Down syndrome, their families and friends through prayer.

The members of the Apostolate live out this mission by:

1.) Praying the intercessory prayers to St. Robert Bellarmine to increase devotion to this saint

as a patron for individuals with Down syndrome

2.) Celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the feast day of St. Robert (September 17, or the Sunday before or after his feast day) for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and friends

3.) Encouraging Catholic parents to join or to form a MOMs+DADs (Mother of Mercy spiritual Divine Advocate for Down syndrome) prayer/support group at their local parish

(For more information about the St. Robert Bellarmine Apostolate contact: strapostolate@optimum.net, or visit the website, www.saintfordown-syndrome.org.)

BLUE MASS FROM PAGE 8

about 200 boys and girls who play basketball or who are cheerleaders. Junes also has 23 boys in the Wilderness Program, which introduces many children to the outdoors.

On receiving this award, Junes says, "It is a great feeling of accomplishment. It reminds me why I do what I do. I have always felt it is my civic duty to give back to these kids and help them succeed in life."

Junes also holds an annual coat drive for the less fortunate of the community, he has an annual backpack giveaway program and also meets community members at the Coffee with a Cop events.

For his service to the people of Norwalk, CT, the Diocese of Bridgeport, the Knights of Columbus, and Chief Thomas Kulhawik presented the Blue Mass Award for 2018 and plaque to Detective Christopher Imparato.

Chief Kulhawik noted that Detective Imparato joined the

Norwalk Police Department in February 2009. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Marist College. Detective Imparato worked in the patrol division until his promotion in April 2014. He has received two meritorious commendations in his career as well as a unit citation.

Detective Imparato was the 2017 Norwalk Police Department Officer of the Year. He worked extensively for two years on two cold case murder investigations in conjunction with the cold case unit of the Office of the Chief States Attorney. Because of his persistence and diligence as the lead investigator, Detective Imparato was able to develop evidence to support probable cause for the arrest of the suspects involved in these two murder cases. Detective Imparato has always taken great pride in his work and in studying these cases, to fully understand them by deconstructing and then reconstructing them in order to bring them to fruition. Detective

Imparato's professionalism and his commitment to his work are a credit to him and the Norwalk Police detective bureau.

There was a moment of silence for all the men and women in blue who died this past year, and a special remembrance of Ridgefield Police Chief John Roche who passed away only a week prior to the Mass.

Dr. George Kain, Commissioner of the Ridgefield Police Department, read a heartfelt tribute to Chief Roche, saying, "he encouraged others to be the best they could be," calling him a man of strong faith.

Family, friends and members of the community gathered in the school gym following the Mass.

The Blue Mass is sponsored by The Fairfield County Councils and Assemblies of the Knights of Columbus and other generous benefactors throughout Fairfield County.

JUDGE HOLZBERG FROM PAGE 3

He has extensive experience serving as a mediator and arbitrator in civil matters in state and federal court, including personal injury, employment, construction, environmental, probate, insurance, intellectual property and commercial disputes.

He retired from the bench in September 2012 after more than 22 years of service as a Superior Court judge.

He was appointed to the Superior Court in 1990 by Gov. William O'Neill. While on the bench, he served as the presiding judge for civil matters in the Middlesex, New Britain and Waterbury judicial districts. During his career, he earned a reputation for his skill in crafting settlements in some of Connecticut's highest profile and most complex cases and became one of the state's most sought-after mediators.

He has received several awards, including the 2011 Connecticut Bar Association's Henry J. Naruk Award for distinguished service and the 2005 Hon. Robert F. Zampano Award for Excellence in Mediation. In 1998, he received the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association Judicial Award.

Before his appointment to the bench, he was on the faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Law and also served as an Assistant Public Defender in the Office of the Chief Public Defender. He is a frequent speaker and author on the topic of mediation and arbitration. He has been an invited speaker on ADR strategies for the Practicing Law Institute, the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, the Connecticut Defense Lawyers Association and the Hartford County Bar Association. Holzberg serves as co-chair with Retired Chief Justice Chase Rogers of Day Pitney LLP of Connecticut Lawyers for Immigration Justice, www.ctjustice.org.

Pullman & Comley will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2019 and is one of Connecticut's largest firms, providing a wide range of legal services to clients in the New England region, as well as throughout the United States and internationally. The firm has offices in Bridgeport, Hartford, Stamford, Waterbury, and Westport, Connecticut and White Plains, New York. The firm is an active member of the Law Firm Alliance, an international affiliation of law firms.

(For more information, please visit www.pullcom.com.)

JP II GRANTS FROM PAGE 11

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Those who received grants from the Saint John Paul II Fund for Faith Formation and Youth

grant. The reports are to include photos, personal reflections and comments from those who have benefited.

Publish a note of thanks in their Sunday parish bulletin, calling attention to the support from Saint John Paul II Fund for Religious Education and Youth Ministry

Those who were awarded grants received the funding in August 2018.

Bishop Caggiano encouraged the grant recipients to be bold and innovative, and think even more outside of the box for next year's application process.

Bishop's Lecture Series

Sign of Cross is most powerful prayer

By EMILY CLARK

If asked, "What is the most powerful prayer?" one might answer the Lord's Prayer or the Hail Mary. To Jon Leonetti, however, it is the Sign of the Cross.

A widely-known Catholic speaker, successful author, and radio host, Leonetti spoke with a group of local parishioners on Thursday, October 4 at Assumption Church in Westport as part of The Bishop's Lecture Series. This new initiative of The Leadership Institute invites inspirational speakers to present stories of their realizations of Jesus' presence in their lives.

According to Leonetti, this sign that commemorates of the crucifixion of Christ for all Catholics allows us to see the greatest act of love.

"We believe He took on the worst execution: dying on the cross," said Leonetti, gesturing toward the crucifix hanging behind him. "He freely chose to lay down His life. In the cross, we find life. Through his dying, we live."

Leonetti preached that Jesus saved us from ourselves. "Through sin, misery, greed,



JON LEONETTI—A widely-known Catholic speaker, successful author and radio host, Leonetti spoke with a group of local parishioners on Thursday, October 4 at Assumption Church in Westport as part of The Bishop's Lecture Series.

and resentment, the devil is right here," he emphasized, "but demons flee at seeing the Sign of the Cross. It is their mortal enemy."

As a missionary disciple, Leonetti believes that we must start at the foot of the cross and ask ourselves "Do we live it?" For Catholics, he said, the cross is paramount—and a paradox.

God's sacrifice is our gift.

This philosophy did not always carry the clarity it does now for Leonetti. Having once planned on being a priest, he paused in that formation to listen to God in a different way.

"I asked Him what He wanted from my life," said Leonetti, who embarked on a powerful physical and emotional journey, walking across the country from California to New Jersey and facing struggles he had never before encountered.

"I was very comfortable," he said, with a nod to his childhood of relative ease. "This walk showed me how to be uncomfortable."

Now a married father of two, Leonetti said that "even our marriages are crosses, beautiful crosses." With a crucifix hanging in every room of his home, he feels this prompts himself to continue asking if he is being a man of the cross in his family, a question

he challenged those gathered at Assumption Church to do as well.

"We are blessed with a lot: time, talents, friends, but all that goes away," he said, referring to our own judgement day before the Lord. "God will ask us, 'Do I really know you? Did you take up your cross and follow me?'"

In taking up his own cross and sharing his encounters with God, this author of three inspirational books sees an obligation to re-engage family life.

"I am a Mother Theresa fanatic!" he said, laughing. "I always ask myself 'How can I bring peace?' Go home and love your family."

Speaking of his own preschool-age children, he said they—and all who believe—are pure gifts, the results of God's love and life. "Young people today are not satisfied with just the 'what,'" he said. "They want to know 'why.'" And this, he added, is what the Lord is calling for us.

Dying on the cross was the ultimate death penalty, Leonetti said, calling it "disgusting" and "smelly" with bone fragments littering the ground. "But saints see suffering as an opportunity," he added, "not an obstacle."

According to Leonetti, a new Christian martyr is born every six minutes. "We are the martyrs of the new millennium," he said, making the Sign of the Cross. "We will live the way in which we love." ■

PAPAL HONORS

FROM PAGE 6

Leo Parish, Stamford; Mr. Paul Queally, Knight/St Aloysius Parish, New Canaan; Mrs. Anne Marie Queally, Dame/St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan.

Induction into the Order of Pope Saint Sylvester

The Order is intended to express the esteem of the Holy See and to honor Catholic and non-Catholic lay people who are actively involved in the life of the Church, particularly as it is exemplified in the exercise of their professional duties.

Mr. Lawrence Bossidy, Knight/St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield; Mrs. Nancy Bossidy, Dame/St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield; Mr. Salvatore Cingari, Jr., Knight/Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford; the late Mrs. Catherine Cingari, Jr., Dame/Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford; Mr. Thomas O'Malley, Knight/St. Catherine of Siena, Riverside; Mrs. Mary Alice O'Malley, Dame/St. Catherine of Siena, Riverside; Mr. Joseph Roxe, Knight/St. Thomas More Parish, Darien; Mrs. Maureen Roxe, Dame/St. Thomas More Parish, Darien; Mr. Brian Young, Knight/St. Thomas More Parish, Darien; Mrs. Anne Young, Dame/St. Thomas More Parish, Darien. ■

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O'Malley Scholarship Recipients

Students meet their donors

By **THERESA SCIALLO**

STAMFORD—While every scholarship recipient appreciates the donor that helps make their academic experience possible, it is unlikely that they get to meet

Students sat captivated as Mr. O'Malley recounted how he grew from modest means. He shared with them his own passions and something he would do if he were president.

Mr. O'Malley went on to say,

scholars and I are a part of something great," remarked DeLallo.

The O'Malleys suggested the students also "thank the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano for being the compelling advocate for Catholic education that he is."



(l-r) Foundations in Education Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine, Trinity Catholic High School Head of School Pat Brady, Tyler Breault (gr. 11), Morgan Vossler (gr. 9), Mary Alice O'Malley, Scarlett Cooney (gr. 10), Thomas O'Malley, Megan DeLallo (gr. 10), Lindsay Calise (gr. 9), Richard Del Vecchio (gr. 12), and Trinity Catholic Principal Scott Smith.

the people who fund their scholarships. On September 11, six students from Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford and their families had the unique opportunity to personally meet and converse with their scholarship donors, Mary Alice and Thomas O'Malley.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Malley committed \$500,000 to Foundations in Education over five years to establish a scholarship at Trinity Catholic High School for children of firefighters and police officers in Greenwich or Stamford and nurses of Greenwich or Stamford Hospital. This scholarship covers 80 percent of their tuition.

"It means so much to me that they appreciate first responders like my father," said freshman Morgan Vossler, whose father is a Stamford police officer.

The evening was particularly symbolic as 9/11 will always be remembered as a day to honor first responders.

Thomas O'Malley offered the scholars some advice; the same guidance he gave his own children and grandchildren. He warned them of the many evils in their midst. He urged them not to follow the example of poor-decision making peers, but instead be leaders. He challenged them to find what stirs their passion and then pursue their dream.

"I took away wise insights from Mr. O'Malley, which I promise to apply in my time at Trinity Catholic and beyond," remarked sophomore Megan DeLallo.

"I have traveled to just about every country there is and there is no better place to live than the United States. If I were president, I would mandate that every student at the age of 18 devote one year to service. Every citizen should give back whether it is military service, volunteering in public works, or any type of community service."

"I am honored to be an O'Malley scholar. My fellow

Bishop Caggiano created Foundations in Education in order to create a long-term strategy to stabilize and improve Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic schools and provide a path for their sustained growth.

(To learn more about Foundations in Education or to learn how your gift can help transform lives of Catholic school students, please visit the Foundations in Education website at: www.foundationsineducation.org.)

EVOLUTION OR REVOLUTION FROM PAGE 18

and to not exacerbate the pain and suffering that victims have already suffered, through the continued calls for execution of offenders. Pope Francis wrote a letter in 2015 to the International Commission Against the Death Penalty, and characterized capital punishment as "cruel, inhumane and degrading" and said it "does not bring justice to the victims, but only foments revenge."

In closing, where does all of this leave us, as Catholics, today? Some will most certainly defy the Pope's declaration as being out of touch with the will of the people, and claim that this issue is and should remain under governmental authority that should not to be disturbed by the Church. Such declarations are now more clearly inconsistent with Church teaching. Of the new formulation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Cardinal Ladaria, said it "desires to give energy to a movement toward a decisive commitment to favor a mentality that recognizes the dignity of every human life and, in respectful dialogue with civil authorities, to encourage the creation of conditions that allow for the elimination of the death penalty where it is still in effect."

Sadly, it remains in effect right here in the United States. The question is, armed with this renewed call to respect all life, what will we do to change this?

George F. Kain, Ph.D. is police commissioner, Town of Ridgefield, is professor and chairman, Division of Justice and Law Administration Program at Western CT State University. He has worked for the last 20 years to abolish the death penalty by serving as president of the CT Network to Abolish the Death Penalty, and testifying in various state legislatures around the US to continue abolition. He also serves as a volunteer consultant with the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops in Tallahassee FL, working to abolish the death penalty there. He is presently in the Diaconate Formation program for the Diocese of Bridgeport and a parishioner at St. Mary, Ridgefield, where he is involved in multiple ministries.

(To read the full article visit our website or follow this link www.bridgeportdiocese.org/evolution-or-revolution-the-catholic-church-call-to-abolish-the-death-penalty.)

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Sports

Lavery, revered football coach, dies

By DON HARRISON

Earl Lavery's Fairfield Prep football teams won three state championships and 80 percent of their games across 28 seasons, but he accepted few plaudits for this sustained success.

"It is still about the team," he once said. "Good relationships with the kids remain the key. Success was always a team thing. Any success for a head coach depends on the kids he has and the assistants he has."

James Earl Lavery, the man who became synonymous with Fairfield College Preparatory School as a beloved coach, mathematics teacher and athlete, died at his home in Westerly, R.I., on August 25. He was 86.

When Lavery retired as the Jesuits' head coach following the 1992 season, his 230 career victories represented an all-time high for Connecticut high school football coaches. (He's now seventh). And his .804 winning percentage (based on a 230-53-8 won-lost-tied record) still ranks among the

top ten. He never experienced a losing season.

The Bridgeport-born and reared Lavery entered Fairfield Prep as a freshman in 1946 and, as a senior, played tackle on the school's first undefeated team. The 1949 Jesuits, coached by Fella Gintoff, won their first seven games before settling for a 6-6 tie with Stamford.

Earning a football scholarship to Holy Cross, he played three varsity seasons—primarily as a defensive tackle—for the Jesuit college and graduated in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Lavery sold cars and worked at Sikorsky Aircraft before returning to Prep as a math teacher and assistant football coach. This career move paid many dividends. He taught math for 32 years at his alma mater, and also coached track and golf briefly. And after nine seasons as an assistant, he succeeded Joe Brosley as head football coach in 1965.

He proceeded to direct the Jesuits to three CIAC Class LL state titles (1977, '82, '88), four

undefeated, untied seasons (1967, '69, '73, '77) plus an 11-0-1 record in 1975.

No fewer than a dozen of his players earned first-team berths on the New Haven Register All-State Team, among them end Tom Lyddy (1966), defensive backs Paul Halas (1973) and John DiTulio (1977), tight end Tim Grant (1991) and the Zingo brothers—linebacker Chris (1989) and defensive lineman Randy (1991).

Chris Zingo developed into a two-time All-American linebacker at Cornell and was voted into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Lavery received his share of honors through the years, too: induction into no fewer than three halls of fame (Connecticut High School Football Coaches Association, 1991; Fairfield County Sports, 2013; Fairfield Prep Athletics, 2017), a Gold Key award from the Connecticut Sports Writers' Alliance in 1996, and several Coach of the Year designations.

Survivors include his wife, Eleanor; two children, Kathleen A. Lavery of Bridgeport and James M. Lavery of Jacksonville, Fla.; two sisters, Sheila Creatura of Westport and Kathleen

Campion of New York City; three grandchildren, an infant great-granddaughter, a stepson and several nieces and nephews.

(Donations in Lavery's name may be made to the Fairfield Prep Athletic Dept., 1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield, CT 06824.) ■



"Good relationships with the kids remain the key."

MISSION FROM PAGE 21

Homes for the Brave (HFTB), provides transitional housing, case management, life skills coaching and vocational training to homeless individuals, primarily veterans, to help them return to a productive and meaningful life. In addition to the men's program at HFTB, the woman's program, Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes, has a 15-bed transitional house solely for female veterans and their young children and is the only one of its kind in the Tri-State area. The organization also operates Waldorf House, a nine-bed permanent supportive house for formerly homeless individuals, and an active Veterans Service Center, which provides immediate basic needs and resources to all veterans. To date, HFTB has served over 1,200 people.

Home for the Brave's next event will be the Third Annual Mini Golf Tournament, held on November 9 at Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield. Enjoy 18 holes of miniature golf along with a cocktail reception, awards dinner and chances to win exciting prizes and auction items. For more information, please visit www.homesforthebrave.org/minigolf.

(To find out more about Homes for the Brave visit www.homesforthebrave.org, or Hands Together visit www.handstogether.org.) ■

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

OCTOBER

14	Msgr. Raymond H. Guidone	1965
15	Msgr. William Schultz	2013
16	Msgr. John V. Horgan Kung	2009
17	Msgr. Benedict Tighe	2004
18	Bishop Walter W. Curtis	1997
19	Rev. Cornelius J. Looney	1974
22	Msgr. David F. Bannon	1979
	Rev. Louis Dytkowski	2016
	Deacon Donald Fonseca	1989
27	Rev. Robert C. Franklin	1991
	Msgr. Thomas J. Whalen	2012
28	Deacon John Kucera	2007
29	Rev. Michael A. D'Elia	2000
30	Msgr. Leo M. Finn	1960
31	Rev. Francis D. McKenna	1989

NOVEMBER

3	Msgr. Joseph A. Heffernan	1989
	Deacon Thomas P. Freibott	2002
6	Rev. Bernard Dolan	2010
9	Rev. Stephen A. Grinvalsky	1972
	Deacon Domingo Reverón	2014
10	Rev. Gerard C. Mason	1993
11	Msgr. Victor J. Torres-Frias	1995
13	Msgr. Alphonse J. V. Fiedorczyk	1987
15	Rev. M. Steven Barrett, S.S.	2000
	Rev. John P. Odie	1999

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En honor al Señor de los Milagros

BRIDGEPORT—La misa de 11:30 de la mañana del domingo fue especial para los feligreses de la iglesia Saint Mary en Bridgeport, porque la fuerza de la fe en el Señor de los Milagros, patrono del Perú, atrajo a cientos de peregrinos y varias cuadrillas de devotos que desde lejos vinieron para cargar las andas con un inmenso cuadro del Cristo crucificado en la cruz y a sus pies la virgen de Los Dolores.

El Padre Rolando Torres, oficiante de la homilía en honor al Señor de los Milagros que se presenta como una imagen del Cristo crucificado, reveló que la misa dominical era para reparar el corazón de Jesús herido con todos los pecados, pero particularmente, por los escándalos sobre temas de abuso sexual en que se ha visto envuelta la iglesia.

Por eso, dijo el religioso, que el Papa Francisco y el Obispo de la Diócesis de Bridgeport, Frank Caggiano, pidieron a sus feligreses orar por la iglesia durante todo el mes y en especial, después de cada misa la oración a San Miguel Arcángel, rezo que se realizó en la misa de Celebración del Señor de los Milagros minu-

tos antes de que el sacerdote diera la bendición final.

“Estamos en una batalla que es sobre las fuerzas malignas que quieren destruir nuestra iglesia. Pero vamos a pelear por todos por los que aman la fuerza de la iglesia. Las fuerzas malignas quieren acabar con la iglesia, pero no podrán vencernos porque si Cristo está conmigo (nosotros) quien contra él”, dijo el Sacerdote durante el sermón dominical.

Habló además de la fe y se lamentó que muchos miembros de la iglesia hayan lastimado a los niños y por ende el corazón de Jesús y eso ha producido que muchas personas tengan dudas sobre su fe. “Hay maldad y ésta duele, pero nosotros tenemos que entender que nuestra vida está rodeada del amor de Dios y estamos aquí para reparar el Corazón de Cristo”, dijo.

En plena celebración de la fiesta en honor al Señor de los Milagros, el sacerdote pidió a sus feligreses que se queden y caminen en la procesión como una muestra de valentía de que la iglesia católica está viva a pesar de los reportes que salen en las noticias y en los periódicos



LA HERMANDAD DEL SEÑOR de los Milagros de Stamford, New Haven y Hartford cargaron el anda del Señor por más de cuatro horas alrededor de la iglesia Saint Mary. Las hermandades de New Haven y Stamford pasaron ya la década de fundación, en cambio, Hartford cumple 50 años de vida y es la primera instituida fuera del Perú en el mundo.

en donde dicen que la iglesia se está hundiendo. “Digámosle al mundo entero que Cristo sigue con su iglesia y que estamos más fuerte que nunca. Amén”.

Para luego afirmar que no va a faltar el amor de Cristo y que la fe debe estar afianzada en el amor de Dios. “Tenemos que ser valientes, tenemos que pedir perdón y misericordia”, dijo.

Luego agradeció al grupo parroquial de la iglesia de Saint Mary que se hizo cargo de la preparación de la fiesta y procesión del Señor de los Milagros

en Bridgeport y particularmente agradeció a la Hermandad del Señor de los Milagros de Stamford que vino varios días para ayudar en la colocación de las andas para que el Cristo Crucificado, en la advocación del Señor de los Milagros, salga por las calles de la ciudad en muestra de fe, unidad y sobretodo como parte de la reparación del corazón dolido de Jesús.

“Agradezco a las hermanas sahumadoras, a los hermanos de la Hermandad del Señor de los Milagros de Stamford”, señaló y

luego reconoció a la Hermandad de Hartford que este año cumplen 50 años y que vino a cargar las andas del Patrono del Perú.

Sofía Meléndez, residente de Stamford fue una de las sahumadoras, junto a sus compañeras de la cuadrilla ataviada con su hábito morado y el pocillo del sahumero, a veces cantaba, otras veces rezaba y otras veces lloraba, mientras sahumereaba la imagen del Señor de los Milagros.

Alberto Rochabrún, fundador de la Hermandad de Stamford, paseaba de un lado a otro vestido de morado. Él llegó temprano a la iglesia y saludó a la nueva Junta Directiva.

Es a él a quien el Padre Rolando Torres le llamó el año pasado para trabajar en el inicio del proyecto religioso en honor al Señor de los Milagros. Alberto, recuerda que el padre Torres le dijo: “Queremos hacer la procesión del Señor para el próximo año”. A esto él le respondió: “Presénteme a dos personas de la iglesia y en tres meses le montamos la primera procesión”. El padre incrédulo accedió y este es el segundo año que la parroquia Saint Mary tiene al Señor de los Milagros en las calles de Bridgeport. ■

HORA SANTA POR LAS VOCACIONES SACERDOTALES

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Column: Thomas Hicks



The voice of God

POTPOURRI

By THOMAS H. HICKS

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

“The poetry of earth is never dead” (John Keats, “On the Grasshopper & Cricket”)

As one grows older, one comes again to love the elemental world: a gray squirrel making his wary stop-and-go way across a tumbled stone wall, the late afternoon slant of the sun, birds singing their good-bye to the day. For me, the mixed world of the four seasons is the best world. I would not forfeit the beauty of a New England May and the glory

of our October just to be warm the year round.

Poets, mystics, and the Scriptures tell how there are some immortal elemental sounds in nature where God’s voice can be heard.

The first is the sound of rain. Hosea 6:3: “Let us strive to know the Lord... He will come to us like the rain, like the rain that waters the earth.” Thomas Merton wrote that there is the talk that the rain makes, and he calls rain “the most comforting speech in the world, and as long

as it talks, I am going to listen” (Raids on the Unspeakable).

I think there is no sound sweeter than the sudden beat of rain at midnight. We sleep content with the drone of rain on the roof. It seems to me you never feel alone when it rains. Job 37:13: “He always brings the rain to water His earth and show His love.”

In his famous Rabbit novels, author John Updike describes a scene where his protagonist, Rabbit, now living in Florida, is back in New England visiting his son. He is given the same room he had when he grew up in the house. He sees that his son had cut down the tree that was outside the window. Rabbit is saddened by that and reflects, “The sound of the rain in that beech tree had been the most religious experience of his life.” We should pay attention, listen to the sound of rain.

If God has any voice in the world it is the wind. Job refers to the wind as “the breath of God” (37:10), and Psalm 104:3 says God “walks on the wings of the wind.” Psalm 135:7 says that “from His treasures He sends forth the wind.” And the wind speaks. The wind is many-voiced. There is the ancient music and

voice of the wind among the trees. It is a variable voice. There is a difference in the music of the woods as the seasons change. And the voice is quite different among the different trees. Listen to the sounds of the wind hissing through the pines and booming through the maples. There is the soft whisper of the wind in the high tops of the elms, and the crisp rustle of the wind in the oak tree. Listen to the sounds of the wind in the trees; hear the sound of the voice of God.

One of the greatest elemental sounds in nature is the sound of the sea. The voice of the sea is awesome, beautiful and varied. The sea has many voices. It is constantly changing its tempo, its accent, its rhythm. Waves, in ever-changing folds and sounds, swell and break upon the beach.

The waves keep coming like they’ve been doing for billions of years—the endless waves, an image of eternity. There’s the slap and hiss of the waves, followed by the seething sound as the water recedes. There’s the endless incoming and gathering. The sea is never quiet, it talks all day and all night. And there’s the squabble and cry of the gulls, and the

moon glaze across the water is a loveliness hard to surpass.

In one of the Psalms there is a line that says of God: “He has cupped in His hands the waters of the sea.”

Listening to the sea one can hear God’s power and grandeur, and voice. Walk winter beaches. The voice of the sea is seductive, inviting the spirit to wander in solitude.

Thunderstorms are the eminent manifestation of the voice of God. Job 37:2 “Listen! Listen to the roar of His voice, to the mumbling that comes from His mouth. He thunders with His majestic voice.” Psalm 18:13 “The Lord thunders in the heavens; the Most High lets His voice be heard.” Thunder and lightning are the voice of presence and judgment, an expression of irresistible power and the voice of God.

The lightning passes, usually to the west, and the thunder still growling and rumbling slowly moves on. The arrival of a storm, full of intimations, is an experience in itself.

God’s voice speaks and thunders in the world in marvelous ways. There is the language of nature, which is a manifestation of the voice of God. Listen. ■



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Bits and Pieces

ARISE PROGRAM is taking place at St. Joseph Church in Danbury beginning on the week of **Sun., Sept. 30** through the following six weeks. Participants will meet in small groups, for 90 minutes once a week for six weeks. Small group sessions are held at various times throughout the week for your convenience. Registration is open to all who are 18 years or older. For more info, or to register, email: stjosephdanburyarise@gmail.com or call: Sherry Morris at 203.770.5356.

DIACONATE DISCOVERY EVENINGS will be held on the second Thurs. of each month beginning in Oct. of 2018 and are scheduled through Sept. 2019. Diaconate Discovery Evenings will be the space to wonder, explore, share and come to an understanding about these and any other questions that you may have regarding serving the Church as a Permanent Deacon. Dates are as follows: St. Stephen Parish (7-8:30pm): **Oct. 11, Dec. 13, Feb. 14, April 11, June 13, Aug. 8.** St. Phillip Parish (7-8:30 pm): **Nov. 8, Jan. 10, March 14, May 9, July 11, Sept. 12.**

FIRST FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES is being held at St. Luke Church in Westport. on **Fri., Oct. 19.** The former Government leader, Joseph A. Califano, Jr. will discuss his recently published book: Our Damaged Democracy.

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., Oct. 20, at 9:30 am** to celebrate Mass in the Church with a reception to follow. Celebrant is Fr. Norm Guilbert, Jr. All are welcome! For further info.

call Pat Heile, OFS at: 203.255.8801 or pheile5713@aol.com.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION RETREAT is being held at St. Margaret Shrine in Bridgeport on **Sun., Oct. 21** from **9:30-11:30 am.** The topic is: Renewing Our Appreciation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Dr. Joan Kelly will be presenting. Contact Antoinette Piantedosi at: 203.374.2038 or Marie Tedesco at: 203.334.2751.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CELEBRITY BREAKFAST is being held on **Thurs., Oct. 25** at **7:30 am** featuring two-time Emmy award winner Kevin Brody. Price is \$65 for individual tickets, \$600 for a table of ten. Checks can be mailed to: Catholic Charities, 24 Grassy Plain Street, Bethel, CT 06801. Visit www.2018ccfcbreakfast.eventbrite.com for tickets.

CATHOLIC PARENTS CONNECT present Bill Donaghy from the Theology of the Body Institute at St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan on **Thurs., Oct. 25.** He will be covering the topic of "Faith Matters: Sexuality." This two part presentation takes place from **7-8 pm** for high school teens, parents and adults of all ages and from **8:10-9 pm** for parents and adults to learn how to continue the conversation at home. For questions, contact: STG. SMS@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY sponsored by the St. Theresa Guild is being held at St. Margaret Shrine in Bridgeport on **Sun., Oct. 28** from **12 noon-2 pm.** Join us for Mass at 11 am. Costumes welcome, but not required. Take pictures with surprise characters! Free admission, crafts and games! Concessions available.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT



REVEREND ROBERT KINNALLY
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THE 25TH NORWALK CELEBRITY BREAKFAST
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018 • 7:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
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ART WORKSHOPS are being held at St. Margaret Shrine in Bridgeport on **Sat., Oct. 27** and **Sat., Nov. 17** from **9 am-12 noon** at the community hall. Annette Bonomo MD, ATR-BC will be presenting on "Master of the Harvest" and "The Touch of the Master." Price is \$35 per person. Contact Annette Bonomo at: abonomo200@earthlink.net or the Shrine Office at: 203.333.9627.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RECEPTION is being held on **Sun., Oct. 28**, at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Riverside starting with a Mass at **10:30 am**, followed by a presentation at **11:45 am.** Kevin Hartigan, CRS Regional Director for Europe and the Middle East, will be discussing "What is the Catholic Church's role in aiding and healing war victims in the Middle East?" Refreshments

will be served. Free will offering. RSVP by **Wed., Oct. 17**, to Betsy Parker at: parkerelizabeth@sbc-global.net.

FIRST FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES on **Fri., Nov. 2** Jennifer Miller, PhD will address the timely topic of ethical issues currently facing the pharmaceutical industry.

ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT will be held from **Fri., Nov. 2-Sun., Nov. 4**, at
➤ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 30*

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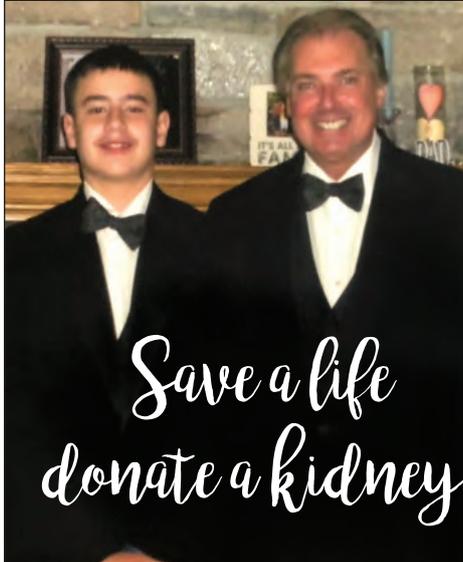
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St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. This annual retreat is a great opportunity to get away, be involved in meaningful discussions, listen to encouraging talks, and have time to reflect.

FALL FESTIVAL is being held at St. Marguerite Borgeouys Parish in Brookfield on **Sat., Nov. 3**, from **9 am-4 pm**.

AN EVENING WITH SISTER HELEN PREJEAN is being held at the Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius of Loyola located at Fairfield University on **Wed., Nov. 7**, at **7 pm**. Sister Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, will speak about "Abolishing the Death Penalty in the United States." For more info. contact Dan Cosacchi, PhD at: dcosacchi@fairfield.edu.

VENDORS WANTED for Christmas Fair at Our Lady of Good Council Chapel in Bridgeport on **Sat., Nov. 10**, from **9 am-4 pm**. To reserve a table for \$25 call Johanna Cinotti at: 203.372.3740.

A CHRISTMAS FAIR is being held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel in Bridgeport on **Sat., Nov. 10**, from **9 am-4 pm**. The fair will feature food, raffles, a bake sale, jewelry, toys, hand-crafted items, tag sale items and much more!

THE MAGNIFICAT FALL BREAKFAST is being held on **Sat., Nov. 10**, from **9:30 am-12 noon**, at the Ethan Allen Inn in Danbury. Tickets are \$25. Please register by **Nov. 1**. Contact Fran Hood at: 203.744.1856.

NEW PROGRAM SERIES "Reflections on Religious Identity within the Contemporary World" by Deacon Robert Henrey at St. Catherine of Siena in Riverside. One-hour presentations will begin after Mass by **11:45 am** in

the parish hall. Deacon Robert Henrey will share his interest in different religious traditions by presenting a series of his photographs taken while visiting countries where those traditions took root. Presentations will take place on the following Sundays: **Sept. 23**: Egypt; **Nov. 11**: Anatolian Turkey; **Jan. 20**: India; **Feb. 17**: Pre-Columbian Peru.

OBERAMMERGAU PILGRIMAGE 2020—St. Mary Parish in Bethel is hosting a pilgrimage to the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany from **July 13-23, 2020**. We will be visiting various sites in Germany,



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HOLY HOUR AT 6:30PM
CONCERT AT 8PM

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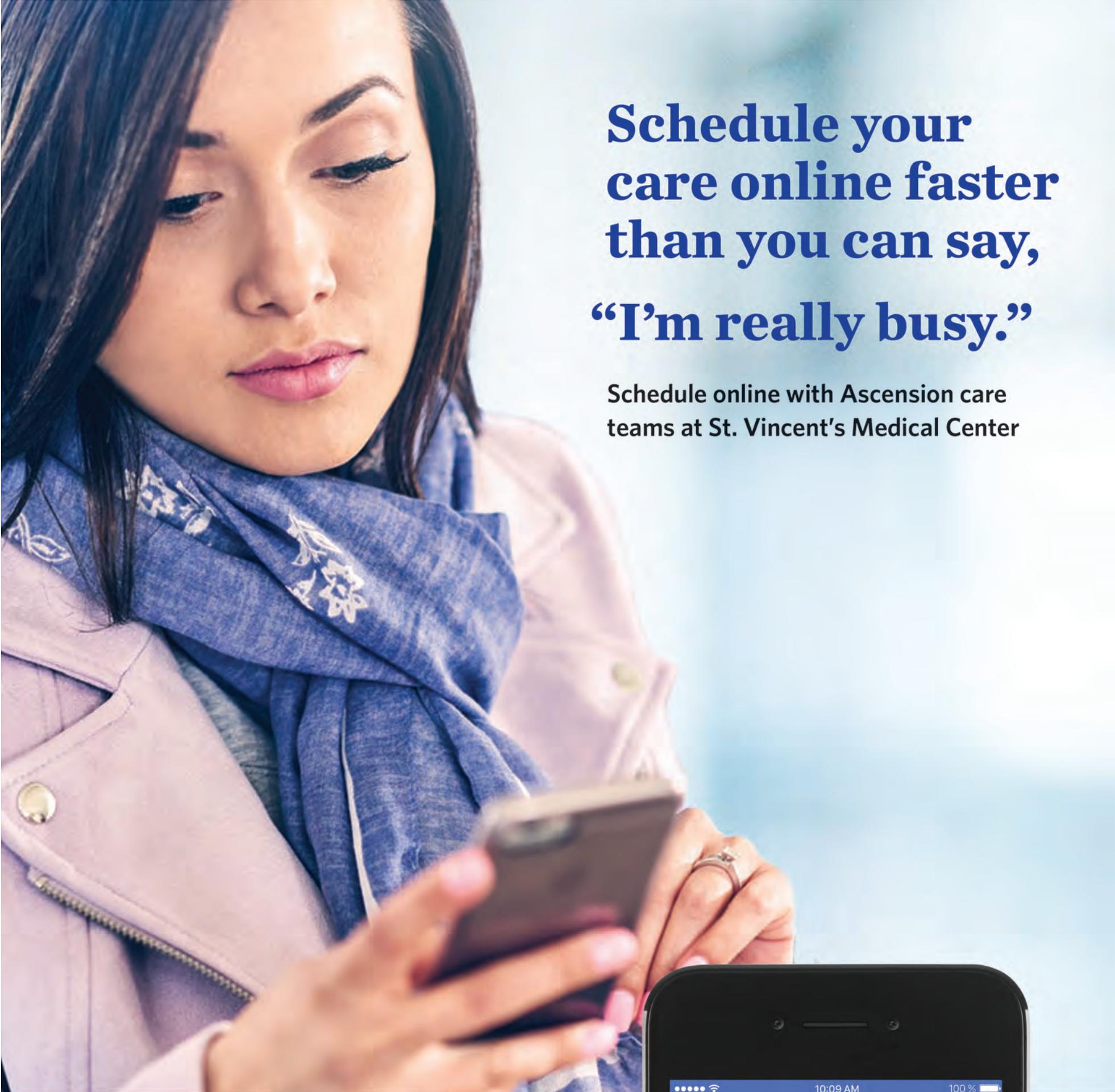


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