



# FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 2013 | VOLUME 30, NUMBER 7 | BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE

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# WELCOME BISHOP FRANK CAGGIANO

(PHOTO BY PETER TEPPER)

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# Bishop Caggiano

## Bishop-elect prepares to lead the diocese

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Since being named Bishop of Bridgeport on July 31, Bishop Frank Caggiano has joined the ranks of commuters, driving the hour and a half from his home in Brooklyn to the Catholic Center in Bridgeport.

In between finishing up projects in Brooklyn and making a quick stop in Ireland as a leader of the recent youth conference, the bishop has shuttled from Brooklyn to Bridgeport two or three days a week to get acquainted with his new diocese.

In a recent interview with *Fairfield County Catholic*, Bishop Caggiano talked about preparing for his Installation Mass, settling into his new diocese and planning for the future. The bishop said he is thrilled by the opportunity to lead the diocese and also anxious to live up to the responsibilities placed on him.

"The period of transition is a time of grace for me to learn about the diocese, meet its people and become comfortable with my new home. It's a process of leaving one family to be adopted into a new one. It's an awesome and exciting ministry."

Among his quick first impressions, he says that he's pleased by the friendliness and warm welcome he has received and by the diversity of the diocese. "Coming from New York, I was surprised by the diversity here, and I think that bodes well for the Church," he says. "I've also been moved by the openness and graciousness of the people, and their expression of wanting to do something good for the Church.

"My hope in the coming months is to engage in a living dialogue with the People of

God in Fairfield County, most especially my brother priests, so that we can embrace a vision and adopt a methodology that will bring us forward."

Before being elevated to auxiliary bishop in 2006, Bishop Caggiano served as a parish priest and pastor, and that has given him great respect and understanding of the challenges that priests face in their ministry.

"One of the most beautiful titles that people have used to address me is not 'Bishop' or 'Your Excellency,' but 'Father,'" he says. "Every priest has that privilege. The father is he who gives life, and the ministry of the priest is to love people entrusted to his care."

One big change for Bishop Caggiano will be his new residence on Daniels Farm Road in Trumbull. On the few nights that he has managed to stay over in his new home, he has quickly found that it's a different world from the hustle and bustle of Brooklyn streets.

"I can't believe how quiet it is. I have always been an early riser, so I'm up before 5 am each day. I'm not used to the experience of the sun coming up without being blocked by buildings and lights. Just to see the sun rise above the trees in back of the house is extremely prayerful and sets the tone for the whole day. It's a real gift."

Though it's too early to discuss plans for the future, the bishop has put his full energy into getting to know the diocese. He has already begun meeting with priests, staff and lay leaders, and has made a pretty ambitious promise. "I intend to visit every parish and every school in the diocese in the first year, and I hope to visit it a meaningful way,

not just to float in and out," says the bishop, who admits that he likes to remain busy.

He hopes to visit area hospitals and convalescent facilities, and also do as many Confirmations as possible, so that he can also meet

respect for the contributions they have made to the diocese.

Bishop Caggiano says that he looks forward to many more opportunities to get to know his priests. "As pastor and shepherd of the people of the diocese, I am

schools open and evangelizing the younger generation as well as those who have left the Church.

"I don't think anyone knows what the Church will look like in 30 or 40 years with the consolidation of parishes and other Catholic institutions, but this much I am sure of: when I was a young boy, the pastor unlocked the door and they came to you. Now you open the door and go out to them. We are asked by the Lord to become a missionary church, and that's something as a diocese and a community of faith that we have to reflect on.

"We must learn from past missionaries how to be effective. First, we know that missionaries always went with companions. They did not do it alone."

The bishop says that leadership development and spiritual support will be necessary moving forward, but the future will also call for a certain amount of risk-taking, consistent with Catholic teaching and values. While the American Church may go through a period of consolidation, Bishop Caggiano believes that the future is bright and that the Church will once again build new parishes.

"We have been going through a challenging phase of exploring the methodology of evangelization. Once we find our way, our numbers will start rising again," he says, and he believes that vital parishes are at the core of the vision for the future.

"If a parish community is marked by love, then it will become welcoming, hospitable, generous, visionary and creative. It will be selfless and it will be contagious. The question then becomes, how authentic are we as a loving community?" ■



"mothers, and fathers, aunts, uncles and grandparents" along the way.

A strong advocate for the role of the social media in promoting the Gospel, Bishop Caggiano readily admits that there is no substitute for meeting people personally, getting to know them, and building relationships.

The new bishop is also eager to meet his priests. One of his very first visits after being named bishop was to stop in at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Residence for retired priests. He wanted to thank them for their lifetime of service and show

also particularly called to be pastor of my priests. God has called them to care for others but they also need to be cared for. So in that sense, I must be the pastor of pastors to help them grow spiritually and to love effectively just as they do the same for me. Those who have been entrusted to care for God's people need to be cared for themselves."

Bishop Caggiano brings tremendous energy and joy to his new assignment, but he's also aware of the many formidable challenges facing the Church, from dwindling parish enrollment to the challenge of keeping

### ON THE COVER

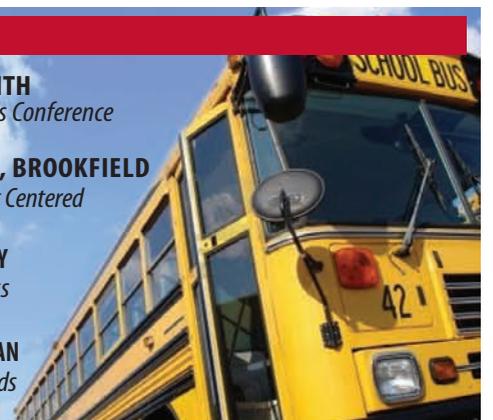
#### WELCOME BISHOP FRANK!

On the morning of July 31, people across the diocese awoke to hear the news of their new bishop, Brooklyn Auxiliary Frank J. Caggiano. The bishop-elect started to get to know his new diocese quickly with a morning press conference, followed by a tour of the Catholic Center where he graciously introduced himself to staff. He will be formally installed as Fifth Bishop of Bridgeport on September 19 at 2 pm at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull.

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## Local News

## Installation set September 19

BRIDGEPORT—The Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, 54, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, NY, will be formally installed as the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport on Thursday, September 19, at 1:30 pm at St. Theresa in Trumbull.

The liturgical procession into the church will begin at 1:30 pm, with the Installation Mass set to begin at 2 pm.

Invitations have been mailed to people throughout the diocese, and those who RSVP an acceptance will receive tickets to the installation. **Seating will be limited to ticket holders.**

St. Theresa Church was selected as the site of the Installation Mass because it accommodates over 1,200 people, making it one of the largest churches in the diocese.

Cardinals, archbishops and bishops across the country are expected to attend the installation service, along with local priests and religious, laity, and Bishop Caggiano's family and friends from Brooklyn.

Bishop Caggiano will be formally installed by His Excellency, The Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell,

D.D., Archbishop of Hartford, in the presence of His Excellency The Most Reverend Carlo Maria Vigano, J.U.D., the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

A reception and greeting line will be held immediately following the installation Mass at the Family Center of St. Catherine of Sienna Parish in Trumbull.



(For more information on the installation, contact Patricia Hansen: 203.416.1629 or [installation@diobpt.org](mailto:installation@diobpt.org).)

**Vespers Ceremony**

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be welcomed into the Diocese of Bridgeport at a Vespers Prayer Service set for Wednesday, September 18, at 7 pm at St. Augustine Cathedral in downtown Bridgeport.

The prayer service will be the first opportunity for diocesan priests and laity to pray with their new bishop.

The Vespers service will begin with a dramatic moment when Bishop Caggiano knocks on the large wooden doors of the Cathedral. The term "cathedral" comes from the Latin word *cathedra* (meaning "chair").

The bishop's chair in every cathedral is one of the symbols of the diocesan bishop's responsibility to govern, teach and sanctify the People of God.

Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church fulfills Jesus' command to "pray always" (Luke 18:1; see also 1



THE VESPERS CEREMONY will be held in St. Augustine's Cathedral (left, below) in Bridgeport. It will be the first opportunity for diocesan priests and laity to welcome their new bishop. Bishop Caggiano's installation ceremony will be held in St. Theresa Church in Trumbull (above).

Thessalonians 5:17). Through this prayer, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and prayers of intercession for the needs of the world.

Traditionally, the Vespers Prayer Service welcoming the bishop includes clergy, religious and laity joining in prayer and song and reciting the psalms that are at the heart of the Liturgy of the Hours. The service will also include Gospel readings and a homily.

A reception will follow the Vespers Prayer Service at Kolbe Cathedral High School on the St. Augustine Cathedral Campus.

(For more information, contact Patricia Hansen: 203.416.1629 or [installation@diobpt.org](mailto:installation@diobpt.org).)

**Watch the Installation Live**

Plans are underway for the live broadcast of Bishop Caggiano's Installation Mass. EWTN, NETny, and CatholicTV are among the TV cable networks expected to broadcast the Installation Mass live on Thursday, September 19, at 2 pm. The broadcast is made possible through the generous support of the Fairfield University Media Center and DeSales Media of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

**Live Streaming**

Both the Installation Mass and the Vespers Prayer Service (beginning at 7 pm on the eve of the Installation) will be streamed live on the Diocese of Bridgeport website: [www.bridgeportdiocese.com](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com). ■

## Blue Mass honors Sandy Hook First Responders

BRIDGEPORT—The Annual Diocesan Blue Mass honoring fire, police and rescue workers will be held on Sunday, September 15, at 12 noon at St. Philip Church in Norwalk. A reception immediately following Mass will be held in the "Mansion" on St. Philip Parish grounds.

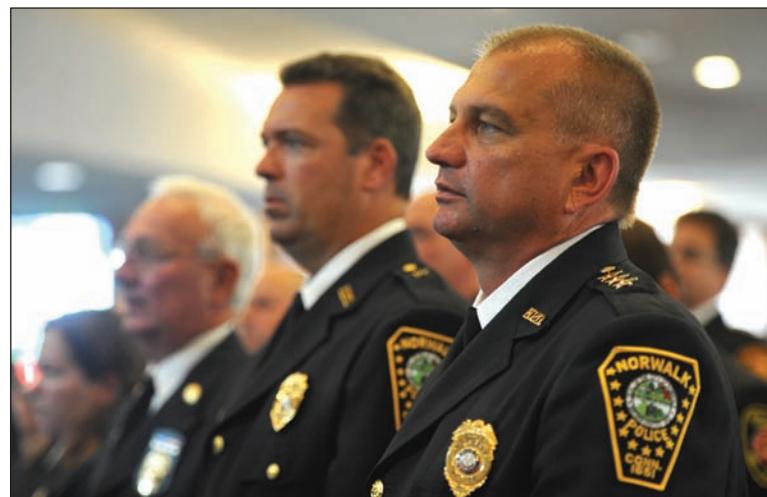
Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Service personnel of all faiths in Fairfield County, along with members of the general public, are invited to attend the Mass and reception.

Now in its 12th year, the Blue Mass has grown into a moving and memorable commemoration of the courage and commitment of the uniformed personnel who protect our health and safety every day of the year in Fairfield County.

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

and Washington DC. Each year it also recognizes local First Responders.



Mass was initiated to celebrate the life and heroism of those who died during the 9-11 tragedy in New York, Pennsylvania

"We shall remember those who died in the tragedy of September 11, 2001, and also honor in a special way all first

responders and departments that assisted in the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown," said Msgr. Jerald Doyle, diocesan administrator, who will concelebrate the Mass with area priests who serve as chaplains for local fire, police and rescue companies.

Catholic chaplains of the Fairfield County Fire, Police and Emergency Medical Service Departments include, among others: Fr. Michael Boccaccio, Norwalk Police; Fr. Charles Allen, S.J. Fairfield Police; Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz Ridgefield Police; Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, Stamford Police; Fr. Frank Gomez, Noroton Heights Fire; Fr. Tom Lynch, Stratford Fire; Fr. Joseph Malloy, Bridgeport Fire; Msgr. Frank McGrath, Westport Fire and Police and Noroton Fire; Deacon

John Moranski, Bridgeport Police; Deacon William Murphy, Germantown (Danbury) Fire; Fr. Raymond Petrucci, Danbury Police; Fr. Robert Post, Stamford Fire Rescue; Msgr. William Scheyd, New Canaan Emergency Services and Norwalk Fire; Msgr. Richard Shea, Trumbull Police; Fr. Thomas Thorne, FBI; Fr. William Verilli, Connecticut State Police; Fr. Terrance Walsh, Stamford Police; Fr. Frank Winn, Glenville Fire; and Msgr. Frank Wissel, Greenwich Police Department.

The Fairfield County Councils and Assemblies of the Knights of Columbus sponsor the event.

(If you would like to learn more about this event, contact Fr. Charles Allen S.J., Blue Mass chairman: 203.254.4000, ext. 2316, or Jean Talamelli, director of events for the Diocese of Bridgeport: 203.416.1358.) ■

# Parish Anniversaries

## Parishes celebrate history of faith

By PAT HENNESSY

Although the Diocese of Bridgeport celebrated its 60th anniversary this year, the roots of the Catholic faith stretch further back in the history of Fairfield County. Two parishes celebrated centennials this year. St. Catherine of Siena Parish in



AS PART OF THEIR CENTENNIAL celebration, parishioners and clergy from St. Catherine of Siena had a chance to meet with Archbishop Antonio Bouncrestiani in Siena, Italy. (l-r) Deacon Fenato Berzolla, Fr. Frank Hoffmann, Archbishop Bouncrestiani and Msgr. Alan Detscher.



Riverside was established May 8, 1913. Although it was actually founded a few years earlier, St. Joseph Parish in Shelton will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of their church on October 13.

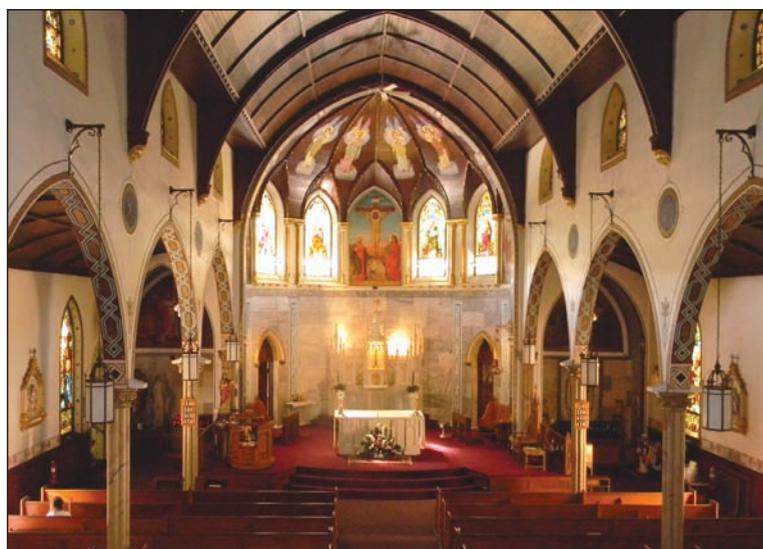
The highlight of the year-long series of events and celebrations at St. Catherine's was a special commemorative Mass on April 28. The Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Alan Detscher, pastor; Msgr. William Genuario, pastor emeritus; and Msgr. Jerald Doyle, administrator of the diocese. Fr. Francis Hoffman, parochial vicar, was among the past and present clergy joining in the celebration. Local dignitaries attending the Mass included Selectman David Theis.

St. Catherine's has long been known for the high quality of its music. The Saint Catherine Festival Choir, conducted by Director of Music Mark Kaczmarczyk, added a moving element to the celebration.

When St. Catherine's was established, its first pastor, Fr. Nicholas Coleman, went door to door to encourage newly-arrived immigrants from Italy to attend the first Mass. That first gathering was a simple affair, with about 50 people celebrating Mass on a portable altar in a public school. The parish grew so quickly that by the

time of its golden anniversary it had outgrown its original church. The current St. Catherine Church was completed in 1957.

Honoring the parish's Italian roots, a trip to Siena and northern Italy was organized by Deacon Renato Berzolla and his wife



HISTORIC ST. JOSEPH CHURCH showcases the glories of its modified Gothic style. In keeping with the entire parish facility, the new elevator addition blends in with the church's distinctive cream-toned brick. Admiring the entrance to the new addition are (l-r) Deacon Brad Smythe, project manager; parishioner Janice Franks; Joe Kudravy, church sacristan; Msgr. Chris Walsh, pastor; and Bob Mingrone, plant manager.

Andrea in May. Msgr. Detscher and Fr. Hoffmann were among those making the journey. A highlight of the tour was a conversation with the Archbishop

of Siena, Archbishop Antonio Bouncrestiani, at the actual historical home of St. Catherine, the parish's patron saint.

Observances will continue throughout the rest of the year. They will include "An Evening in Siena" parish dinner in September featuring regional specialties, music and games celebrating the culture of the Tuscan region of Italy. October will see another festive dinner, followed by a performance by the

vocal ensemble Chanticleer in the church.

An active, vibrant parish, St. Catherine's is proud of its many ministries, from its dynamic

youth ministry to its women's and men's group, outreach to the homebound and an active senior citizen group. Known for its support of the wider community through a social justice minis-



try, St. Catherine's parishioners prepare and serve food at New Covenant House Soup Kitchen every Sunday.

Anticipating the 100th anniversary of their church, Msgr.

Chris Walsh, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelton, broke ground last fall on a \$1.2 million renovation project to bring the historic church up to date. The renovation, under project manager Deacon Brad Smythe, included the installation of an elevator, an updated heating and air conditioning system, handicapped-accessible restrooms, a state-of-the-art kitchen, and complete renovation of the church hall. The general contractor for the project was A. Secondino & Son, Branford; Silver/Petrucelli & Associates of Hamden was the architect.

The completed renovation will be dedicated on October 13, the exact one hundredth anniversary of the church's original dedication. The dedication Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Frank Caggiano. Additionally, it will be concelebrated by Archbishop Peter Gerety of the Diocese of Newark, NJ. Archbishop Gerety, now 101 years-old, grew up just two blocks from St. Joseph Church and was baptized there.

"Very likely his mother brought him as an infant to Mass that October 13, 1913, when the Bishop of Hartford consecrated the new, beautiful church," says Msgr. Chris Walsh, St. Joseph's pastor. "Now he will be present for its centenary! That symbolizes the incredible continuity of families and tradition that makes St. Joseph such a unique parish."

St. Joseph's was founded in 1906 as a mission parish from St. Mary Parish in Derby. Construction on the church, a modified Gothic design, began the following year. What sets St. Joseph's apart are its walls of soft, cream-toned, tap-estry brick. Because the convent and school

were also finished in that distinctive golden brick, all recent additions have been matched to it, giving the parish facility a unified, harmonious quality.

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

# School Days

## Cathedral Academy opens

BRIDGEPORT—With workmen scrambling to put on the finishing touches, students and parents turned out for a recent open house to tour the two campuses of the new Cathedral Academy.

The new Cathedral Academy includes the upper school (Grades 4-8) at the St. Augustine campus, 30 Pequonnock Street, and the lower school (pre-K through grade 3) campus at nearby St. Raphael campus, 324 Frank Street in Bridgeport.

Through the generosity of donors and the Catholic Academies Advisory Board, the diocese has invested over \$1 million on renovations and improvements. Upgrades to the Cathedral Academy St. Augustine building include the installation of 222 custom windows, new heating, ventilation and air conditioning, new electrical wiring, smoke and carbon detectors, upgrades to the lunch room and improved classroom and office space.

Students will benefit from 30 new computers, wireless remote technology, SMART boards in every classroom, and an iPad pilot for science instruction.

Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Superintendent of Schools, said

that she expects building and grounds improvements on both Cathedral Academy campuses to continue on weekends and after school throughout the fall.

"We are starting something new today," she told faculty and staff of the new Cathedral Academy at a recent meeting held at the Catholic



Center. "We are confident that we are going to have a successful first year at Cathedral Academy." She added that more than 600 students are now attending school at the two campuses of Cathedral Academy and that response has been very positive.

Plans to form the Cathedral Academy were announced this past February as part of an overall reorganization of Catholic Schools in Bridgeport, which saw the closing of St. Ambrose School and St. Peter School.

Sr. Mary Grace said that most students from the schools have enrolled in the new Cathedral Academy or have transferred to other Catholic schools in Bridgeport and surrounding towns.

"Our Catholic schools are the best educational investment for children in Fairfield County," said Jo-Anne Jakab, principal of Kolbe-Cathedral High School and president of the Cathedral Academy. "Our parents have to make sacrifices to send their kids to Catholic schools—and we are worth it. They want safe, secure nurturing environments for their children, and we provide that. We have the best of the best serving as staff at the Cathedral Academy."

As principal of Kolbe, Jakab has seen firsthand the quality education provided by Bridgeport's Catholic Schools, formerly known as the Cathedral Cluster. "I know you," she told the assembled educators. "I may



SCHOOL PRIDE—Students model the new Cathedral Academy uniforms while writing the name of their new school on the chalkboard. Students pre-K through grade 3 will learn on the St. Raphael campus, while grades 4-8 will attend school at the newly renovated St. Augustine campus.

not know you personally, but I know the excellent preparation you've done for the students who arrive at Kolbe each year."

"The most important thing about education is the children—providing the moral, spiritual and academic education that our children need," Sr. Deborah Lopez, principal of the St. Raphael campus, told her teachers and staff at their breakout meeting. "We are touching the souls, the lives, the minds of the little ones in front of us."

Larry diPalma, principal of the St. Augustine campus, described Cathedral Academy "an oasis of hope and learning in the City of Bridgeport." He said that the mission statement includes "Living Gospel values. achieving aca-

ademic excellence, and nurturing leadership and service."

The growing enrollment of Bridgeport students in Catholic schools has been made possible by outstanding administrators, faculty and staff, leadership of committed board members and donors who have supported the Catholic education by providing tuition assistance for Bridgeport's children.

*(Cathedral Academy is part of Catholic Academies of Bridgeport, which include St. Ann Academy in Black Rock and St. Andrew Academy in the North End of Bridgeport. For more information, call 203.416.1376. Or visit the Cathedral Academy website at [www.cathedral-academybridgeport.org](http://www.cathedral-academybridgeport.org).)*

## Diocese announces two new principals

BRIDGEPORT—"We are happy to welcome two experienced principals to our diocesan schools who are enthusiastically embracing our Catholic mission and strong tradition of academic excellence," says Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport. Scott Bannon is the new principal of St. Joseph School in Brookfield; Dr. Patricia Lawler will head Trinity Catholic Middle School in Stamford.

Scott Bannon is a graduate of St. Ann School in Bridgeport and Notre Dame High School in Fairfield. "I followed a family tradition," he says. "My mom, dad, and older brother all went to Notre Dame."

He holds a B.S. in sociology from Southern Connecticut State University and a master's in education and certificate in the Educational Leadership Program at Sacred Heart University in



SCOTT BANNON

Fairfield. He is a certified administrator (092) in the State of Connecticut. Principal Bannon taught at Our Lady of the Assumption School in

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



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# Morning Glory Moves

## Charities expands outreach to Homeless in Danbury

DANBURY—The Morning Glory Breakfast Program and the Homeless Outreach Team of Catholic Charities have moved to a new location at 15 Spring Street in Danbury. The new location is alongside the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality and within quick walking distance of the two homeless shelters in the city, according to Michele Conderino, director of Homeless Services for Catholic Charities.

It was officially launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception on August 6. Freshly painted and renovated with the help of volunteers from the community, the storefront will provide office and storage space.

"The office allows us easier access to those who are experiencing homelessness in Danbury and we are hoping to make a real impact on the lives in this community," says Conderino. She explains that the offices had previously been located in Bethel, which made it difficult for Homeless Outreach Team counselors to work with the homeless.

"Our people operated out of

their cars or had to work in the back room of the shelter to fill out paperwork and forms for referrals and other help," Conderino says.

With many of Danbury's homeless concentrated in the Spring Street area, workers can now invite them into the office where they have access to computers, faxes, and other records. Because many of the homeless are on the move, they constantly lose their birth certificates or other forms of identification that are necessary to get help. Those records will now be kept on file for them.

Conderino estimates that 180 men women and children are homeless on any given night in the city of Danbury. Some may find a place to sleep in shelters or in temporary housing. Others will have no choice but to sleep on the street.

In addition to providing better outreach to the homeless, the new location will enable Catholic Charities to open a food pantry that may serve up to 1,000 working poor and other individuals who lack the resources to pur-

chase healthy food.

The food pantry, which will be named the "Eat Smart Market," will bring fresh vegetables, meat and dairy to area families. Much of the food will be donated by Whole Foods.

Conderino estimates that up to half of the homeless in Danbury may have one or more jobs or work seasonally when employment is available, but can't make ends meet. "The population at Morning Glory shrinks in summer because many landscape and construction jobs are available," she says, "Many of the men stop in at 6:15 am for cereal and coffee and then run out to work." But at the end of the day, they may have no place to live.

She says that many people often associate homelessness with drug use or addiction, but mental health problems are the leading cause of homelessness, along with the downward spiral that occurs once a person becomes homeless. "Many of those who become homeless were doing well until they lost their jobs, burned through their savings and then burned through family and friends. It becomes hard for them to rebuild their lives at that point."

She says many are ashamed and every interaction reinforces that feeling. They have limited access to showers and bathroom facilities, and they can't give a phone number or address when applying for a job.

While the homeless face con-



NEW HOME—Michelle Conderino, director of Homeless Outreach Services of Catholic Charities, cuts the ribbon at 15 Spring Street, the new home of the Morning Glory Breakfast Program and the Homeless Outreach Team of Catholic Charities. It is located along side of Dorothy Day House of Hospitality.

siderable problems in getting control of their lives, programs like Homeless Outreach can help them find jobs and housing.

Conderino says that the earlier the intervention, the more likely an individual is to get back on their feet quickly. The longer they remain homeless, the more likely they are to lose confidence in themselves and lose the social skills they need to re-integrate into a stable life.

In fact, many of the long-term homeless are as terrified of being housed as most of us would be with losing our home or apartment. "We haven't always figured out the right way to reach out. We have to remember that the homeless have figured out a way to live on the streets but have forgotten how to live in a home. Those are issues we have to work on."

Conderino is excited about the new location and the level of support she receives from the community. She says her goal is to empower people to find housing and jobs.

"We don't want to serve the same people breakfast every morning. If that's what we're

doing, we're not doing a good job. We want them to move on. The best success story is people who leave and we never see them again. They don't need us because they found apartments and jobs.

The Homeless Outreach Team is funded by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, while the morning Glory Breakfast Program and Food Pantry are entirely funded through donations and the generosity of others.

(For more information, call 203.748.0848 or email [mconderino@ccfc-ct.org](mailto:mconderino@ccfc-ct.org).)

### Have we lost compassion for the poor and homeless?

Michelle Conderino: "It seems we've developed a mentality of blaming the poor, and then they blame themselves and they start to feel worthless.

Quite often we end up punishing people for not being as privileged or lucky as we are. We shouldn't blame them, we should ask, 'How do we fix this?'"

### What do we misunderstand about the homeless?

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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## Special Event

## Beatles tribute set for Inner-City benefit dinner

GREENWICH—The Fab Faux will be the featured performers at the Twenty-Second Annual Benefit Dinner for The Inner-City Foundation For Charity & Education on November 16 at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich. David Fricke of *Rolling Stone* magazine described The Fab Faux as “The most accomplished band in the Beatles cover business,” and *The New York Times* reported on The Fab Faux saying, “There are Beatles tribute acts, and there are Beatles tribute acts. This one recreates even the most complex studio work of the later Beatles without breaking a sweat.” *New York Magazine* described The Fab Faux by simply saying, “Brilliant.” The highly-acclaimed Beatles tribute band includes Grammy Award-winner Will Lee, perhaps best known as bassist for over two decades on “The Late Show” with David Letterman. Lee has also lent his considerable talents to well over 1,000 pop, jazz and rock albums by artists including Burt Bacharach, the Bee Gees, George Benson, Ray Charles, Luther Vandross, Mick Jagger, Barry Manilow, Buddy Rich, Bette Midler, Liza Minnelli,



THE FAB FAUX Beatles tribute band: (l-r) Rich Pagano, Frank Agnello, Will Lee, Jimmy Vivino, Jack Petruzzelli

Diana Ross, Billy Joel, Barbara Streisand, Carly Simon, Frank Sinatra, Mariah Carey, and Steely Dan. Lee has sung and played on numerous television and radio commercials, and performed live with countless artists, including three Beatles.

Joining Lee are drummer Rich Pagano, guitarists Jimmy Vivino and Frank Agnello, and Jack Petruzzelli on keyboard and guitar. Rich Pagano is known for his expertise in producing, recording or playing drums on tour with artists including Patti

Smith, Rosanne Cash, Robbie Robertson, Ray Davies, Willie Nile, and Joan Osborne. Guitarist Jimmy Vivino currently leads “Jimmy Vivino and The Basic Cable Band” on “CONAN.” Vivino has been a consistent element in Conan O’Brien’s late night career, starting with the first episode of “Late Night with Conan O’Brien,” followed by working as music director, guitarist, and arranger on “The Tonight Show with Conan O’Brien.” Prior to landing in television, Vivino worked

on Broadway and in film where he arranged and orchestrated the scores for “*Leader of the Pack*” on Broadway, as well as “*Sister Act*” and “*Sister Act 2*” for Disney.

The Inner-City Foundation For Charity & Education has awarded more than \$25 million in grants since 1992. In addition to providing scholarship funds for students in diocesan schools in Bridgeport, other organizations receiving grants include the Cardinal Shehan Center, Caroline House, Center for Women & Families, Child Guidance Center, Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Homes with Hope, Junior Achievement, Kids in Crisis, Mercy Learning Center, Morning Glory Kitchen, New Covenant House of Hospitality, Norma F. Pfriem Brest Cancer Center, Regional YMCA of Western CT and the Thomas Merton House of Hospitality.

(For more information, visit the Foundation’s website at [www.innercityfoundation.org](http://www.innercityfoundation.org) or call 203.416.1496.)

## MORNING GLORY FROM PAGE 6

“People often say, ‘They should just get a job.’ I hear that more times than I can count, but it’s easier said than done. And many already do work multiple jobs, but they just can’t make ends meet in this community.

There’s also an image of the homeless as substance abusers, but it’s often more a case of mental illness that needs treatment.

**Who are the homeless you serve in Danbury?**

“Some of the homeless have bachelors and masters degrees. Many more are high school graduates or day laborers with limited skills. Some had been doing reasonably well until they lost their jobs.”

**Why is it so difficult to get off the streets?**

Homelessness is like a disease that poisons your belief in yourself. You feel like everybody can tell you’re homeless, and the longer you stay homeless, the more devastating it is.

**So, the longer a person is homeless, the more difficult it is for them to return?**

“There’s a big push to get the newly homeless back into an apartment as soon as possible. They say it takes a year to learn how not to be homeless and only a week to learn how to be. The chronic homeless have to work hard to re-acclimate themselves to normal existence.

They’re often terrified and they work hard to hide their secret when they try to get a job or ask for help. Where do they get their mail or a phone call? They have limited access to showers and laundry and cannot present themselves well.

**It must be extremely difficult for homeless women.**

“We recently did a focus group with women experiencing homelessness. It was interesting to hear them talk about not being safe, of how at risk they

are in co-ed shelters. They never feel safe. Who wants to live like that, and not to be able to close their eyes at night without fear of being attacked?

**You must be encouraged by the renewed emphasis Pope Francis has put on serving the poor.**

Yes, it’s so refreshing to go back to basics and talk about what we’re meant to do for people. A Friar who sat on our board always used to say, ‘There’s nothing more Catholic than a soup kitchen.’ Everyone is entitled to food, shelter, clothing and basic needs. That’s a really strong core mission for Catholic Charities.

(Morning Glory Walkathon will be held Sat., Oct. 5 (rain or shine), from 11 am-3 pm at Mackauer Park, Bethel. Raise a minimum of \$25 to be eligible to win raffle prizes. For more information or for tickets, go to [www.ccfairfield.org](http://www.ccfairfield.org).)

# World News

## World Youth Day statistics released from Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—3.7 million people attended events on July 28, the final day of World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, which culminated in Pope Francis's Sunday Mass at the waterfront of Copacabana, according to statistics released by World Youth Day's local organizing committee.

"Copacabana never saw so many people at peace, happy and committed to building a better world," said Archbishop Orani João Tempesta of Rio de Janeiro. "It was an event without violence, depredations. And these positive signs we saw in the youth must endure. We want these young people, driven by the World Youth Day, to remain players in a new world."

1.2 million pilgrims attended events on July 25, 2 million on July 26, and 3.5 million on July 27.

427,000 pilgrims from 175 nations officially registered, with the largest contingents coming from Brazil, Argentina, the United States, Chile, Italy,

Venezuela, France, Paraguay, Peru, and Mexico.

644 bishops, including 28 cardinals, took part in World Youth Day, as did 7,814 priests.

## Immigration reform a 'preeminent moral issue'

WASHINGTON, DC—The director of media relations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops described comprehensive immigration reform as a major moral issue for the nation. "The Congressional recess offers a time for heads to clear and to see this issue as a preeminent moral issue for the nation," said Sr. Mary Ann Walsh, writing for *The Washington Post* website in August.

"Each day we see the human consequences of an immigration system. Families are separated; migrants exploited by unscrupulous employers and smugglers; and human beings, desperate to survive, perish in the American desert.

"Moreover, as our nation benefits from the work of undocumented workers, we do

not extend them basic workplace or legal protections, and at the same time we scapegoat them for our social ills," she continued. "The U.S. bishops hold that the prescription for mending the system is to emphasize legality over illegality through the creation of legal avenues for migration and the extension of legal status and a path to citizenship to undocumented immigrants. This suggests a more comprehensive approach, which reforms all aspects of the system."

## Senate confirms Hackett as ambassador to the Holy See

The United States Senate has unanimously confirmed Ken Hackett, who served as president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services for nearly two decades, as the new U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

"He'll represent our government well, and in a way that will do honor to the Church," said Auxiliary Bishop Denis Madden of Baltimore.

Hackett is the tenth U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, suc-

ceeding William Wilson (1984-86), Frank Shakespeare (1986-89), Thomas Patrick Melady (1989-93), Raymond Flynn (1993-97), Lindy Boggs (1997-2001), James Nicholson (2001-05), Francis Rooney (2005-08), Mary Ann Glendon (2008-09), and Miguel H. Díaz (2009-12).



## 400th anniversary of icon of Mother of God

BUDSLAU, Belarus—Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, as his legate to the National Shrine of the Mother of God in Budslau, Belarus, to commemorate the fourth centenary of the arrival of the Marian icon there.

"Having been placed in the wooden church, the icon from the very beginning was honored by common faithful people; it became famous for its miracles and mercies, and in 1635 was transferred into the main altar," the Church in Belarus notes on its website. "The first miracle was recorded in 1617 when a five-year-old boy, Yazafat Tyshkevich, who later became a famous Carmelite father, regained the ability to see."

Cardinal Tauran met with President Alexander Lukashenko

in July before celebrating Mass at the shrine and at the cathedral in Minsk.

Located in Eastern Europe, the nation of 10 million gained its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991. The Catholic Church in Belarus now has four dioceses, 628 parishes, 480 priests, 314 sisters, and 129 seminarians.

Belarus is 80% Orthodox and 14% Catholic.

## Canonization approved for John Paul II, John XXIII

VATICAN CITY—Pope Francis has approved a decree from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, testifying to the authenticity of a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed John Paul II, fulfilling the requirements for his canonization. In an unusual move, Pope Francis waived the requirement for a second miracle in the case of Blessed John XXIII, clearing the way for the canonization of the "Good Pope John" who convened the Second Vatican Council.

Pope Francis signed decrees calling for the canonization of both John Paul II and John XXIII at a meeting on July 5 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, the prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The Pope has called for a consistory of cardinals to make plans for the canonization ceremonies. He will announce the date of the ceremonies at the consistory, which will take place September 30. Vatican journalists speculate that the two Pontiffs could be canonized at the same ceremony, which would undoubtedly bring enormous crowds to the Vatican.



## FALL COURSES OFFERED

### SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

**Location:** Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield  
**Dates:** Saturdays, September 14 to October 19  
**Time:** 10am to 12noon  
**Instructor:** Dr. Thomas Hicks  
**Cost:** \$210

*An introduction to the mission of Jesus as found in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke).*

### WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

**Location:** Sacred Heart University, 12 Omega Drive, Stamford, Room 214  
**Dates:** Tuesdays, October 1 to November 5  
**Time:** 7pm to 9pm  
**Instructor:** Dr. June-Ann Greeley  
**Cost:** \$210

*Special attention will be given in this course to the lives of six holy women who contributed much to the life of the Catholic Church's 2,000 year history. They are: Desert 'Mothers' and early Christian women; St. Hildegard of Bingen; St. Catherine of Siena; St. Teresa of Avila; Dorothy Day; and Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross)*

### CHURCH AS A SACRAMENT, THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: RENEWING OUR APPRECIATION!

**Location:** Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield  
**Dates:** Tuesdays, October 1 to November 5  
**Time:** 7:35pm to 9:35pm  
**Instructor:** Dr. Joan Kelly  
**Cost:** \$210

*The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) was a watershed event in the history of the Church. The Council shook Catholic Identity in a profound way and was a significant transformation in the Church's sense of itself and its mission in the world. This course is an introduction to a more comprehensive understanding of Church as articulated in the Vatican II document, The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) by unpacking some of the themes, concerns, beauty, and challenges, the Fathers of Vatican II saw for the life and mission of the Church of the twentieth century and beyond.*



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# World News



## Pope Francis' first encyclical has been released

VATICAN CITY—The Holy See has released *Lumen Fidei* (The Light of Faith), the first encyclical letter of Pope Francis. The document was introduced to the media at a press conference in Rome on July 5. The encyclical on faith was begun by Pope Benedict XVI before his resignation and completed by Pope Francis, who referred to the document as the work of “four hands,” suggesting that the encyclical represented the work of both himself and his predecessor.

The encyclical covers themes that Pope Francis has emphasized, including the impossibility of achieving justification through one’s own merits and the need to put faith into action through help for the poor. Following the usual Vatican practice, the encyclical takes its title from the opening words: *Lumen Fidei*, the light of faith. In its opening section the Pope remarks on how the gift of faith has always been associated with light, which enables believers to see things clearly.

Pope Francis writes that anyone who shows love for others is taking the first steps toward faith: “Anyone who sets off on the path of doing good to others is already drawing near to God, is already

sustained by his help, for it is characteristic of the divine light to brighten our eyes whenever we walk towards the fullness of love.”

## Pope calls for action against human trafficking

VATICAN—Pope Francis has called for action to combat the growing problem of human trafficking and slavery. He announced plans for a meeting to be held November 2 and 3, at which he will ask the Catholic medical association and pontifical political-science departments to formulate a plan for ending human trafficking, which he has called “a disgrace to our societies that claim to be civilized.”

The Pope’s challenge came as a report released by Save the Children named Italy as the country with the greatest incidence of human trafficking and exploitation in all of Europe. Of a total 9,500 cases reported in Europe, some 2,400 were in Italy, the organization said in its August 22 report “The Small Invisible Slaves,” issued on the eve of the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. “It involves adults but also a large number of adolescents and children,” said Raffaella Milano, Italy-Europe program director

for Save the Children. Children from Eastern Europe, Nigeria and Egypt ranked highest among groups most exploited as sex workers, beggars, or other types of illegal workers. By Save the Children’s estimate, there are 20.9 million victims of forced labor in the world. The trade appears to be growing in Italy and the rest of Europe, with criminal and mafia organizations reaping billions of dollars often reinvested in weapons and drugs.

## Over 100,000 Christians killed each year

GENEVA, Switzerland—The Holy See’s chief diplomat at UN offices in Geneva has told the

UN Human Rights Council that over 100,000 Christians are killed each year because of their faith.

“The serious violations of the right to freedom of religion in general, and the recent continuing discrimination and systematic attacks inflicted on some Christian communities in particular, deeply concern the Holy See and many democratic governments whose population embrace various religious and cultural traditions,” said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi.

“Credible research has reached the shocking conclusion that more than 100,000 Christians are violently killed because of some relation to their faith every year,” he continued. “Other Christians

and other believers are subjected to forced displacement, to the destruction of their places of worship, to rape and to the abduction of their leaders.

“Several of these acts have been perpetrated in parts of the Middle East, Africa and Asia, the fruit of bigotry, intolerance, terrorism and some exclusionary laws,” Archbishop Tomasi added. “In addition, in some Western countries where historically the Christian presence has been an integral part of society, a trend emerges that tends to marginalize Christianity in public life, ignore historic and social contributions and even restrict the ability of faith communities to carry out social charitable services.” ■

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# New Miss Connecticut

## Faith and family foster beauty

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

When Kaitlyn Tarpey was crowned Miss Connecticut on June 22, it was a moment of personal triumph that marked a return from serious illness and a new confidence in herself.

But she says winning the pageant is not about celebrating her own beauty, but using her talents to help others discover their and to empower other women. That's her message to the world as she makes rounds as Miss Connecticut. She believes that with hard work, discipline and faith you can achieve your goals.

The 21-year old beauty queen has already put her local fame to work to support programs that help returning veterans find jobs and housing as a way of paying tribute to their sacrifice for the country.

Her next step in that journey is Miss America pageant, with finals set for September 15 on national television.

In the meantime, Kaitlyn is training for the big competition by enjoying every hectic moment, long day and new opportunity of being Miss Connecticut. Her days are crowded with appearances at local business and institutions

and media interviews.

"I feel energized and renewed every day. I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve the state as Miss Connecticut and I couldn't imagine doing anything else," she says.

It's a long way from the time three years ago when she lay in her hospital bed critically ill with Lemierre syndrome, a rare lung disease that threatened to end her life and take dreams along with it.

An Irish step dancer since the age of eight and winner of the Miss Teen USA in 2008, Kaitlyn was given a ten percent chance to survive her illness. In confronting her own mortality at the age of 18, she says she found new strength in her faith and in the love of her family.

"In my two weeks in the hospital, I found out who my true friends were. People I hadn't seen in years visited while others I had been spending time with didn't even say hello. I wouldn't be the person I am today without having gone through that struggle."

She says the ordeal also moved her toward an adult faith.

"While I was sick, I started to be someone who believed fully,

not just because mom and my grandparents said so. I knew I wouldn't survive if it didn't mean doing something greater and grander with my life," she says.

A devout Catholic, she attends the 9 am Family Mass on Sundays at St. Mary Parish in Stamford with her mother and brother, where they can sometimes be seen bringing up the gifts. They've been members of the parish since they moved to the Cove area 14 years ago. In fact, she says her mother chose that Stamford neighborhood because she loved the church and knew it would play an important role in their lives.

St. Mary's pastor, Fr. Arthur Mollenhauer, is a fan of Kaitlyn's and of her mother, Ann Dzenutis, who formed the children and gave them their faith and values.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of Kaitlyn and we are happy that she is using her talents to benefit our veterans. I know her Catholic faith plays a big role in her service to those who have proudly served their country," says Fr. Mollenhauer.

When Kaitlyn recovered her health she knew that she wanted to compete in a pageant that had

a talent portion, which enabled her to incorporate her Irish dancing skills. She approached the Miss Connecticut pageant with a great sense of calm based on her hard work and preparedness. She even visualized herself winning the contest.

"I was so ready. I'd been preparing for a long time and I had no anxiety and no nerves. I was just so ready. It felt right. I had a very large circle of support to help me in achieving my goal.

As she prepares for the nationally televised Miss America Pageant, Kaitlyn hopes to be the first Connecticut woman to win the Miss America title in 80 years. If she wins, she believes it will be a gift she can share by

inspiring others to their own personal best and concern for others and awareness of faith.

"I feel so happy and blessed to be granted the opportunity to be Miss Connecticut and hopefully Miss America. There's not one reason for me to look unhappy."



KAITLYN TARPEY of Stamford was crowned Miss Connecticut in June. The St. Mary Parish, Stamford, parishioner will compete in the Miss American contest on September 15. Faith, family and empowering women are important themes in her life and work.

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### Music for the 9:30am Sunday Solemn High Latin Mass

**September 1: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost:** *Missa super Fa re ut fa sol la* (Morales); *Exspectans exspectavi* (Saint-Saëns); *O sacrum convivium* (A. Gabrieli); organ music of Bach and Alain

**September 8: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost:** *Missa Sicut lilium inter spinas* (Palestrina); *Miserere mihi Domine* (Byrd); *Cantate Domino* (Byrd); organ music of Flor Peeters

**September 15: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost:** *Missa Dum esset Summus Pontifex* (Palestrina); *Oravi Deum meum* (Palestrina); *Erat Jesus* (de Tejada)

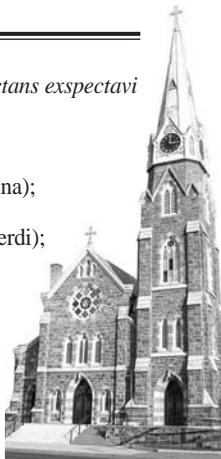
**September 22: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:** *Messa a 4 voci da Cappella* (1641) (Monteverdi); *Laetatus sum* (A. Scarlatti); *Da pacem Domine* (Trombetti)

**September 29: Feast of the Dedication of St. Michael the Archangel:** *Missa L'homme armé sexti toni* (Josquin); *Concussus est mare* (Clemens non Papa); *Tibi Christe, splendor Patris* (Lassus)

**October 6: External Solemnity of Our Lady of the Rosary:** *Missa de Beata Maria* (Victoria); *Ave nobilissima creatura* (Josquin)

The complete music list for Fall 2013 is available at [stmarynorwalk.net/music](http://stmarynorwalk.net/music).

For information about the program of musical education for children offered through the Student Schola, please visit [www.chantwith.us](http://www.chantwith.us).



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### PARISH ANNIVERSARIES FROM PAGE 4

From 1991-98, working from old photographs, the parish restored the interior of the church as closely as possible to its original condition. The current renovation builds that restoration to a fitting conclusion.

The earliest parishioners were factory workers, Italian, Polish and Hungarian among others. In recent years, the parish has seen an increase in Hispanic families, and now offers a noon Mass in Spanish on Sunday.

Always an active parish, St. Joseph's is particularly proud of its strong pro-life activities. On September 19 the parish will host a visit of the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The image will be present at a 6:50 am Mass, followed by an hour of veneration and a devotional stop

at the Summit Women's Center, an abortion center in Bridgeport.

Bishop Frank Caggiano will be the principal celebrant when St. Joseph's hosts the diocesan Respect Life Mass on October 6 at 10:30 am. Later that month, the parish will present "Abortion: How It Effects the Baby, the Mother and You," by Dolores Grier, former vice chancellor of community relations for the Archdiocese of New York and founder of the Association of Black Catholics Against Abortion.

(St. Catherine of Siena Church is located at 4 Riverside Ave., Riverside; St. Joseph Church is 50 Fairmont Place, Shelton. For more information about pro-life activities at St. Joseph's, contact Fr. Augustine Nguyen: 203.924.8611.)

# Remembering a Beloved Pastor

## Fr. Richard F. Futie dies suddenly at age 58

STAMFORD—Fr. Richard F. Futie, 58, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Stamford, passed away suddenly on August 25 while vacationing with parishioners south of Cancun, Mexico. The cause of death is related to complications he suffered while ascending from a scuba dive. Fr. Futie was a certified scuba diver who took up the sport to work with the “Wounded Warrior” program serving disabled veterans.

News of Fr. Futie’s sudden death has stunned priests and parishioners throughout the diocese. “This is a shock to all of us, but in the shock and sadness we ask that people keep Fr. Futie’s dad, Benjamin, his mom, Marguerite, and their whole family in their prayers during this difficult time,” says Msgr. Kevin Royal, director of the Office of Clergy and Religious of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Fr. Futie is remembered as a man of great kindness who took joy in being a priest and always found time to help those who were suffering or in crisis. “He’s always been a generous-hearted man with families in need,” says Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, pastor of the Basilica of St. John

the Evangelist in Stamford and a close friend of Fr. Futie. “You’d see him walking between Sacred Heart and the hospital, just going up to see someone and spend time talking with them. He made people smile.”

A chaplain for the Stamford Police since 1998, Fr. Futie responded to the horror of September 11, 2001, the only way he knew how. Donning his police badge, he reported to the Stamford railroad station and stayed on duty all day, blessing



the police and firefighters rushing to aid in the disaster. He stayed on duty until midnight, comforting shaken, soot-covered survivors of the bombing who managed to come home by train.

Born in Greenwich, Fr. Futie

graduated from the former St. Mary School. He attended St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield and Immaculate Conception Seminary in Queens, NY, before entering major seminary at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, with residence at the Pontifical North American College.

In June 1982, Bishop Walter W. Curtis ordained Fr. Futie to the priesthood in St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. He served that summer at two Brookfield parishes, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys and St. Joseph, before returning to Rome to complete his licentiate in canon law (J.C.L.). In addition to Sacred Heart, Father Futie served as parochial vicar at St. Jude Parish in Monroe and St. Cecilia Parish in Stamford. In 1995, he became the eighth pastor of St. Mary Parish in Stamford.

He was named pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in February 2007 after Fr. Robert Pohley passed away suddenly of a heart attack on Thanksgiving Day.

He served the Marriage Tribunal as Defender of the Bond, was president of Stamford Regional Catholic Schools from 1996-2003, and served on the board of St.



Camillus Health Center.

In addition to his years as a police chaplain, Fr. Futie was dedicated to the U.S. Armed Forces. Many in Stamford remember the eloquent and grief-stricken tribute he paid to U.S. Navy Seal Brian Bill in 2011, when the Bronze Star winner passed away in Afghanistan. Fr. Futie had been a friend of the Bill family, who were parishioners at St. Cecilia Parish.

“In the aftermath of Brian’s death, he began volunteering for a training program for young men interested in the Navy and possibly joining the Seals,” says Fr. Martin deMayo, parochial vicar of Sacred Heart.

As he became close to the

families of Seals, Fr. Futie became interested in working with the Wounded Warriors program for disabled veterans. He got his scuba certification last year to help in that program. When he died, he was getting certification to a deeper depth.

Fr. Futie’s deeply felt love for people was reciprocated by everyone who met him. “His extended family is huge—it includes all of Stamford—because of how many people loved this man,” says Fr. deMayo.

Fr. Futie was received into Sacred Heart Church on August 30 from 3-5 pm. A Vigil Mass was celebrated that evening at the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist. Fr. Cyprian LaPastina, pastor of St. Gabriel Parish in Stamford, was the celebrant. Fr. Anthony Sorgie, a close friend of Fr. Futie’s from the Archdiocese of New York, gave the homily. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Fr. Futie on August 31 at 10 am at St. John the Evangelist. Msgr. Gerald Doyle, administrator of the diocese, was the principal celebrant, Fr. Samuel Scott, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Danbury, delivered the homily.

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# Journey of Hope

## Divorce program aims to stop the hurt

By PAT HENNESSY

"I want to help people not just to survive divorce, but to conquer it," says Joan Horton, who was the facilitator this past year of the Journey of Hope group for divorced and separated Catholics held at St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield.

As the year went on, members of the group encouraged Horton to put together a book based on their challenges, fears and triumphs. She has recently published the result, *Divorce: 21 Days to Reclaiming Your Life*, as an ebook on Amazon.

The Journey of Hope group at St. Mary's had originally been started by parishioner Jerry Lilore, with the encouragement of Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz, St. Mary's pastor.

"For the many divorced Catholics in our nation, divorce,

while painful for spouses and children, can begin a new chapter of life," says Msgr. Bronkiewicz. "That transition happens with the help and support of God and the Church and others who have walked the same road. Parish ministry to the separated and divorced is such an important part of the overall ministry of the Church."

Msgr. Bronkiewicz was positive in his support when Lilore suggested the formation of a divorce support group based on the Journey of Hope program developed by the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia. "Monsignor knew there was a need. By their calling, priests attend to the people who really need help, and especially during a divorce, people frequently turn to their parish priest for advice."

The Journey of Hope program Lilore introduced into St.



"WE NEED TO STOP the hurt," says Joan Horton (right), who was the facilitator of a Journey to Hope program for divorced Catholics at St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield, this past year. Here, Horton studies the ebook based on the St. Mary's meetings, joined by her daughter Meredith (center) who helped with its production, and Mimi Wright, who had attended the meetings. (PHOTO BY PAT HENNESSY)

Mary's had been developed by the Atlanta Archdiocese to show Catholics the central role their

faith could play in rebuilding their lives. "When you're working on yourself, the biggest thing is forgiveness—letting go. It's very hard," Lilore says. "You've got to forgive. That comes directly from Christ."

Horton, making her own process of recovery after divorce, had attended the sessions at St. Mary's. She'd had a painful climb back to wholeness after divorce left her with six children to support. A corporate executive who had earned her MBA in finance on a fellowship at St. John's University in Queens, she drew on her earlier studies in psychology and sociality as an undergraduate.

"It was such a wound that needed to be healed," she says. "I had to find a way to leave behind misery and hatred. I could be walking around full of hate. What would that do for me—or anyone else?"

During her search, she took classes in hypnotherapy to help de-stress. "I need to calm down to help myself and even more, to help my children." The experience proved so positive that she continued to study hypnotherapy and now has a license in that specialty.

Eventually, sharing her experiences at the St. Mary's group led Horton to accept the position as facilitator this past year. "Joan would adjust the sessions to the situations we were dealing with at that time," says Mimi Wright, a member of Sacred Heart Parish

in Georgetown, who attended the group meetings.

Wright was particularly appreciative of the encouragement offered by Msgr. Bronkiewicz, who would sometimes stop by to talk to the group. "It was wonderful how supportive he was. Divorced Catholics feel like we're on the island of misfit toys. We didn't belong. You don't expect divorce to be a viable option if you're married in the Church. Knowing that so many people are in the same situation makes the situation easier to bear."

Horton introduced the group to acupressure and breathing techniques she had learned in her own therapy. "I wasn't quite sure how it would be received. These are a new modality for a lot of people," she says.

The techniques reinforced the positive messages at the conclusion of each meeting. One of the messages, included in each chapter of the ebook the group encouraged her to write, is one that is particularly difficult for people suffering the aftermath of a divorce: "I completely love, respect and accept myself."

A lot of the wording and chapter topics came from the group at St. Mary's. The result, drawn from the emotional pain, the trust, and the acceptance in that group, aims to help people calm down, listen to their feelings and hear the word of God within them.

"I published it as an ebook because I wanted to make it affordable," Horton says. "Believe me, when you're going through a divorce you don't have \$15 to spend on a self-help book."

She hopes that her book will help people to put their life together and leave behind misery and hatred. "We have a need to stop the hurt, the source of so much of our anger," she says. "I would love to take the hate out of the world."

(A Journey of Hope program will be starting at Holy Family Parish, Fairfield, starting September 14 from 10-11 am. For more information, contact the parish: 203.336.1835. To learn more about the program, visit [www.divorcedcatholic.org](http://www.divorcedcatholic.org). To order the ebook *Divorce: 21 Days to Reclaiming Your Life*, go to [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).)

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## Health News

## Medical missionary sees effects of poverty

By ELLEN MILLER, RN

I am a nurse and a medical missionary. During the regular year I work as a medical respiratory nurse at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport. On my vacations, I provide healthcare to the poorest of the poor from Africa to Central America, South America and Mexico through Helping Hands Medical Missions.

I have been serving as a medical missionary in Santa Maria de Jesús, Guatemala, for eight years. There I witnessed the devastating health effects of poverty, including severe malnutrition and pervasive sickness due to dirty water. Almost 100% of the population are Mayan natives and most of them live in extreme poverty. In many cases three generations live together under one roof.

This year, I was working alongside a local village doctor in Santa Maria when I saw a little girl whose hair was growing in without any color. Dr. Tequin, the local village doctor, explained that colorless hair is a sign of serious malnutrition. He could tell just by looking at the girl that there had been periods of time in

her life when she was decently nourished, as her hair color was darker during that growth period and white at the bottom. Imagine malnutrition so severe that a child's hair changes from black to white in color!

The next child the doctor and I saw was a three-year-old who weighed less than a healthy one-year-old baby should weigh. She likely weighed 19 lbs. with her clothes on: I imagine without clothes about 17 lbs. There was also a two-year-old child who weighed 21 lbs. Additionally, there were children with red and inflamed tongues—a sign of vitamin deficiency—and patients with angular mouth crevices, another indication of malnutrition. We tried to teach nutrition classes and help to fundraise for these children during our mission.

In addition to severe malnutrition, there is a limited access to clean water due to the destruction of water pipelines after severe hurricanes. Many children become ill and, in some cases, die from using contaminated water.

Chronic diarrhea is a common problem. Standing water and rain water, which people use for drinking, is full of parasites.

Without adequate heating of water, parasites reproduce and the infections continue to fester. Everybody drinks coffee because it is hot and perceived as safe, since the water is not. Gastritis from coffee consumption is seen in kids as young as two years of age. They drink only breast milk and coffee, the only fluids that are safe.

Water is a basic necessity of life and everyone deserves it!

When I was reporting to the Catholic Action Committee about my mission to Santa Maria, particularly the lack of water and resulting health problems and suffering, a committee from my home parish of St. Mary's in Ridgefield began researching different ways to help alleviate much of the suffering by providing clean water.

It was through my children that I began volunteering as a medical missionary. My daughter had asked me to go on a retreat with her at our Lady of Mount Kisco Retreat Center. I liked it so much that I continued to go to mornings of reflection every month. One time I was dressed in my scrubs because I had to go directly from there to



GETTING DOWN TO EYE LEVEL, Ellen Miller welcomes a family at the medical mission in Santa Maria de Jesús in Guatemala. A medical respiratory nurse at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, Miller—like a number of doctors and nurses at St. V's—spends her vacations helping people with little access to medical help.

work. When he realized I was a nurse, the priest there asked me if I could join a medical mission to Mexico. My supervisor

at St. Vincent's, Paige Bergmark RN,BSN,BC, encouraged me to go and helped me fill out the

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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## EDITORIAL

## Welcome Bishop Frank

After months of waiting and speculation we have our new bishop!

Brooklyn Auxiliary Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will officially become the 5th Bishop of Bridgeport in an Installation Mass on Thursday, September 19, at 1:30 pm at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull.

He comes to us with great energy, enthusiasm, faith, and joy in his new responsibilities. Born on Easter Sunday, Bishop Caggiano has pledged to walk joyfully with us in our journey of faith because "We have the best of news to share... to invite people of good will to know what we know."

A first-generation Italian-American, son of a longshoreman, he reminds us that we are an immigrant Church and we continue to thrive and flourish as we welcome others in love and faith.

Celebrating the arrival of the 5th bishop of Bridgeport also reminds us that we are a young diocese, with our entire history within living memory. Two of the first four bishops—Cardinal Edward Egan and Archbishop William Lori—are blessedly still with us, while Bishops Lawrence Shehan and Walter Curtis are fondly recalled by many priests and laity. A few even remember the fateful day of November 30, 1953, when Bishop Shehan stepped off the train from Baltimore to be our first Shepherd.

Our journey in faith reminds us that the Church is a living community, renewed in the belief and vision of each generation. Though the founders who came before us built many of the institutions—schools, hospitals, churches—that serve us today, we have much work to do in our own time.

The naming of a new bishop brings unity, energy and drive to the diocese. It makes us more optimistic as a people of faith. As a successor of the Apostles, he represents spiritual authority and our living link to the universal Church.

As we look forward to Bishop Caggiano's installation, it is appropriate that we recognize the work of Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, who has served as administrator since Bishop Lori's departure, and our chancellor, Anne McCrory. They were there for us in the Newtown tragedy and other crises, making the tough decisions when they had to, and doing everything possible to prepare the diocese for our new bishop.

By all accounts, the Holy Father has blessed the Diocese of Bridgeport with a person of deep faith, humility, and collegiality. We are grateful for our Fifth Bishop of Bridgeport and, as he did in his very first press conference, we ask your prayers for the new bishop that he may lead in deep faith, witness and example.

## Through New Eyes

All of us are comfortable with the life of faith in our home parish. It's what we think of as "normal;" it defines how we think of the Church. Bishop Caggiano's arrival can be an opportunity for us to take a wider view of People of God in Fairfield County.

The bishop has already commented on the diversity of the Diocese of Bridgeport, from busy inner-city parishes to small churches tucked into leafy rural settings. We can rejoice in a diocese where Mass is regularly said in 14 languages and our schools teach 11,000 children representing more than 37 different ethnic groups.

Catholics from younger parishes can marvel at the history of faith embodied in historic parishes that have flourished for a hundred years or more before the diocese was formed.

When we look from this wider perspective, we see preschoolers using computers in Catholic schools, religious education students re-creating the Way of the Cross, youth groups turning out to paint a house, young adults bubbling with enthusiasm from the experience of World Youth Day. Bible studies and other adult formation programs are springing up like flowers in active parishes. Senior citizens not only receive care and attention, they give it in active ministry to parish programs.

Likewise, more and more parishes are offering Eucharistic adoration, Holy Hours, Men's Groups, retreat opportunities and beautiful liturgies.

And we have been blessed with 240 priests, 103 deacons and 343 religious women, who are part of the 470,000 Catholic who worship volunteer and participate in community life.

The word "catholic" means universal. In our many parish settings, activities, age groups and ministries, the Diocese of Bridgeport showcases both the universality of the Church and its unity. We can be proud to offer this diversity, energy and faith to our new bishop, and welcome the chance to view it ourselves with new eyes. ■

## WELCOME!



## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

*Msgr. Jerald A. Doyle, JCD, Diocesan Administrator,  
has made the following clergy appointments in the Diocese of Bridgeport:*

## ADMINISTRATOR

FATHER CHRISTOPHER SAMELE, Parochial Vicar, Saint Stephen Parish, Trumbull, to Administrator, Saint Stephen Parish, Trumbull. Effective date is July 1.

## PAROCHIAL VICAR

FATHER ROBERT J. CROFUT, Pastor, Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Norwalk, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Pius X Parish, Fairfield. Effective date was July 12.

FATHER MARIUSZ OLBRYNS, Parochial Vicar, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Stamford, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Stephen Parish, Trumbull. Effective date was July 1.

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FATHER JEFFREY W. COUTURE, Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Bethel, to Spiritual Director, Immaculate High School, Danbury. Father Couture will reside at Saint Peter Rectory, Danbury. Effective date was August 1.

## RETIREMENT

FATHER STEPHEN J. GLEESON, Pastor, Saint Stephen Parish, Trumbull, to retirement. Effective date was June 30.

FATHER MICHAEL C. PALMER, Pastor, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton, to retirement. Effective date was June 30.

## RETURNED TO HOME DIOCESE

FATHER J. PUIS MWAGO, Parochial Vicar, The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport, returned to Kenya. Effective date was June 30.

*Rev. Msgr. Kevin Royal, Delegate for Clergy Personnel  
September, 2013*

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## Editorial



## From Hollywood to Holy Vows

## A WOMAN'S VIEW

BY ANTOINETTE BOSCO

*Antoinette Bosco is a member of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield.*

When I saw the title of a new book, *The Ear of the Heart* and then saw who the authors were, Mother Dolores Hart and Richard DeNeut, I smiled, and smiled again! I was holding a 450-page book written by these two well-known Hollywood professionals who have been my good friends for several decades.

I had met them back in the '80s when I had moved to Connecticut to take on an editorial position with a new newspaper, *The Litchfield County Times*. Very soon, I heard there was a

monastery of nuns in Bethlehem, CT. Curious to find out about it, I drove to that town determined to do a newspaper story about them. Being a strong Catholic myself, this sounded like a perfect story for me to investigate and write about.

Well, as the saying goes—"the best laid plans of mice and men..." I learned immediately that, God bless them, the nuns of Regina Laudis were well in charge of their own lives, obedient to their foundress, the Lady Abbess Mother Benedict Duss. A visitor had to respect their privacy and religious rules, a way of life I

truly did over many years learn to respect and honor—as the nuns became my lasting friends. And, happy to say, after a number of years, I had earned the privilege of writing about them, even getting permission from the Lady Abbess to do her story, which became a book many years later published by Ignatius Press, titled *Mother Benedict Duss, O.S.B., Foundress. Of the Abbey of Regina Laudis*. I have cherished that honor.

Now Ignatius Press has published another great book nurtured in this Abbey—Mother Dolores' story, subtitled "An Actress' Journey from Hollywood to Holy Vows." Her story is surprising and amazing, considering she was a rising star, doing movies with such Hollywood greats as Elvis Presley, Montgomery Clift and Anthony Quinn. But even more heart-touching are her memories of the troubled life she endured as a young child especially when her father was violent towards her mother. At age 6, she wrote to her grandmother—"Can

I come to live with you? This is not a good environment for a little girl to be in." Amazing!

She went to stay with her grandmother in Chicago and her life changed a lot when she got to spend time with her great aunts and uncles, and then got to Sunday school. She even met her Father's old Army buddy, Freddy Coccozza, who was just starting a "spectacular movie career," and had a new name, Mario Lanza!

Strange how things in life happen. Little Dolores, now spending most of the year in Chicago, was enrolled in the closest school, Catholic St. Gregory's. She relates how she "was taken by a special presence in the sanctuary" of the church, and soon wanted to become a Catholic so she could receive the Eucharist. Clearly, God is at work in our lives!

Dolores was baptized at St. Gregory's Church on October 4, 1948, "a few days before my 10th birthday."

Her book is a "must read," telling how she went on to Hollywood, became a famous

star, was engaged to be married to a fine man, Don Robinson, but found no peace. Then, her work took her to Broadway, where she was starring in a play—and she heard about a monastery of nuns in Connecticut. Amazingly, she was drawn to visit that place, the Abbey of Regina Laudis—not once but time and again. She was at the peak of her career, but she acknowledges she was drawn to a "mysterious" call that she heard with "the ear of the heart."

She was under contract for another film and a good man was waiting to marry her, but, as she put it, she "abandoned everything to become a bride of Christ."

She writes, "I did not fear the completely different life I was heading into, nor did I feel a sense of loss for the life I was leaving.... I felt quite excited, in fact, not unlike what I felt on opening night of a play... As I understand it now, where there is a true sign of the Spirit, there is peace and joy."

Now Mother Dolores is

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



## Brother James' true vocation

## A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

Brother James wasn't like the other postulants. For one thing, he was a college graduate. Most of the other novices were no more than a year or two out of high school. Brother James was twenty-eight. He'd gone to Seton Hall, just a short hop from New York City. He once had a drink with Louis Armstrong at Basin Street East. He'd been in Germany with the Army. Elvis Presley had bought him a beer.

Brother James's mother had died a couple years earlier, and he'd used his small inheritance to finance a trip. He'd seen Hong Kong's wealth and Calcutta's

squalor. He'd been to the Holy Land and prayed at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Once, he'd barely escaped the clutches of an angry mob in Cairo.

By the time he arrived at the Congregation of Holy Cross novitiate in Valatie, New York, Brother James had seen the world. He'd decided that helping people was the only thing that mattered.

The Holy Cross Brothers were a teaching order, which suited Brother James. He'd had some teaching jobs in the Catholic schools of his home diocese of Paterson, New Jersey. Many of the professed brothers in resi-

dence at the novitiate that summer were teachers. They were on retreat from Holy Cross schools in cities like Boston and New York. Brother James liked that. He felt comfortable with these guys.

The postulants were supposed to limit contact with the world during their formation. They were to speak only when necessary and refrain from reading the news. If they weren't praying at lauds and matins, they were serving at Mass. If they weren't studying in the classroom, they were laboring on the brothers' 400 acre farm.

A new silo was going up next to the barn that summer. It was hot work, the kind that makes a man thirsty. During breaks, the young postulants were given water. The professed brothers drank big cans of ice-cold beer. One of them noticed an overheated Brother James looking glum. Brother Joseph reached deep into the cooler and pulled out a frosty one. Taking a long pull on it, he issued a satisfied "Ahhhhhhh." Smiling, he said, "Brother James,

they're going down smooth today."

Brother James thought he could easily live in poverty. He'd find the strength to live in chastity. He'd come to terms with obedience in the Army.

But a whole year without beer? Brother James was going to have to dig deep.

This was 1963. There was a lot going on, both in America and in the Church. Kennedy was president, John XXIII was pope, and the times they were a-changing'. Like many good Catholic boys of his era, Brother James was an idealist. He wanted to get involved in the civil rights movement. He wanted to help people. He guessed that if he stuck it out in Valatie, they'd probably send him to get a master's degree at Notre Dame. He'd end up teaching at a Holy Cross school in Buffalo or Brooklyn.

That was helping people, he supposed, but he wondered if it would be enough to fulfill him. Brother James was starting to have some doubts.

One day, while cleaning

the professed brothers' rooms, Brother James spied a newspaper that had been left out in the open. On the cover was a story about the death of President Kennedy's two day-old baby, Patrick Bouvier Kennedy. Brother James was gutted. He was from a big Irish family. The first Catholic president meant a lot to him. Family meant a lot to him. He wondered if going "behind the wall" had been the right decision.

Then the novice master at Valatie, Brother Elmo, called Brother James into his office. They had a long talk, about culture, about theology, about the Second Vatican Council, which was then entering its second period. Brother James felt it was a good talk—open and honest. For the first time, Brother Elmo seemed genuinely curious about Brother James's thoughts and opinions. The master treated the novice like an equal.

Brother James thought maybe he'd turned the corner with these guys. Maybe now they'd throw him a beer on a hot day.

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

# First Press Conference

## A fellow pilgrim in the journey of faith

The announcement came on a quiet July 31 morning, surprising everyone after 14 months of waiting and speculation.

Brooklyn born and raised, Auxiliary Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was named the fifth Bishop of Bridgeport.

News of his appoint-

ment quickly filled Facebook pages, internet news sites, TV screens and the front pages of Connecticut newspapers.

By 10:30 that morning, reporters, along with Catholic Center staff, turned out to meet the bishop at his first press conference in the Catholic Center.

"I come to you today as a fellow pilgrim in the journey of faith," he said in a statement before answering reporter's questions.

"I am eager to learn about all the good that is already being done in the diocese each year and every day. I am ready to listen and more about the needs of God's people."

Bishop Caggiano then took questions in a spirited and candid press conference that introduced him to the diocese and the state.

**You worked as a textbook salesman before becoming a priest. How does experience in the secular world help your ministry?**

I worked for McGraw Hill as a sales rep for a year and a half. On a personal level it helped me to discern my vocation as a priest. There was a point in my life where I thought that I knew everything I wanted and needed. I thought I needed a good job, a great salary, a company car, and an expense account. God, in all of his wisdom, gave me all that.

And then I realized that I was not happy. I realized that there was something more to life. I realized that the Lord wanted to do it his way. When I overcame that initial stubbornness and started to do it his way, I have never been happier. So, it has helped me listen better to the will and



**MEET THE PRESS**— Within minutes of arriving in his new Diocese, Bishop Caggiano fielded questions at a press conference attended by media outlets throughout the state. He quickly won the press over with his candor, humor and compassion. The event was also live-streamed on the diocesan website. The July 31 announcement came as a surprise to everyone after more than a year of speculation.

voice of God. I hope to bring that to my ministry as well.

**What qualities do you think Pope Francis saw in you that prompted him to give you this honor?**

I honestly cannot answer this on the Holy Father's behalf, but allow me to answer it this way. What do I hope to bring? First and foremost, a gentle and compassionate heart. I think what the world needs to see is the mercy of God. Pope Francis is receiving such an enormous welcome from believers and non-believers alike because he very beautifully is presenting the merciful love of God. To the extent in my own way that I can do that, I am hoping that I can bring that to this ministry. I also hope to bring a great love for all that has to do with the transmission of the faith. It is all about the Good News of being a Catholic Christian, of the message of the salvation in Jesus.

**What do you think will be your biggest challenge as Bishop of Bridgeport?**

The challenges here in Bridgeport are perhaps universal challenges. If you were to ask me coming in, *tabula rasa*, what would be the concerns I have, it would be to invite everyone to become evangelizers. To be witnesses to the Gospel, to invite people of good will to know what we know, he whom we know, he whom we love. We have the best of news to share and we don't

always do it effectively, perhaps, in part, because there is a lot of noise in the modern world. Sometimes God whispers; he is not easily heard.

**Do you think the legacy of the priest abuse scandal hangs over your new diocese?**

I see this as a question of trust. When trust is broken, it takes a while to rebuild that trust. Perhaps now, 11 years after, we are still working to rebuild trust among some individuals who have felt that trust certainly was broken and, therefore, needs to be mended and healed.

Archbishop Lori should be commended for the work that he did. He was a national leader in making sure our children are protected, and every bishop in this country stands committed to do exactly the same thing.

**You have taken a special interest in young people and, especially, their use of social media.**

In my catechesis sessions at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, I had a magnificent, energetic group of young people. They are the first generation that was actually born into this electronic world. A person like myself uses it fairly competently, I hope, but they were actually born into it, which means they are formed by it. They see the world a certain way. They socialize a certain way. You know what I mean if you have young children or teenagers. That



**FAMILY PRIDE**— Bishop-elect Caggiano shares the joy of the moment with his nephew Dominic, a 24-year-old teacher who journeyed accompanied his uncle from Brooklyn. They are pictured in front of the stained glass window in the Catholic Center chapel.



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# Bishop Frank Caggiano

is the venue of their lives. And the Church needs not to run away from that venue but —allow me to put it this way—to “baptize” the venue, for there are many individuals who are using the electronic world to their own benefit which is not to the benefit of our young people. It is, in many ways, the Wild, Wild West.

So, I have a keen interest in listening to young people who will be able to teach me and teach us about this world and be able to go into it to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I look forward to working with all of you to make that happen.

## What is your position on gay people in the Catholic Church?

In Rio this was the very first question that young people raised, because it is a burning issue in the life of the Church. First and foremost, we have to be very clear as Catholic Christians that the love of God is universal, that gay and lesbian Catholics and those who are straight are loved by the Lord and we are to love them as well. Everyone is welcome into the life of the Church. But, there is a need for all of us to live an authentic Catholic life. And, therefore, chastity is an important issue in all of our lives.

My position, which is the Church's and the Holy Father's position, is that the Church welcomes and invites all people, that the love of God is extended to all people. Everyone is to be invited to live authentic Christian lives, whatever that means to the individual person.

## What are your impressions of Pope Francis and this new chapter for the Church?

He is a great gift to the Church. You know, every Pope brings gifts that are needed in the time and age in which he is called to serve through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis has given a remarkable opportunity for people, even those who do not believe, to take a second look at the Church through his humility, his simplicity. And he has a way of connecting in the heart that is tremendous. It is an inspired gift.

I saw it with the young people in Rio. The enthusiasm, the tears, the joy, the dancing. There is no showmanship there. He is allowing people to realize that our God, first and foremost, is a loving God who will reach out to you wherever you are.

The Holy Father is absolutely brilliant in allowing people to feel that as well as know him. To the extent that I could follow in a small way in his footsteps, I would be very grateful.

## You were born on Easter. Does that have any special significance to you?

Yes. My mother never let me forget it. For my mother it was a great sign. Perhaps it was. When I announced that I wanted to be a priest, my father was furious. My mother was absolutely thrilled.

Also, my doctor never let me forget that I ruined his Easter dinner. I was born at 1:40 in the afternoon, right when the pasta would have been served.

## Do you have any hobbies?

I am an avid Mets fan, so I am a man of hope. I like to do, believe it or not, manual labor. I love painting and wallpapering, and carpentry. I love gardening. I find it to be a tremendous release. Plus, it has a beginning, middle, and end. You know when you get your jobs done.

I also like to read. The book that changed me the most while growing up was the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. I read it for the first time in freshman year in high school when I went to the beach. I read it ever summer after, and I think that it is a brilliant parable of many of the basic themes of Christian life. It opened up my imagination. Imagination is an under-utilized road to faith.

## First clergy to meet Bishop Caggiano

Last Wednesday, the day that it was announced that Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, was named the new Bishop of Bridgeport, I was happy to hear the news and I drove to Bridgeport to welcome him. I walked into his office, where he was talking informally with a small group of priests and laity.

His spoke easily and openly from his heart; he emphasized his desire to open his arms and embrace everyone in Fairfield County, from the dense urban centers to the beach communities to the pine and hardwood forests.

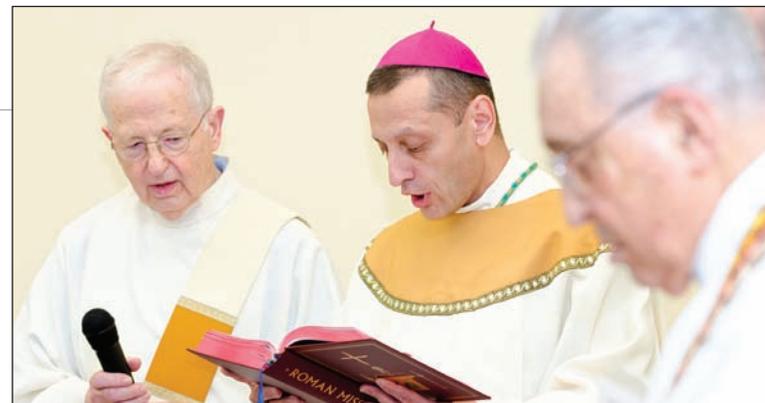
Well, I was there because I

really wanted to welcome him, but let me say that it was I who was welcomed by Bishop Caggiano. I know that all of us will soon feel the welcome. Our new bishop will welcome everyone, all the cultures and the languages, the poor and the wealthy. He is ready to do God's will and he expressed humility in the confidence Pope Francis has in him to assume such an important ministry. United as a family, let us all pray that God the Holy Spirit will give Bishop Caggiano the strength and health he needs to minister to the faithful of the Diocese.

*(Msgr. J. Peter Cullen, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Greenwich)*

Bishop Caggiano impressed me as a very personable and intelligent man, with a good sense of humor. When I met him one-on-one, I felt that “here is a man with whom I would be comfortable having an informal chat.”

He was director of deacons in the Diocese of Brooklyn, and I know he has a special affection for permanent deacons and their wives. He is not only interested in the formation of men for the Permanent Diaconate, but also in the on-going formation of deacons after ordination. I am anxious to inform him of our Sons of Saint Stephen On-going



Formation Program for Deacons, which has been offered here for a number of years.

I am excited about the arrival of Bishop Caggiano but, after a long sixteen months, I would like to offer many thanks to Msgr. Jerald Doyle for his excellent hard work for the diocese.

*(Deacon Anthony Detje, assistant director of Clergy Personnel, director of deacons)*

They say that first impressions are lasting. Well, after attending his first press conference and meeting him that afternoon, it seems to me that we have been blessed with a great pastor and straight forward leader in Bishop Frank Caggiano. He has certainly let us know that we can count on him to be a listener and a compassionate shepherd. God grant him many years with us going forward.

*(Fr. Frederick Saviano, diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith)*

During his news conference,

Bishop-Elect Caggiano referenced his background and history and concerns. As he spoke, I began to realize how much we have in common, which I later shared with him that day as he toured the Tribunal Office.

We are both children of immigrants from Southern Italy (his from the Province of Salerno; mine from the Province of Siracusa.)

I felt a close connection when Bishop Caggiano talked about his ministerial enthusiasms. First, he wants to learn from and with us, while walking the Journey of Faith. Second, he, following the example of Pope Francis, wants to reach out to the marginalized, the outcasts. Third, the excitement he displayed when talking about the youth really struck home.

I anticipate and welcome a pastoral energy to dynamically advance the Diocese of Bridgeport's growing more and more as the People of God.

*(Fr. Michael Boccaccio, pastor of St. Philip Parish, Norwalk, and a member of the diocesan tribunal)*



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# St. Mary School, Bethel

## 50 years of Christ-centered excellence

BETHEL—St. Mary School is celebrating 50 years of Christ-centered academic excellence during the 2013-2014 school year. Located on land donated by the family of film and television personality Barbara Britton Czukor, St. Mary School opened its doors to students in September 1963. Since that time, St. Mary's has demonstrated its commitment to educating children within a nurturing Catholic family atmosphere.

In 1995, St. Mary's became the first elementary school in the Diocese of Bridgeport to be accredited by the New England



Association of Schools and Colleges. The U.S. Department of Education named it a National Blue Ribbon School in 2008, recognizing the St. Mary's community for its high level of academic

achievement. Over the years, St. Mary's has grown to offer enrichment and athletic programs including advanced math classes, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)



PHOTOS BY DANIELLE ULACCO

golden anniversary year with a Mass celebrated on September 8 at 11:30 a.m. Fr. Corey Piccinino, pastor of St. Mary Parish, will be the principal celebrant. Immediately following the Mass, families, friends, and alumni of St. Mary's will gather for a picnic on the school grounds. Other events to mark the 50th anniversary include a gala dinner dance on November 30 at the Ethan Allen Inn in Danbury and a fun fair in March 2014 for the students of St. Mary School.

(For more information about St. Mary School's 50th, call 203.744.2922 or email [information@stmarybethelct.org](mailto:information@stmarybethelct.org).)

projects, Mandarin Chinese, the robotics team, theater club, band, basketball, cheerleading and pep squad, and track and field.

Sr. Anne McCarthy, SSND, principal of St. Mary School for 26 years, believes St. Mary's legacy will be defined as "having prepared young men and women to enter the twenty-first century with confidence, respect for self and others, deep faith, ready to live the Gospel message by serving others and having developed life-long skills and acquired knowledge to help make our world a more Christ-like place to live."

St. Mary School will open its

### Open House

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Saturday, November 16, 8:30 a.m.

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### MEDICAL MISSIONARY FROM PAGE 13

pror request cards, and I've been going ever since. This is my way of giving back to God for all he has done for me.

We take things for granted in the U.S., things people don't have in other countries. At the mission in Guatemala, people will wait hours just to get 30 vitamins. St. Mary's has been collecting vitamins, analgesics, zantac, antibiotic creams, toothbrushes, toothpaste and rosaries for the missions. I love my parish family—St. Mary's continuously reaches out to do mission projects. They have been helping our poor brothers and sisters in developing countries in rural areas around the world.

Doctors and nurses from St. Vincent's have not only been generous in donating medical supplies to help these missions, many of them have gone themselves and given up their vacation time to care for the suffering in medical missions throughout the world.

(Anyone interested in going on a mission, donating supplies or assisting with funds can contact Helping Hands Medical Missions: [www.hhmm.org](http://www.hhmm.org), or contact Ellen Miller: [ellen.miller.m@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.miller.m@gmail.com).)

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# Schools Feature

## PRINCIPALS FROM PAGE 5

Fairfield as well as spending nine years at McKinley School, also in Fairfield, where he was an instructional improvement teacher. Before coming to St. Joseph's, he was an assistant principal at Meeting House Hill School in New Fairfield and at New Fairfield Middle School.

"I returned to my roots in Catholic education for a variety of reasons," says Principal Bannon. "My closest friends in life are the ones I met at Saint Ann's and Notre Dame. We were taught how to be loyal and to live a life filled with respect and integrity. The values gained

through my Catholic education carried me through the best times and most challenging times of my life. Now the Lord has guided me and provided me with an opportunity to return to the Diocese of Bridgeport."

His wife Stacy, herself a former teacher, currently works for a Birth to Three agency as a developmental therapist. They and their two children are parishioners at St. Jude Parish in Monroe.

Dr. Patricia Lawler has been appointed the new principal of Trinity Catholic Middle School.

Dr. Lawler recently retired from the Norwalk Public Schools

where she served 11 years as housemaster at Norwalk High School. Prior to this she worked in Stratford, Redding and Stamford as a curriculum specialist, grades 7-12 supervisor, administrator and teacher.

"The perfect position at the perfect school."

"When I left Stamford High School, Tony Pavia was my principal," she recalls. "It will be a pleasure working with him again now that I'm at the middle

school and he's principal of Trinity Catholic High School."

Dr. Lawler holds certifications for teaching and administration from Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 and had a prior corporate management career in marketing and strategic planning. She earned a BS and MBA from St. John's University, a sixth-year degree from Southern Connecticut State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut.

"Her diverse background and expertise will be a great asset to Trinity Catholic Middle School as we work toward strengthening the academic program as well as the transitions from elementary

school and to high school," says Sr. Mary Grace.

She and her husband are parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Stamford. Dr. Lawler served as the chairperson of the Stamford Catholic Regional Board of Education during the early years of its formation.

"If someone asked me to describe the perfect position at the perfect school, this would be it," she says. "It's a wonderful school. The staff is terrific. The students are wonderful and the parents are very supportive. I'm proud and grateful to have been chosen as principal of Trinity Middle School, and I'm looking forward to the upcoming year." ■

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### From the following schools

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Amity Regional Middle School - Bethany	Madison Middle School
Aquinas Academy	Mead School
Bedford Middle School	Middlebrook School
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Cloonan Middle School	Montessori School of Norwalk
East Ridge Middle	Nathan Hale Middle School
Eastern Middle School	Newtown Middle School
Easton Country Day School	Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School
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Fairfield Country Day School	Ponus Ridge Middle School
Fairfield Woods Middle School	Rippowam Middle School
Flood Middle School	Roger Ludlowe Middle School
Fraser Woods School	Rogers International
Greenwich Catholic Elementary School	Saxe Middle School
Hamden Hall Country Day School	Scotts Ridge Middle School
Harborside Middle School	Seymour Middle School
Helen Keller Middle School	Shelton Intermediate School
Hillcrest Middle School	Side By Side Community School
Jockey Hollow Middle School	St. Aloysius Catholic School
John Read Middle School	St. Andrew Catholic School
John Winthrop School	St. Ann Catholic School

**\$554,000 in financial aid awarded to this class. (\$2.2 million in total financial aid awarded this school year to all four classes.) All financial aid is awarded on the basis of need.**

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St. Theresa Catholic School  
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## St. Joseph School, Brookfield

## “Education in the context of faith is wisdom”

By PAT HENNESSY

“The dedication of teachers, parents and staff just jumps out at me,” says Scott Bannon, principal at St. Joseph School in Brookfield. “Every teacher knows every kid by name. You can’t beat that. Everyone is working to make St. Joseph’s the best it can possibly be.”

The small community feeling of everyone working together is the hallmark of St. Joseph’s. That, plus the school’s popular motto: “Education in the context

of faith is wisdom,” define the school, over and above its reputation for a strong technological focus.

The reputation is well-earned. The STEM curriculum (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) lies at the core of the instructional model at St. Joseph’s. The school has a STEM coordinator who works with students from pre-K through eighth grade. Rather than asking for memorization and repetition, STEM challenges students to draw on a variety of disciplines

as they work collaboratively to achieve an objective.

St. Joseph’s can point to laptop carts in the classrooms, and students in grades six through eight have their own iPads. While these are powerful learning tools, the teachers at St. Joseph’s understand that the newest technological methods are still only tools. The curriculum challenges teachers as well as students, calling on them to explore the appropriate uses of the new technology.

“STEM is embedded in our daily lesson design,” Bannon

says. In language arts, students learn to communicate and work together on reporting or journaling. In social studies, they can explore a subject in depth: how will this issue impact our community? What is the background of this in history? As a learning model, STEM even has a place in religious studies, as students put together a special liturgy or try to find an age-appropriate response to a current moral issue.

The technology of the building will be enhanced even further this coming semester. “We will have white boards and SMART projectors in every single teaching space,” says Bannon. Emphasizing the way school spirit meshes with technological goals, he adds. “Parents have come into the school every Tuesday and Thursday evening to remove all the old chalkboards. Imagine their dedication, to come in and do that after the end of their own day’s work.”

The classic focus of STEM teaching, and the advantages of technology, shows up in math classes. “You have to know your students,” says Kathi Benzing, who teaches middle school math. “Certain topics are easier for some students. They can go on to specific websites on the Internet for enrichment exercises. For others, the key is kids getting the feedback they need. You have to tailor the instruction for each one.”

The value of the STEM curriculum model spreads throughout all grade levels. “We have a STEM fair here at the end of the school year,” says first-grade teacher Jeanne Vitetta. “For our project last year, first we read the story of the *Three Little Pigs*. Then we figured out how many craft sticks it would take to build a house. For the fair itself, our Big Bad Wolf was a hair dryer, trying to blow our house down.”

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K–12.....	Saturday, November 2
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# St. Joseph School, Brookfield

school system, even the youngest children learn to be comfortable with technology, using cheerful programs to learn colors, shapes, and letters.

The rich, lived experience of the Catholic faith ties all these elements together. "We're steeping the academics in faith," says Fr. Chip O'Neil, St. Joseph's pastor. "That's what parents want for their children."

To that end, students attend Mass every Friday. On the first Friday of each month throughout the school year, a different class takes charge of the Mass. "These are teaching Masses," says Fr. O'Neil. "We're shining the light of faith on their academic learning."

During that week, the class in charge of the First Friday Mass makes sandwiches for the Dorothy Day House Homeless Shelter. "Religion isn't limited to the classroom," says Fr. O'Neil. "The goal is to help our students understand who they are as Christians."

"Sometimes parents go late

to work on those Fridays to attend those Masses," adds Bannon. "The example of the



"DO YOU KNOW what you're finding?" math teacher Kathi Benzing asks Spencer Brown as he works on the area of a cube. Technology gives students immediate feedback and allows teachers to tailor the instruction to match each one's progress.

family is central here. From the importance of faith to the community spirit and reaching out to others—kids get that from their parents."

When students at St. Joseph's

walked through the door at the beginning of the school year, they, and their teachers, had a

sense they were rejoining their second family. "Our academics are outstanding, but that sense of community speaks volumes about St. Joseph's," says Bannon. "We all love to be here." ■



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# World Youth Day

## WYD fills hearts with joy

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—  
“Sitting next to three million  
Catholic youth from all over

the world is a singularly unique  
experience,” says Megan Glynn,  
a member of St. Catherine of

Siena Parish in Trumbull and a  
senior this year at UCONN. She  
was part of the delegation from

this diocese who attended World  
Youth Day in Rio this year.

The delegation of 10 youth  
and three chaperones spent a  
week in Cruza Blanca, Peru,  
working among some of the  
world’s poorest families. They  
built houses in the shanty town  
of Puerta Piedra, fixed the roof  
of the local chapel, painted the  
community dining hall, and spent

they are not afraid to risk for him  
the only life they have, because  
they know they will not be disap-  
pointed.”

### WYD Witness Statements:

“These past two weeks have  
reaffirmed and strengthened my  
faith in God and made me real-  
ize the amount of love God has  
for each of us. The first week  
in Peru truly showed me the

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ONE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WYD experience for the group from this diocese (shown below) was a Mass they shared with delegates from Los Angeles, Denver and San Antonio, Texas. They were given special permission to celebrate Mass on Copacabana beach on an altar built of sand.



time with children in the pre-  
school and daycare programs.

That experience gave them  
a strong foundation to hear the  
words Pope Francis delivered  
when they joined 3.7 million  
people from 175 countries for  
Pope Francis’s Sunday Mass at  
the waterfront of Copacabana.

“Christ has confidence in  
young people and entrusts them  
with the very future of his mis-  
sion, ‘Go and make disciples,’”  
the Pope told them. “Go beyond  
the confines of what is humanly  
possible and create a world of  
brothers and sisters! And young  
people have confidence in Christ:

tremendous love God has for all  
people. In the end this love is  
all that is necessary. This week  
opened my heart wide open so  
that when I arrived in Rio, God  
just filled it up with his love  
and compassion. WYD was a  
great experience to reaffirm my  
faith. Seeing three million other  
Catholics praising God gave  
me so much hope and helped  
me realize that I am not alone.  
Overall the past two weeks had  
a huge impact on my life.”

*(Thibault Vincent, Our Lady  
Star of the Sea in Stamford and  
a junior at McGill University  
in Montreal, Canada.)*



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# World Youth Day

## Witnessing for Christ

"The Mission in Lima, Peru was a powerful and life-changing experience. Never before had I encountered poverty to such a level. Just driving through the city of Lima was shocking. On one side of the street you could see the wealthy living in their nice homes with gates and electric security fencing and on the other side you could see the poor with their run-down homes. It wasn't until we reached Laderas,

incredible to see these kids who had never seen us in their lives run up and hug us as if we were family. There was no such thing as stranger danger. I learned so much on this trip, how I take so many things for granted in my life and how God is present in all our lives. I've never grown so close to a group of friends before and I can easily say that was the best week of my life. I cannot wait until I return to Peru."

Perhaps the most amazing experience of the week was the vigil at Copacabana Beach. Sitting next to three million Catholic youth of the world is a singularly unique experience. There was a true sense of unity and connection between all the pilgrims camped out to show their love for Christ as a witness to the world. Seeing Pope Francis only ten feet away was just icing on the cake.

"While of course there were difficult situations and conditions, the beauty of the two weeks far outweighed the bad. Having had this experience, I feel prepared to face the world as a missionary pilgrim, ready to witness to the world all that I have seen and done, and how God has acted in plentiful bounty during this trip, to 'go therefore and make disciples of all nations.'"

*(Megan Glynn, St. Catherine of Siena in Trumbull and a senior at the University of Connecticut)*

"I saw through a young boy in Peru that God's love is infinite. This love is different than the 'love' that the world offers, as it is not measured by our accomplishments and success. In discovering this love we find ourselves, and in finding ourselves, we encounter true happiness. God offers us peace the world cannot give."

*(Katie Coyle, St. Pius X Parish in Fairfield and a graduate of Ludlow High School in Fairfield who will attend St. Francis University, PA, this fall.)*

"After my first year of college at Saint Francis University in Loretto, PA, looking back I felt something missing. I wasn't sure what, but in preparing for the trip I knew that if I opened my heart I would find my answer. In witnessing the people living in the shanty town in Peru, I realized what I longed for was a true community rooted in Christ. Being with a group of 10 college students I was able to connect with them and share our experiences beginning real friendships."

*(Emily Wolpiuk, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull and a sophomore at St. Francis.)*

"I learned that through loving God and following him we experience a happiness and love that's truly incomprehensible and that



"ONE OF THE FAVORITE PARTS about the mission was spending time with the kids," says David Rodriguez, a member of St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport. "They were just so full of love."

we are all called to make disciples of all nations and that God grants us the gifts necessary in order to accomplish that."

*(Spencer Peter Tripp, St. Pius X Parish, Fairfield, and a sophomore at the University of Connecticut.)*

"What struck me the most was first seeing the amount of poverty in Lima, Peru, but how much joy the people still shared with us. And the tremendous love they had in their hearts was amazing to me."

*(Amy Olavasky, Our Lady of Grace, Stratford, a St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, graduate attending Housatonic Community College.)*

"God has an intricate and powerful plan for me, and this trip has been a pivotal point in that plan. Not only did we form an intimate community which calls each of us to holiness, but I learned invaluable lessons of self-giving, dying to myself in order to live as the disciple I was created to be, and God bombarded me with grace and love in such a way that I've left what was, in my head, just supposed to be a trip of service and sacrifice, transformed and closer to God than I have ever been in my life."

*(Mary Grace Bangs, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown and a freshman at Catholic University of America.)*



"OUR MISSION TO PERU helped us to prepare for our pilgrimage to see the Holy Father at WYD in Rio," says Megan Glynn, a member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull.

the town where we were to work that week, that I was truly dumbfounded. The state of how the people were living in this community was just inhuman. Families, sometimes five or six members large, lived in little shacks that in all honesty could not be called houses. Everywhere you looked you would just see dirt and garbage, and it didn't smell any better either. People don't deserve to live in conditions like that. The question that was on my mind was, 'How can these people live like this and still find happiness?'

"The answer that Sr. Florencia told us was that they have learned to live in community and rely on one another in order to survive. Back in the States, community is something that is sorely lacking because society tells us to try and be self-reliant, but if these people didn't rely on one another to live in a community, they would die.

"One of my favorite parts about the mission was spending time with the kids. These kids were angels, they were so obedient and respectful, knew when enough was enough, and were just so full of love. It was

*(David Rodriguez, St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport. A graduate of Fairfield Warde High School, he heads to the University of Steubenville this fall.)*

"I don't think anything could summarize our mission trip to Peru and pilgrimage to WYD in Brazil better than the words of the Holy Father, who said, as he was leaving Brazil for Rome on July 28, 'I'm happy. It has been a beautiful trip, spiritually speaking; it has been good to me. I'm tired enough but with a heart full of joy.' This was my exact experience. Our mission in Peru enabled me to experience what it means to truly give every part of yourself to another person out of complete love. The children that we were working with conquered my heart in a matter of hours. They opened my eyes to the true beauty and simplicity that it is a life centered around trust in God. They showed me how to love with complete abandon, and helped me to love them in the same way.

"Our trip to Peru helped us to prepare for our pilgrimage to see the Holy Father at WYD in Rio.



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## Parish News

## Partnership in the Gospel

NORWALK—"The coming together of different parishes to worship the Lord is a great sign that we are all one—One Body in Christ. Our celebration of the diocesan anniversary was a strong indication of our common mission; a reminder of our partnership in the Gospel as St. Paul says in his letter to the Philippians."

These sentiments of Fr. Sudhir D'Souza, parochial vicar of St. Philip Parish in Norwalk, were

very well reflected in the citywide celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The celebration was held at the 10 am Mass in St. Philip Church. Parishioners from the different parishes of Norwalk—St. Thomas, St. Joseph, St. Matthew, and St. Mary—joined the community at St. Philip in worship on a beautiful Sunday morning.

The occasion was made even more festive by the Honor Guard provided by the Brother

Knights of the Bishop Fenwick Assembly #100 of Norwalk. The Honor guard was led by Faithful Navigator and Color Corp Commander Bill Berger who was joined by Sir Knights Bob Kramer, Donald Hunter, George Ribellino, Michael Colaluca, Anthony Armentano, William Scholl, Scott Mazzo, Anthony Cossuto, Ed McGettigan and Jim Wardwell.

"It was an honor to serve in the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard during the Mass, in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the great Diocese of Bridgeport. It was wonderful to see people coming together from various parishes to recognize that we are all one in Christ," says Grand Knight George Ribellino, Jr., of the St. Matthew Council #14360.

Fr. Michael Boccaccio, St. Philip's pastor, was the presider at the Solemn Mass. During his homily, Fr. Boccaccio spoke about the inception of the diocese, remembering each bishop who has served our diocese, from Cardinal Lawrence Sheehan to our newly appointed Bishop-Elect Frank Caggiano. In his homily he offered a teaching, explaining how and why dioceses were established, described the geography of the diocese and, in conclusion, reviewed the ministerial contribution of a diocese to parishes.

He also praised the efforts



AN HONOR GUARD of Knights joined the priests of St. Philip Parish, Norwalk, (l-r) Fr. Sudhir D'Souza, parochial vicar and Fr. Michael Boccaccio, pastor, for a citywide celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

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 WOMAN'S VIEW FROM PAGE 15
 

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Prioress of the Abbey of Regina Laudis, but in addition to her responsibilities at the Abbey she is also working to help people who, like herself, suffer from neuropathy, an illness which results from injury to peripheral nerves and is tremendously painful. She tells the people who write to her "not to suffer alone with the illness, but to reach out to others, share personal experiences." She underscores that sufferers like herself must "not suffer alone," but "inform the vast public about this illness—as well as the medical community, which will lead to greater professional understanding and more effective treatments."

Not surprisingly, "Mother has become a source of hope and inspiration," says Elaine Williams, Mother Dolores' secretary, who responds to the people writing these letters. And Mother Dolores explains the good that comes of this by one simple comment—"God is present!" and she adds, "Constantly!" To that, we can add a "thank you," in capital letters!

I add another "Thank You," to Mother Dolores and her long time friend Richard De Neut for bringing us this remarkable story of how one woman, with so many opportunities for fame and money ahead of her, followed a stronger Voice instead! ■

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 A DAD'S VIEW FROM PAGE 15
 

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Brother Elmo invited him for another talk the following week. No sooner had Brother James sat down than Brother Elmo came out with it: "I don't think this is the place for you." Brother James knew what it meant. He would be leaving—immediately. He was forbidden to speak with the other postulants. Brother Elmo didn't want any discord. When a postulant washed out, he simply disappeared. Brother James's bags were waiting for him when he left the abbot's office.

Not long afterward, Kennedy was assassinated,

LBJ became president, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed. Brother James went back to his old life. He went back to being Jim. But he was still an idealist. He still wanted to help the country heal its racial wounds. A priest friend saw an ad for an outfit called South Mission Volunteers. They matched Jim with a teaching job at a Catholic school in Jennings, Louisiana. He packed a bag and hitchhiked south.

It was in the bar at New Orleans Airport that he first set eyes on his true vocation. Jim and Ann were married in 1966 at her home parish, St.

Patrick's Church in Yorktown Heights, New York. They had two beautiful daughters in Louisiana before moving back north to New Jersey, where I was born. My little brother came along later to complete the clan.

God must have been at work in Brother Elmo's heart because he saw something in Brother James that my dad couldn't see in himself. The consecrated life wouldn't suit him; his destiny was elsewhere. Brother Elmo kept my father from taking the wrong path. I guess you could say I owe him everything. ■

ish, "I enjoyed the Anniversary Mass. It was great to see several parishes coming together to pray and unite around the Holy Eucharist." The parishioners from all the parishes were invited to be a part of the entrance procession, and took part in the reception following Mass. The celebration was a unique experience for the parishioners of St. Philip, too, who enjoyed the opportunity to host this celebration and to welcome the people from other parishes. "What a celebratory atmosphere... parishioners from many parishes gathered in unity to pray for our diocese! I was so happy to be part of this special Mass," says Angie Lentz, who is a parishioner of St. Philip's.

The Mass included prayers for the diocese, its various ministries, and special prayers for Bishop-elect Frank Caggiano. ■

of Fr. D'Souza in organizing the observation. "Our parish's celebration of the diocese's 60th Anniversary was planned primarily through the work of Fr. D'Souza, particularly his initiative to extend it beyond the parish, thus making visible the reality of all our parishes being united in this diocese," Fr. Boccaccio told the congregation.

Those who attended agreed with his assessment. "The citywide celebration was a reminder to all of us that we are not mere individual parishes, rather, we belong to the universal church," says John Cadavid, a parishioner of St. Thomas Parish. "This beautiful celebration reminds all of us that despite our different views and opinions, we are one Church, all under the same God."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Christine Bouffard, a teenager from St. Matthew par-

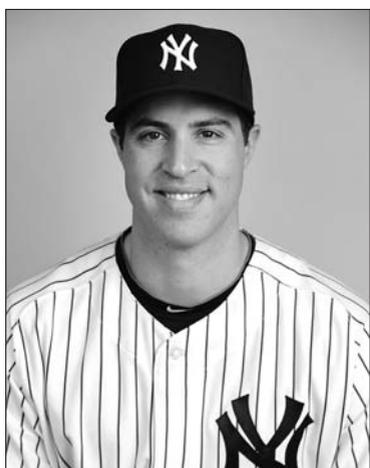
## Schools

## Yankees' first baseman teams with Shepherds

By **NORMA K. DARRAGH**

"The best and the brightest always have opportunities," observes Barnet Phillips, IV, a member of Saint Paul Parish in Greenwich and co-founder of Shepherds, Inc. "They can get themselves through high school and into college. We wanted to help kids who are at risk, who are not necessarily reading or doing math at grade level."

Founded in 1998 by Phillips



**MARK TEIXEIRA**

and Brendan Fisk, Shepherds is currently celebrating its fifteenth anniversary. Phillips believes that the original premise still stands. "It's about helping one kid at a time, getting them through school and on to a productive life."

On October 10, Shepherds will celebrate the accomplishments of their first fifteen years and the promise of the next at the Woodway Country Club in Darien. Mark Teixeira, first baseman for the NY Yankees, will be teaming with Shepherds that evening as their featured speaker.

A member of the 2009 World Series Championship team, Teixeira has earned five Gold Glove and three Silver Slugger Awards and, among other accolades, holds the all-time major league record for most games with home runs from both sides of the plate. Teixeira, a parishioner at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Greenwich, is an active board member of NYC based charity Harlem RBI. He is a staunch advocate of providing educational opportunities for young people in underserved communities, sharing Shepherds' belief that education is the key to

lifelong success.

Dave Price, five-time Emmy Award TV weather and news anchor will be the Master of Ceremonies.

In honor of this occasion and in recognition of dedication and service, Shepherds will present the Founder's Award to Bill Mitchell, a member of St. Luke Parish in Westport, and David R. Smith of St. Francis of Assisi in Weston, both of whom have made a marked impact not only on the lives of the individual students they mentored but on Shepherds' capacity to impact others.

From five students at Kolbe-Cathedral High School, the pilot school in Bridgeport, Shepherds has offered hope and a brighter future to more than 260 students from Bridgeport, Danbury, Middletown, New Haven, Norwalk and Stamford. 179 students have graduated, 90%+ of whom pursued higher education. This fall, the program will have 90 students.

Shepherds reaches out to at-risk youth who suffer from inadequate financial and familial resources. Coming from a myriad of ethnic heritages and religious affiliations, they live in single parent homes, with grandparents or guardians or in foster care. They lack a positive role model. Guidance counselors fear that they will "fall through the cracks" in an inner-city public school where dropout rates soar as high as 44.6%, making poor decisions with lifelong consequences. Integral to the success of the program are the sponsors, who pay all or part of the student's four-year tuition, and mentors who provide individual guidance and direction over the four-year journey.

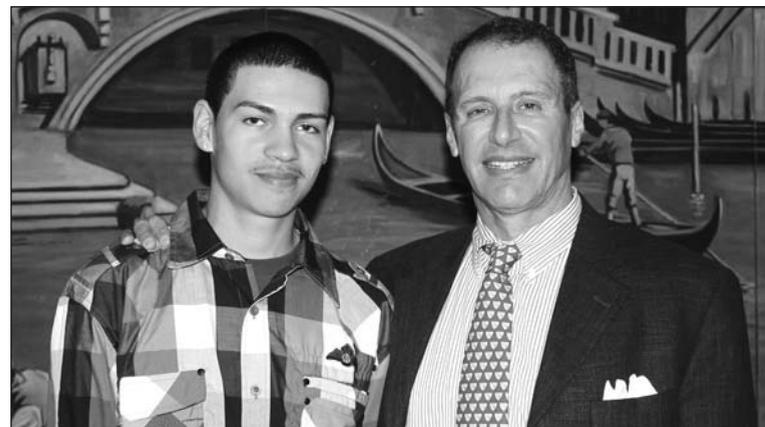
"Becoming a sponsor and mentor is not an insignificant commitment, but it's well worth it," says Brendan Fisk, who is a member of Saint Pius X Parish in Fairfield. "It speaks to a person's heart—to reach an inner-city kid and help them change their life. That's the premise Shepherds is based on."

When Fisk met "his" student, Jabar, one of the inaugural five at Kolbe, Jabar was a ward of the state. Today, he is a St. John's University graduate working

for a major financial institution in Manhattan. Jabar is joined by four other alumni who have returned to their alma maters as mentors so that students can follow in their footsteps.

Despite formidable challenges, Shepherds students have their aspirations. Jonathan, Phillip's current student, says that he "wants to become an architect so I can build a house for my Mom, who has sacrificed so much for me." Alex is adamant that "I do not want where I come from to determine who I will become. I can do great things." TJ shares that "My dad always said that I would never make anything of myself, so I want to prove that I can achieve goals, work hard and succeed in life."

One of the dreams they never



**BARNEY PHILLIPS** (right) with his student, Jonathan, a senior at Kolbe.

expected to become a reality will come true as they meet Mark Teixeira in person on October 10. Teixeira, along with Fisk and Phillips, share a common goal: "It's all about helping kids like

these."

(Shepherds is hosting a Fifteenth Anniversary Founder's Dinner on October 10 to raise funds for the program. For details, see the advertisement on page 21.)



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- ▶ *Now, because .....* you are under normal emotional circumstances.
- ▶ *Now, because .....* you can purchase memorial property out of current income.
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## Obituaries

# Fr. Daniel Jensen, MM, 77, Deacon Bill Maryknoll missionary Rowe died at 83

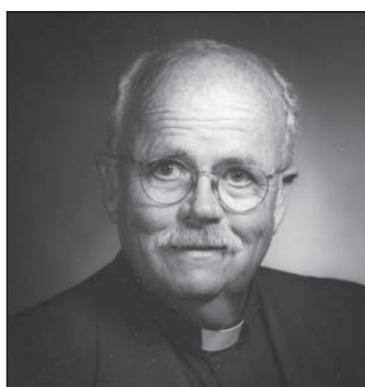
MARYKNOLL, NY—Fr. Daniel Jensen, M.M., a native of Greenwich, died on July 14. He was 77 years old and a Maryknoll priest for 51 years.

Daniel Jensen was born in Greenwich on September 26, 1935. He attended St. Catherine of Siena Grammar School in Riverside and after graduating from Fairfield Prep he entered Maryknoll at the Junior Seminary (Venard) in Clarks Summit, PA. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Maryknoll College, Glen Ellyn, IL, and a master's in religious educa-

tion from Maryknoll Seminary, Ossining, NY.

After ordination on June 9, 1962, Father Jensen was assigned to Guatemala, where he served as assistant in the Parish of San Miguel Acatán in the Diocese of Huehuetenango. In 1965, he was transferred to the Parish of Santa Eulalia, where he served as pastor for six years. It was during this time that he completed linguistic and anthropological studies of the K'anjobal people.

Appointed co-director of the Centro Apostólico for training lay leaders, Fr. Jensen traveled



throughout Latin America conducting courses for catechists.

It was a dangerous time for

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

DARIEN—Deacon William Rowe passed away on August 10 at Stamford Hospital. He was 83 years old. Born on February 12, 1930 in New York City, he was a life-long parishioner of St. John Parish in Darien.

He was ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Bridgeport in 1981, and faithfully served the years of his diaconate at St. John's.

"During the difficult years at St. John's he was a calming influence, reassuring parishioners that God would

take care of them," says Deacon Anthony Detje, director of deacons for the diocese. "Parishioners were extremely grateful for his steady, comforting presence."

Deacon Rowe attended Darien schools, graduating from Darien High School in 1948. He graduated from Cooper Union in New York City and served with the U. S. Army in Korea with the Fifth Regimental Combat Team. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal (with two bronze service stars), the United Nations

Service medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

A retired carpenter with Carpenter Union Local 210, he was an active supporter of the Darien Little League, serving as president for 10 years. He was also instrumental in getting the Pony League field built at Baker Field.

He is survived by his beloved wife Mildred; two sons, William and his wife, Catherine, and James and his wife, Bella; and five grandchildren. He

is also survived by one brother, Walter, of Stamford. He was predeceased by his brother James.

Deacon Rowe was received into St. John's Church for a wake the afternoon of August 15. Fr. Frank McGrath, pastor of St. John's, celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial the following morning and delivered the homily. Burial followed at Spring Grove Cemetery, Darien.

The family requested that memorial donations be made to Catholic Charities, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606. ■



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### DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT AUGUST 25—OCTOBER 12

AUGUST	YEAR
26 Lawrence Cardinal Shehan.....	1984
28 Rev. Vincent E. Finn.....	1958
Rev. Edmund C. O'Connell.....	1973
29 Deacon Ramon Isidro.....	2006
Rev. Joseph Linck.....	2008
SEPTEMBER	YEAR
2 Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Franckus.....	2000
3 Rev. Msgr. John F. X. Walsh.....	1967
Rev. Msgr. Thomas F. Henahan.....	1998
5 Rev. John E. Fay.....	1954
6 Rev. Laurence F. Flanagan.....	1985
9 Rev. Richard Monahan.....	2010
12 Rev. Frank D. Yoia.....	1974
15 Rev. Joseph V. Rossitto.....	2004
16 Rev. William J. Conklin.....	1992
17 Rev. John A. Sullivan.....	1953
Rev. Robert L. Christopher.....	1958
18 Rev. Msgr. Normand A. Methe.....	2002
20 Rev. Joseph J. Maglione.....	2003
Msgr. Edward B. Karl.....	2009
23 Rev. Frederick H. Olschefske.....	1956
Rev. Msgr. Edmund J. Hussey.....	1991
28 Rev. Edward A. Morgan.....	1992
OCTOBER	YEAR
3 Msgr. John H. Anderson.....	1967
5 Msgr. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M. Conv.....	1960

## Obituaries

## Fr. Edwin Coyne, 84

MILFORD—Edwin J. Coyne died on July 12 at Milford Health Care. He was 84 years old. He will be remembered by many for his commitment to the poor, recent immigrants and those suffering from addiction. Even during his retirement, he celebrated Christmas Mass every year at the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport.

“He had a saying: ‘I don’t take anybody’s inventory,’” says Msgr. Richard Shea, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, who knew Fr. Coyne well. “He took people as they were—no strings attached. He was one-of-a-kind in the best sense of the word.”

Born in Yonkers, NY, on

=====*FR. JENSEN*  
FROM PAGE 26====

missionaries in that area. In 1981, when violence forced the closure of the religious center and parish where he was serving, Fr. Jensen was reassigned temporarily to the United States.

Returning to Latin America in 1985, Fr. Jensen was assigned to a refugee camp in Campeche, Mexico, for Guatemalans who had fled military persecution in their own country. He then moved to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to serve as director of continuing education for Maryknoll missionaries in Latin America.

From 1990-97, Fr. Jensen served in various positions in the United States, including formation/education and communications as assistant editor for Maryknoll magazine, and was active with the Maryknoll AIDS Task Force. In 1998 he was appointed director of the Maryknoll Residence retirement facility in Los Altos, CA, a position he held until he retired in 2003.

Fr. Jensen is survived by his brother, Dr. Charles Jensen and his wife Rachel, who are members of St. Catherine of Siena in Riverside and his stepbrother George Heath and his wife of Southbury.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for Fr. Jensen on July 19 in the Queen of Apostles Chapel at Maryknoll Center in Ossining, followed by burial in Maryknoll Society Cemetery. ■

March 10, 1929, the young Ed Coyne entered the U.S. Army after his graduation from Commerce High School and served in Panama. Following his military service, he entered the seminary in 1954 and finished his studies at Mt. St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 26, 1962, in St. Augustine Cathedral by the Bishop Walter W. Curtis.

His first assignment was as parochial vicar at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown. He was a chaplain at the then-Fairfield Hills Hospital and a teacher on the first faculty of Immaculate High School in Danbury.

Fr. Coyne filled a variety of assignments over the following years. Feeling a call to serve in the growing diocesan apostolate to the Spanish-speaking, he went to language school at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico in Ponce. He then was assigned to St. Mary’s Parish in Bridgeport, where he engaged in many inner-city ministries, especially social service and youth programs. He was a “store-front priest” in Fr. Panik Village, always working among the poor, during that

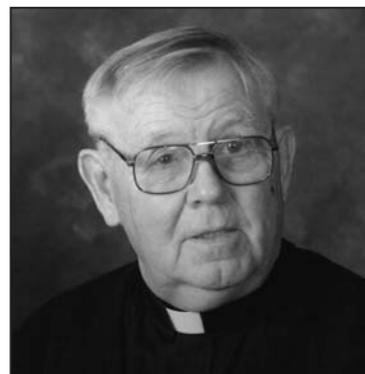
area’s height as the largest housing project in the state.

After completing four years there, he volunteered to participate in the diocesan missions in Santa Cruz and Chiclayo, Peru. Returning to the diocese in late 1970, he assumed the responsibility of the Spanish-speaking community in Stamford, where he was the pastor at Our Lady of Montserrat. In 1974, he was transferred to St. Peter Parish in Danbury where, as director of the Diocesan Spanish-Speaking Apostolate, he helped establish a strong Hispanic Catholic community in the Danbury area.

In March of 1975, he became the chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury and remained there until November of 1981, while in residence at St. Edward the Confessor Parish in New Fairfield.

He returned to parish work at St. Maurice Parish in Stamford and, in 1982, he became the pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Bridgeport. Crippling arthritis forced him to resign that position in April of 1986, and he went to St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton.

In 1984 he had become



a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor in the State of Connecticut, and at that time he was the only Roman Catholic Priest certified in both drugs and alcohol counseling in the State; his work was so dedicated that he was honored with the title of Emeritus in the field of substance abuse. He identified with recovering people through Programs of Recovery and to the end was a very proud member of a well-known one.

The highlight of this involvement was an invitation to attend an International Convention on Alcoholism in 1990 in the Soviet Union. At that event, he was honored to give a talk on spirituality in Moscow.

In 1989 he became chaplain

at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull. “I hired him,” recalls Msgr. Shea, who was principal of St. Joseph’s at the time. “He had a great love for people. He’d greet the students at the door, kid with them and tease them, and he was there for them when they needed him. Because he had struggled with real issues himself, he could identify their needs. He made a huge difference in the lives of many St. Joe’s students.”

Fr. Coyne remained at St. Joseph’s until 1996, with a residence at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. After his retirement he continued assisting at parishes throughout the area. “He didn’t disappear when he retired. He was still out there, helping people in so many ways,” says Msgr. Shea.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Fr. Coyne on July 20 at St. Mary Church in Milford. Msgr. Kevin Royal, director of clergy personnel for the Diocese of Bridgeport, was the principal celebrant. Fr. Coyne’s good friend, Fr. Leonard Kvedas, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Beacon Falls, gave the homily. Full military honors followed; burial was private. ■

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## Column



## Third Grade Apologetics

## CATHOLIC BY GRACE

BY DENISE BOSSERT

*Denise Bossert, a convert to the Catholic faith, has been published by 46 diocesan papers.*

It was the 1970s and New Math was everywhere. Mrs. Veninge paired me up with a student who didn't like me at all. Our task? To draw a straight line that was five inches long. We opened our desks, grabbed our rulers, and sharpened our pencils.

I looked at the blank piece of paper and decided to draw a vertical line. Even in third grade, I was determined to be a bit different from everybody else.

Norma looked at my line and informed me, "That's not a line."

"Of course it is." I said to the critic seated next to me.

"No. A line goes like this." She took another piece of paper and drew a five-inch horizontal line.

I grabbed my paper and walked straight over to Mrs. Veninge. In a spirit of indignation, I presented my case to the teacher. "Mrs. Veninge, Norma says that my line isn't a line. She thinks a line has to go this way!" I drew an imaginary horizontal line in the air. "But a line can go any way you want it to go. Can't it?"

Mrs. Veninge didn't say anything.

"Can you come over to our desks and tell Norma that my line is right, too!" My teacher just sat there for a moment.

"Why don't you go over there and find a way to show Norma that a line can be horizontal or vertical?"

I wasn't happy with my

teacher. She was supposed to take my side. I was right, and I knew it. Why couldn't she just come over and set Norma straight (no pun intended)? A line is a line is a line! What good was a teacher if she wouldn't vindicate you in front of your peers?

I shuffled my feet back to Norma. She had a really irritating smile on her face that said, "See! If you were right, Mrs. Veninge would say so!"

I sat in my chair and thought hard. How do you get through to a kid who has no respect for you? How do you get her to listen and take you seriously?

"Okay, Norma. Draw another line." Norma took another blank piece of paper and proudly drew a second horizontal line.

"Great." I said. "That's a perfect line."

Norma smiled.

Then, I reached over and laid the palm of my hand on the center of her paper. I rotated everything 90 degrees so that the line was now vertical.

"And it's still a line now," I said.

Norma stared at her paper as a light bulb turned on, and a new schema took shape in her previously closed mind. "Oh." Finally,

she understood. Relief replaced my frustration.

Sometimes, I want priests or bishops to just stand up and tell it like it is. "Come on over to the fullness of the Christian faith. No other Church is 2000 years old! History affirms who we are and what we are. This is the Church Jesus Christ founded. So why not reconsider what the Church has always taught..."

"Norma stared at her paper as a light bulb turned on, and a new schema took shape in her previously closed mind. 'Oh.' Finally, she understood."

...about the Eucharist.

...about the New Ark of the Covenant.

...about what the Communion of Saints means.

...about what the Early Church Fathers taught.

...about Our Lord's High Priestly Prayer for unity.

...about heaven touching down in the Mass.

...about holiness and grace and mercy and true social justice.

Why don't they just have one big come-to-Jesus-talk with the Normas of the world?

Here's why...

I'm the one sitting by Norma. God gave me a brain and a mouth and a passion for Truth. He wants me to learn a few lessons about getting along with Norma. He wants me to talk to her and show her the Good News. He wants me to be the Good News.

There's no easy path to apologetics. It requires tenacity. It takes a lot of ingenuity. You

have to want to help Norma along—not beat her over the head with it.

Sometimes, all Norma needs is a 90 degree re-orientation to the whole thing.

And the floodlights turn on, revealing a Church that has stood the

test of time. A Church that goes all the way back to Jesus and St. Peter. The Church that has been empowered and sustained by the Holy Spirit since that first Pentecost. With a little ingenuity and a whole lot of grace, a new schema is born in the hearts and minds of those around us. And Norma is left uttering a breathless, "Amen."

How do I know this? I was once a Norma, too. And many Catholic writers, speakers, and parishioners have shown me what a 90° reorientation can do. Thanks be to God!

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# Column



## POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

An essential voice in our lives is the cheerleader. Cheerleaders help us to see the positive truth about ourselves and the potential we have in the future. They are the voices that make us feel special, prompt us to perfect our capacities.

We probably only realize our identity when others affirm it and build it up for us. Behind all of us stand those who encouraged our interests, gave us authentic feedback. There were the people who loved and encouraged the young boy I once was, the ones that watched from early on and cheered, "like my own little grandstand," as John Updike put it. They made me feel precious and unique and chosen.

I think of the various people in my life who were generous with praise and practical encouragement. They will never know all they did for me. There were certain teachers and coaches whose perceptions about me nourished me through the years. They augmented my life. Without them I do not know where I would be today. They passed into my life and lighted it up. I see them as instruments of God's grace.

A few words and small gestures of praise and recognition deeply affect us as children; they reverberate through our lives, become internalized.

What I'm talking about has nothing to do with the newly fashionable self-esteem curriculum in schools and sports wherein kids are taught to feel good about themselves even though they do badly. It's easy to confuse feeling good with doing well. Self-esteem comes through bone-fide achievement. Today, there seems to be an explosion of rewards, gold stars, and happy-face stickers for the most routine accomplishments. Children get

"I Am Special" buttons for doing nothing special. I know some twelve-year-old kids who can hardly walk across a room without falling and yet their rooms are cluttered with sports trophies

"A few words of praise deeply affect us as children."

and honors. It seems they get awards for just showing up.

This type of feel-good fare usually features some cheerleaders-on-uppers. Having been raised on gold stars and smiley faces, children learn that they can get by without

hard work. Self-esteem arises from a genuine sense of achievement. Self-esteem depends on hard work. There's nothing for nothing.

What I'm talking about involves people who give realistic recognition and encouragement, who identify and nurture someone's strongest qualities, what they are best at, and encourage them to live out those strengths. Being affirmed gives assurance, confidence and motivation.

Talent accompanied by hard work produces excellence. We often say of someone who does something in an excellent manner "she has a gift." It is a gift with hard labor attached. Talented people praise God by the excellence of their work.

Charity calls for taking on the cheerleader role, for catching favorable moments to say good words to others, being generous in recognizing others, seeing the light wherever it shines. To recognize and nurture gifts, to affirm people's talents, encourage the kind of determination needed for excellence is one of the most gracious acts we can perform, and one of the most valuable; indeed, one of the most Godlike.



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# SAINTLY LIVES BY ED WALDRON

*Blessed Augustine*  
*Thevarparampil*



b. 1891 ~ d. 1973

**FATHER AUGUSTINE SERVED AS AN ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST FOR 47 YEARS AT ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH IN RAMAPURAM, INDIA. NOT EVEN 5 FEET TALL, HE WAS NEVER KNOWN TO BE A GIFTED ORATOR, NOR AN ADEPT THEOLOGIAN, BUT HIS LOVE FOR GOD AND UNWAIVERING FAITH LED HIM TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS.**



**HE REACHED OUT TO THEM WITH LOVE, HUMILITY AND COMPASSION BY VISITING THEM DAILY IN THE FIELDS AND IN THEIR HOMES. HE WAS SUBJECTED TO HARSH CRITICISM BY MEMBERS OF THE FORWARD CASTES AND EVEN FROM AUSTERE CHRISTIANS.**



**DURING A RETREAT AT HIS PARISH FOR NEARLY 200 DALITS, THE HINDU LOWER CASTE, HE DECIDED TO FOCUS HIS LIFE'S LABOR CONVERTING AND DIRECTING THE SOULS OF THE "UNTOUCHABLES."**



**FATHER AUGUSTINE CALLED THEM "MY CHILDREN" AND THEY, IN TURN, AFFECTIONATELY REFERRED TO HIM AS "KUNJACHAN", WHICH MEANS, LITTLE PRIEST. IN HIS LIFETIME, KUNJACHAN BAPTIZED OVER 5,000 DALITS, WELCOMING THEM INTO THE ARMS OF THE CHURCH.**



# Bits & Pieces

**ADULT FORMATION:** the study of the *United States Catholic Catechism* for Adults resumes Fri., **Sept. 6**, at 10:30 am at the Catholic Center, Bridgeport. For more information, contact Gina Donnarummo: gdonnarummo@diobpt.org or 203.416.1446.

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY** will begin at Our Lady of Peace Parish in the Lordship area of Stratford on Wed., **Sept. 4**, from 7-8:30 pm. This is a 10-week program; meetings will take place the first and third Wed. of each month. Registration required. For more information or to register, call the parish office: 203.377.4863, ext.10.

**MASSES OF HEALING AND HOPE** sponsored by the Charismatic Renewal Office will be offered at St. Marguerite Parish, Brookfield, on Wed., **Sept. 4**, at 7 pm; Mon., **Sept. 16**, at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, at 7:30 pm with Fr. Bob Kwiatkowski; and Mon., **Sept. 23**, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Fr. Larry Carew. For more information, call 203.268.8253.

**ALUMNI 5K RUN** will be held at St. Joseph High School, Trumbull, on Sat., **Sept. 7**, at 10:30 am; Kid's Fun Run at 10 am. Registration fee \$20 includes an Alumni Run T-shirt and refreshments. Register online at

the Alumni Run web page: www.sjcadets.org/run.

**GIANT TAG SALE** will be held at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Stratford, the weekend of **Sept. 6-8**: Fri., 5-8 pm; Sat., 9 am-3 pm; and Sun., 10 am-12:30 pm. For more information, contact MaryAnn Wells: 203.375.2836 or 203.375.5290.

**50 YEARS OF FAITH:** the opening Mass for the 50th anniversary of St. Michael Parish, Greenwich, will take place Sun., **Sept. 8**, at 12 noon. Garden reception to follow. For more information, call the parish: 203.869.5421 or visit www.stmichaelgreenwich.com.

**WOMEN'S GROUP** at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, will open the fall season on Mon., **Sept. 9**, at 10 am with a lively presentation on the life challenges faced by Scarlett O'Hara, heroine of the classic American novel, *Gone with the Wind*. For more information, call 203.261.8020.

**CURSILLO ULTREYAS** are held around the diocese: Mon., **Sept. 9**, at St. James Parish, Stratford, 7 pm; Mon., **Sept. 16**, at St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Stamford, at 7:30 pm; Thurs., **Sept. 19**, at St. Mary Parish, Bethel, at 7:30 pm. For more information, contact Jeanette at jkovacs@snet.net.

**LEARN AMERICAN SIGN**

**LANGUAGE (ASL):** this 8-week course offered on either Mon./Wed./Thurs. beginning **Sept. 9, 11 & 12** (choose one). Cost: \$140, proceeds go to support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community of the Valley. For more information or to register, contact Fr. Nick Pavia: 203.895.3979 padrepavia@msn.com.

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY**, a 10-session program held over nine months, will begin at St. Jude Parish, Monroe, on Wed., **Sept. 11**, from 2:30-4 pm. Sessions will be held twice a month thru Nov. and then once a month, concluding in May of 2014. Registration required. For more information or to register, call the parish: 203.261.6404.

**SEPTEMBERFEST** will take place at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield, the weekend of **Sept. 13-15**. Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. 1-11 pm; Sun. 1-6 pm. For more information, call 203.333.9065 or go to www.assumptionfairfield.org.

**TWO HOLY HOURS** will be sponsored by The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport: Thurs., **Sept. 12**, at St. Patrick Church from 7-8 pm and Thurs., **Oct. 10**, at St. Augustine Cathedral from 7-8 pm. For more information, call St. Patrick's parish office: 203.368.6777.

**"LIFE AND THE**



## HOLY APOSTLES COLLEGE AND SEMINARY TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Holy Apostles College and Seminary will participate in the National Day of Remembrance on Sat., **Sept. 14**, beginning at 1:30 pm. This event will be held on their Cromwell campus at the site of Adam's Tomb and is open to the public.

The National Day of Remembrance (AbortionMemorials.com) is an effort of prayer and education focused on the approximately thirty locations throughout the United States in which the bodies of children killed by abortion are buried. By telling the stories of these burials and having memorial services at each of these sites, the public is brought to a deeper awareness of the humanity of the unborn and the inhumanity of abortion. This occasion can lead those who have lost children to abortion to a greater measure of healing. (For more information, contact Very Rev. Douglas L. Mosey, CSB: 860.632.3010.)

**TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS,"** a day retreat sponsored by the pro-life group at St. Joseph Parish in Shelton, will take place Sat., **Sept. 14**, at Enders Island, Mystic. Registration: 8:15 am; Mass at 9 am. Cost: \$50; includes lunch. For reservation or for more information, call 203.378.1859.

**"ENCOUNTERING THE**

**WORD MADE FLESH,"** a one-day retreat for anyone involved in lay ministry (lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, youth leaders, catechists, choir members), will be held at St. Ann Parish, Bridgeport, on Sat., **Sept. 14**, from 10 am-4 pm. Future retreats are planned. Cost: \$45; includes lunch. For more information or to register, call the parish: 203.368.1607 or go to www.StAnnBlackRock.com.

**JOURNEY OF HOPE**, a support group for divorced or separated Catholics, will begin on Sat., **Sept. 14**, at Holy Family Parish in Fairfield. For more information, call the parish: 203.336.1835.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT** for St. Joseph School in Shelton will be held on Sun., **Sept. 15**. For more information, call 203.924.4669 or visit www.stjosephshelton.org.

**TRIP TO SEE "WHITE CHRISTMAS"** at the Westchester Broadway Theatre will be sponsored by the St. Theresa, Trumbull, Seniors on Thurs., **Nov. 14**. Cost: \$90; includes lunch. Reservation and payment due by Tues., **Sept. 17**. For more information and for reservations call Kathy: 203.268.8256.

**MISSIONARY IMAGE** of Our Lady of Guadalupe will visit St. Joseph Parish, Shelton, on Fri., **Sept. 13**. Mass at 6:50 am, devotion, and prayer at Summit Women's Center in Bridgeport.

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# Bits & Pieces

For more information, call Fr. Augustine Nguyen: 203.924.8611.

**BIBLE STUDY:** "Galatians: Set Free to Live" will begin at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, Fri., **Sept. 20**, from 9-10:45 am. For more information and to reserve a study folder, call Marian: 203.268.8791 or Liz: 203.268.8695 or email [ctkparish@aol.com](mailto:ctkparish@aol.com).

**RISE AND WALK FOUNDATION** will hold its annual gala at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull on Sat., **Sept. 21**, from 6 pm-midnight. Dinner, dancing, and silent auction. The gala benefits needy children in Bogotá Colombia. Tickets: \$75; \$500 for a table of eight. For more information, call Ellen Nardelli: 203.372.7478

**MOTOWN CONCERT** to benefit the Cardinal Sheehan Center will take place Sat., **Sept. 21**, at the Bijou Theater, Bridgeport. Pre-party begins at 7 pm, concert at 8 pm. Tickets \$35. For more information, call 203.336.4468 or go to [www.shehancenter.org](http://www.shehancenter.org).

**FIND YOUR TREASURES** at a giant tag sale at Queen of the Clergy Retired Priests Residence, Stamford, on Sat., **Sept. 21**, from 9 am-3 pm. For more information call 203.358.9906

**"THE SICILIAN TENORS"** a concert to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Sacred Heart

Parish, Stamford, will be held Sun., **Sept. 22**, at 4 pm. Donation: \$75. For more information and for tickets, call 203.324.9544.

**ST. THERESA'S SENIORS TRIP** to Grand Oak Villa to hear Performer Vincent Talarico will take place Tues., **Sept. 24**. Cost: \$77; includes family style lunch with wine. For reservations call Kathy: 203.268.8256.

**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING** series will begin at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, on Fri., **Sept. 27**, and continue on **Oct. 25** and **Nov. 22**. All classes run from 7-9 pm. It takes the full series of 3 classes to learn the method. For more information, contact Adrienne and Al Keogler at [a.keogler@att.net](mailto:a.keogler@att.net). To register, visit the Couple to Couple League International: [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org).

**8th GRADE CAR WASH** at St. Joseph School, Shelton, will be held on Sun., **Sept. 29**. Get your car cleaned and help our youth at the same time! For more information, go to [www.stjosephshelton.org](http://www.stjosephshelton.org).

**BIBLE STUDY** at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside, will focus on the Book of Revelation. Choose a morning or an evening session. Sessions run Mon. evenings, **Sept. 30-Nov. 18**, from 7:30-9 pm; or Tues mornings, **Oct. 1-Nov. 19**, from

10-11:30 am. There is a \$20 materials fee. For more information or for reservations, call 203.637.3661.

**GOLF OUTING** to benefit St. John Fisher Seminary will take place Mon., **Sept. 30**, at the Brooklawn Country Club, 500 Algonquin Rd., Fairfield. 18 holes golf including cart, lunch, cocktail hour, dinner, prizes & live auction. For more information, contact Allison McCarthy: 203.322.5331 or [amccarthy@diobpt.org](mailto:amccarthy@diobpt.org).

**MAGNIFICAT DAY PILGRIMAGE** sponsored by the Ministry for Adult Formation will take place the weekend of **Nov. 8-10**. The pilgrimage will include a visit to four Shrines in the Philadelphia area. The speakers at Magnificat Day will be Fr. Robert Barron and Fr. Peter Cameron. Registration deadline is Tues., **Oct. 1**. For more information and to register, contact Gina Donnarummo: [gdonnarummo@diobpt.org](mailto:gdonnarummo@diobpt.org) or 203.416.1446.

**VENDORS AND CRAFTERS NEEDED** for a Giant Tag Sale at St. Mary Parish, Stamford, Sat., **Oct. 19**, from 9 am-4 pm. Registration deadline is Tues., **Oct. 1**. For more information contact Sharon MacKnight: 203.327.1806 or [smacknight@optonline.net](mailto:smacknight@optonline.net).

**MORNING GLORY** Walkathon will be held Sat., **Oct. 5**, from 11 am-3 pm at Meckauer Park, Bethel, rain or shine. For tickets or information go to [www.ccfairfield.org](http://www.ccfairfield.org)

**RESPECT LIFE MASS** will be held at St. Joseph Church, Shelton, on Sun., **Oct. 6**, at 10:30 am. For more information, contact Maureen Ciardiello: 203.416.1445, [mciardiello@diobpt.org](mailto:mciardiello@diobpt.org) or [respectlife@diobpt.org](mailto:respectlife@diobpt.org).

**LOOK GOOD FEEL BETTER** Program for women undergoing radiation and/or chemotherapy treatment will be held at St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport, on Thurs., **Oct. 10**, from 1-3 pm. Reservations required; lunch provided. For more information and for reservations, call 203.576.6158.

**"SHRED DAY"** will be held at St. Ann Parish, Bridgeport, on Sat., **Oct. 19**, from 9 am-12 noon. Bring your documents in file boxes or bags to be destroyed and recycled on location. Cost: \$25 for the first three boxes, \$5 for each additional box. No need to separate staples, paper clips, spiral notebooks or binders. For more information, call 203.368.1607.

**PRO-LIFE SPEAKER** Dolores Grier, former vice chancellor of community relations for the Archdiocese of New York and founder of the Association of Black Catholics Against Abortion, will speak on "Abortion: How It Effects the Baby, the Mother and You" on Sun., **Oct. 20**, from 2-4 pm at St. Joseph Parish, Shelton. For more information, call Fr. Augustine Nguyen: 203.924.8611.

**NOVENA TO SAINT JUDE** will be held at St. Jude Parish, Monroe, starting Sun., **Oct. 20**, and concluding Mon., **Oct. 28**. Sun.-Fri. novena Masses are at 7:30 pm. Coffee and fellowship follow Mass. On Sat., **Oct. 26**, the novena prayers will be after the 5:30 pm Mass.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND** with Fr. Alfonso Picone, rector of St. Margaret's Shrine, Bridgeport, will take place **Oct. 21-30**. For more information and for reservations, call Fr. Picone: 203.333.3161, or Pia Ramadanovic: 203.378.5408.

**TRIP TO SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY** will be sponsored by St. Michael Parish, Greenwich,

**Oct. 24-Nov. 4**. For more information, contact Mary Ellen Tiernan: 203.869.4000 ext. 167.

**CT CATHOLIC MENS CONFERENCE** will be held Sat., **Oct. 26**, from 8:30 am-5 pm at Goodwin College, 1 Riverside Dr., East Hartford. Don't miss this time of fellowship, hope and inspiration. For more information or for tickets, call 860.739.4607 or go to [www.ctcatholicmen.org](http://www.ctcatholicmen.org).

**"CHANTICLEER,"** the Grammy Award winning men's ensemble, with perform in concert at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside, on Sat., **Oct. 26**, at 8 pm. Cost of tickets: \$50 or \$35. For more information or for tickets, call 203.637.3661 or go to [www.stcath.org](http://www.stcath.org).

**WINE AND FOOD TASTING FESTIVAL** will take place St. Gregory the Great Parish, Danbury on Sun., **Oct. 27**, from 6-8 pm. In addition to wines, there will be food samples from local restaurants and bakeries. Proceeds will stay in the community. Cost \$20 prepaid; \$25 at the door. For more information or for tickets, call Diana: 203.792.6750. ■

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