

THE CATHOLIC ADVOCATE

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Reshaping and reopening our Catholic schools

By Christine Lombardo

It's safe to say that the start of the new school year will look much different from years past. For Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of Newark, there will be new protocols, safety measures and guidelines for in-person learning as well as options for remote instruction. Reshaping and reopening plans have not been taken lightly. For some, it even means new schools.

The Office of Schools of the Archdiocese of Newark announced in early August that five elementary schools, sadly, will not reopen this fall and three elementary schools will consolidate with nearby school communities.

Noting that funding resources for Catholic schools in the archdiocese were critically reduced since the outbreak of COVID-19 and that paid registrations for the 2020-2021 academic year are dramatically reduced, the Schools Office and archdiocesan Finance Office agreed the current status of some schools is unsustainable. Consequently, they presented recommendations to Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., archbishop of Newark, who approved the closures of the following schools:

- Transfiguration Academy, Bergenfield
- St. Joseph Academy, Bogota
- The Academy of St. Mary, Rutherford
- St. Francis Xavier, Newark
- Ironbound Catholic Academy, Newark

The following school communities will consolidate:

- St. Joseph of the Palisades, West New York, will welcome the school communities of Mother Seton in Union City and St. Augustine School in Union City to their campus.



Father Bryan Page measures and tapes off desks at Our Lady of Czestochowa School in Jersey City to ensure proper social distancing.

Photo courtesy of Our Lady of Czestochowa School

- St. Joseph the Carpenter, Roselle, will welcome Our Lady of Guadalupe in Elizabeth to their campus.

"I recognize that this news is profoundly painful for our students and their families, teachers and principals, school communities, and those who support Catholic education, as well as for our archdiocesan community. I extend my prayers and support to all those affected," Cardinal Tobin said in a statement. "Our schools represent

communities that offer vital faith formation for children. The difficult decision to further consolidate our Catholic schools follows considerable discussion and examination of their viability under the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Education remains a crucial element in the life and mission of this archdiocese."

The commitment to education can be seen in the creative ways in which school communities rose to the challenge of dis-

tance learning from March through June, and now, the carefully thought out plans allowing them to welcome students back in September. While the plans vary from school to school based on their particular needs, here's a look at how some of our Catholic elementary schools will be reopening.

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Catholic schools

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OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA SCHOOL, JERSEY CITY

A vibrant school in the downtown, waterfront area of Jersey City, Our Lady of Czestochowa switched into planning mode for the upcoming academic year immediately upon closing out the last year. This involved weekly meetings of the Safety Committee, which early on focused on procuring cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment and determining a range of procedures that would likely be necessitated by order of the governor. In response to social distancing recommendations, OLC will operate at half capacity, with students assigned to two cohorts, each of which will attend school on alternating weeks. Students and staff will use designated school entrances where they will have their temperatures checked, and signs have been posted throughout the school to encourage healthy hygiene. While students will eat lunch in their classrooms, a modified recess will be provided for all students to safely encourage social interaction with peers.

Interim Principal Thomas Keating said they have been regularly surveying both the parents and staff about its plans. He reported 64 percent of students have opted for in-person learning, while 36 percent have chosen the fully remote option.

Despite the changes in daily life at OLC, Keating is confident his community will lean on its Catholic identity to pull through these unusual times. "Our Catholic values are needed now more than ever, and our incredible school community will continue to work together as a team," he said. "My motto this summer has been: 'I in no way look forward to the challenges we'll face this year, but I am grateful for the people I'll face them with.' When faced with a challenge, exceptional people find a way to rise to the occasion, and we're lucky to have such exceptional people here. Together we can do this."

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL, WESTFIELD

With families mixed on how they feel about returning to school, Holy Trinity has opted to offer a variety of options to

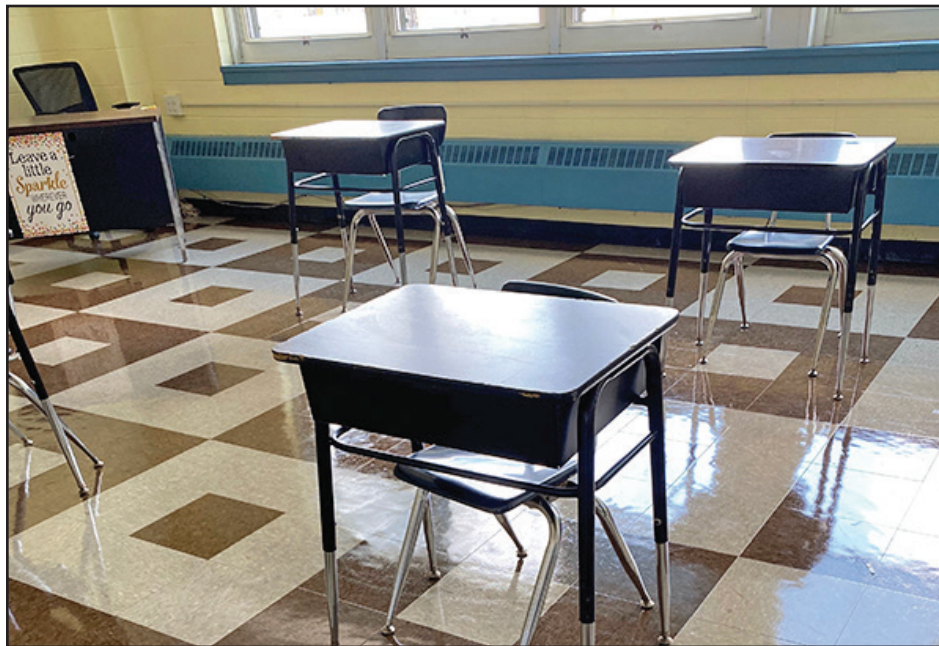


Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Academy

Desks spaced 6 feet apart in a classroom at Notre Dame Academy, Palisades Park.

accommodate parents' personal preferences. Parents will be able to select full-day in-person instruction, remote full-day instruction or a combination of in-person and remote instruction via lessons streamed live from the classroom.

For those who will be physically reporting to the building, there will be designated entrances to prevent crowding as temperature checks are conducted. Desks in classrooms have been rearranged to encourage social distancing with sneeze guards and plexiglass partitions in place as needed. The instructional schedule has also been adjusted to minimize movement between student groups. Face masks will be required in the building.

Principal Dr. Adele Ellis recognizes that, unfortunately, some school traditions will not be possible under the current restrictions. "We will not be able to gather together physically as a whole school for our morning prayer. We will be in our individual classrooms, and it will be done over the PA system," she said. "We will also not be able to gather in our Faith Families, which was groups of students from different grade levels working on community projects, nor can we offer our daytime club periods for our middle school students. What will remain the same is the community/family feeling. Our gatherings will be different, but our caring and respect for each other will never change."

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL, BLOOMFIELD

With more than 40,000 square feet of

space, St. Thomas the Apostle School is uniquely able to employ distancing measures to promote the health and safety of its students and staff. Even so, the school is not relying on distancing alone for its reopening plan. Principal Michael Petrillo reported an investment in upgrades to the building's ventilation and HVAC system to ensure a flow of consistently clean air throughout the indoor spaces. Additionally, contactless water bottle filling stations have replaced traditional water fountains, and an EPA-friendly 360-sprayer will be available to sanitize items throughout the school. After the school day, a state-approved cleaning company will sanitize all spaces nightly.

The school has purchased tents to utilize outdoor spaces for learning when the weather permits. Hallways and stairwells will feature signs designating directional flow, temperature checks will be employed, and lunch and recess periods will be staggered to allow students the opportunity to socialize without excessive crowding.

Various instructional formats are being offered, but Petrillo said an early survey of parents indicated 77 percent of families wish their students to return to in-person instruction. In order to best support student learning while minimizing risk exposure, the school has switched to an all-digital format, which will reduce the need to distribute or share supplies in the classroom. Asked of the variables in planning for the coming year, Petrillo remarked, "We understand there are still questions that do

not have answers from the state level, and we are working with our families to maintain a safe and healthy environment regularly for the students, their families and our faculty."

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY, PALISADES PARK

The administration at Notre Dame Academy involved its families and other stakeholders in the decision-making process. Through a series of Zoom calls and a parent survey, Principal Mark Valvano and Vice Principal Eric Reid learned the majority of families wish to return their children to in-person instruction.

In order to safely welcome students back, the administrative team engaged grade-level committees to develop protocols and procedures. Together, they researched the reopening plans of various other districts and schools across the country, while closely adhering to state and CDC guidelines to ensure compliance. Above all, the team at Notre Dame has made sure to balance medical recommendations with students' academic, social-emotional and spiritual needs to ensure all areas are met.

For those in the minority who will opt to learn remotely, Reid said the school has invested heavily in technology upgrades throughout the building. "Every classroom will be outfitted with streaming cameras to provide live instruction to students engaged in remote learning. We now have 1:1 Chromebooks in grades 3 through 8, with additional Chromebook carts and iPads available for students in our elementary and early education programs," he said. "Our teachers did extensive research and found outstanding online programs and apps that we have fully integrated into our curriculum."

"What will remain the same at Notre Dame Academy, like other archdiocesan schools, is providing a rigorous curriculum and educational experience that nurtures the whole child," Reid and Valvano said in a joint statement. "Through faith, compassion and commitment, we are ready for the challenges that lie ahead and the successes to follow."

The archdiocese serves more than 25,000 students throughout 50 elementary schools and 23 secondary schools. To learn more, visit www.catholicschools.nj.org.

Christine Lombardo is the director for school enrollment, communication and marketing.

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Resources and support available for individuals with disabilities and their families

By Kelly Marsicano
Associate Publisher

All people baptized in the Catholic faith are called to full and active participation in the life of the Church, particularly at the parish level.

The Office for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities of the Archdiocese of Newark exists to affirm the baptism of individuals with disabilities and to affirm the promise the Church makes at baptism to support them, along with their parents and families, on their faith journey. The office works with parish leaders and other archdiocesan offices so individuals with disabilities can participate and serve the mission of the Church in ordinary ways.

The archdiocese offers many services and resources through its parishes for individuals with disabilities and their families to feel welcomed and engaged in the life of the Church, from Inclusive Family Masses and catechesis to sacramental preparation, support groups and other communal ac-

tivities and special events. Much is available in the archdiocese's many welcoming parishes.

However, the archdiocese recognizes that more awareness and education is still needed for many clergy, religious and laypeople.

"People do not have 'special needs,' we all have human needs, though some individuals may require more intentionality. But we all have the need for education, love, relationships, opportunities to take risks, participate in community life, employment and worship God," said Anne Masters, the director of Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities. "Within community life, such as the Church, we all desire to be welcomed, noticed, valued, needed, supported, befriended, in short, to feel like we belong. If this can't happen within the body of Christ, where can it?"

This need was recently brought to light when an archdiocesan priest asked a 7-year-old boy with autism to be removed from church while attending his sister's baptism.

The archdiocese has since offered a

heartfelt apology to the family for the "abrupt behavior" the pastor demonstrated. "The pastor was unaware that the sibling playing in a nearby candle room during the ceremony has autism. The pastor did not understand the child's behavior, he felt unprepared to respond appropriately, and his reaction to the situation was not pastoral. He acknowledges and is regretful for the mistake," the archdiocese said in a statement.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., personally reached out to the family to offer words of support and healing. Masters also remains in touch with them and is working with all to come to a pastoral resolution and to ensure there is greater awareness in working with individuals with disabilities and their families.

"It was important to the parents for the situation to become known so that attention could be brought to the need for awareness," Masters said. "Individuals with disabilities and their families often are marginalized both by attitudes and exclusionary practices that don't value or allow for

the diversity within our human family, all of whom are created in the image of God. Pope Francis says, 'The community must not lack the words and, above all, the gestures for encountering and welcoming people with disabilities.'"

Not recognizing this issue can have serious consequences, Masters said. Statistics show children and teens with disabilities are four times more likely to be bullied. For adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), only 28 percent are employed versus 76 percent of people without disabilities. They are three times as likely to live below the poverty line and are four times more likely to be victims of violent personal crimes.

The marginalization of individuals with disabilities, particularly autism and IDD, not only diminishes opportunities for development and growth but also contributes to these greater risks, according to Masters.

"It's really important to be reassessing the great programs we have. If individuals with disabilities aren't able to participate, shouldn't we ask ourselves if we are truly living as whom we say we are? Are we living as the body of Christ," she said.

To learn more about the Office for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, including resources and support, visit www.rcan.org/disabilities.

Catholic Charities continues to serve the most vulnerable during pandemic

By Jai Agniah
Communications Manager

Despite a global pandemic, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark continues to serve the poor and spread God's message of hope and mercy.

"We never stopped working," said John Westervelt, the chief executive officer of Catholic Charities. "A lot is still going on in

ed over Zoom video conferencing or on the phone. This approach is fine for some, but computers and smart phones are not always accessible to the poor.

"We've seen a major decrease in the number of people coming for services to our behavioral health," Westervelt said. "But on the other side, we've seen a lot more people come to our parish access centers and food pantries looking for food and looking for ways of how they can pay their

ance. They also provide adult protective services, assistance for caregivers of the elderly, older adult services for Hispanic populations, food shopping and much more.

"I think all over the country, Catholic Charities will be the point person for a lot of this new COVID-19 funding coming through the government in the next couple of months," Westervelt said.

While Catholic Charities receives some government funding, the organization relies heavily on donations. Thanks to a well-timed \$50,000 donation from the Knights of Columbus in April, Westervelt said they were able to provide more than 8,600 households with 36,000 meals. Local fundraisers and food drives in Newark, Cranford and Union City have also helped, he said.

The Emergency Food and Nutrition Network supports more than 70 food pantries throughout the archdiocese. Because local food pantries are mostly run by elderly volunteers, some needed to close, Westervelt said. However, most of them stayed open and volunteers managed to feed those in need during difficult circumstances.

For six weeks beginning in March, the New Jersey Department of Health shut down clothing bin collections, a key fundraising source for Catholic Charities. Westervelt said donations came roaring back in June when the collection was almost \$25,000.

"A lot of people being home probably took advantage of doing some spring cleaning," Westervelt said. "So, the bins filled up.

That was good to see."

Catholic Charities has about 100 bins at 72 different locations. Westervelt said they are important because donations are down across the organization.

"People are not donating like they were prior to the pandemic," he said.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark runs one of the largest and oldest shelter systems in New Jersey. They are a big part of the organization's mission, Westervelt said.

The pandemic has forced shelters to adjust due to social distancing guidelines. The number of people that can be housed in one of the seven Catholic Charities shelters needed to be reduced by almost half. In some cities, motels and hotels are being used to offset demand, according to Westervelt. Meanwhile, shelters can still serve as a place for the homeless to shower, eat and get other assistance.

"We're trying to keep as many people off the streets and inside," he said.

Shelter personnel wear personal protective equipment like gloves, masks and shields, and shelters are cleaned regularly. Temperature screening checks are part of the new normal.

"Thank God we haven't had any outbreaks," Westervelt said.

Catholic Charities provides several educational and job skills training services to the community that needed to be closed or limited. As the state continues to open up, Westervelt said he hopes these workforce development programs can restart.

Many of the services offered by Catholic Charities are needed even more now. But despite these difficult times, there are still many positive stories of hope and healing, he said.

For more information, visit www.ccannj.org.



Photo courtesy of Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities. We're still servicing the poor either through telehealth or in person."

The worldwide health crisis has forced Catholic Charities to adjust how they serve those in need. For example, appointments with doctors and counselors are conduct-

mortgages or rents. We do get money from the government to help support that."

Catholic Charities provides financial assistance through its Community Access division. In addition to emergency rental assistance, the organization helps those in need pay utility bills or insur-

U.S. bishops call for solidarity after Beirut explosion

WASHINGTON—Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford and chairman of the USCCB's Committee on International Justice and Peace, issued the following statement in

solidarity with Lebanon after the explosion in the Port of Beirut:

"The world watched with shock and horror the catastrophic explosion in the Port of Beirut Tuesday (Aug. 4). Over 135 have died, thousands are injured, and the suffering has only begun to be told.

"Lebanon was already reeling from economic and government corruption along with the novel coronavirus pandemic. The plight of the Lebanese people is now even more dire. We received Lebanon's patriarch Cardinal Bechara Boutros Rai's Appeal to the Nations of the World with fraternal love and solidarity. We encourage Catholics and all people of goodwill to pray for the afflicted and give generously to Catholic Relief Services' Lebanon

disaster response at www.crs.org. In addition, we call on the U.S. government to accelerate any and all humanitarian assistance to Lebanon in this hour of critical need.

"Joining in Pope Francis' prayer Wednesday that Lebanon may 'overcome the grave crisis they are experiencing' and beseeching the intercession of Our Lady of Lebanon, we place our sure hope in Him who reconciles all things unto himself."



CNS photo/Alkis Konstantinidis, Reuters

Demonstrators pray during a moment of silence as they take part in protests near the site of the blast at Beirut's port area Aug. 11.

Foundation to award international prize for economics and social studies

In order to promote the knowledge of the social doctrine of the Catholic Church, the Foundation *Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice* awards the "Economy and Society" international prize to a publication in the field of economics and social issues. The prize is awarded to a work that stands out for its original contribution to in-depth study and implementation of the social doctrine of the Church, is of proven doctrinal soundness and exceptional quality.

The foundation honors works that can reach out to a large audience and are the expression of a strong Christian commitment in economic and social ac-

tivities. The jury considers works published in French, English, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. The award includes 20,000 euro (around \$23,600) for publications in economic and social fields.

The foundation is also offering a prize awarding two scholarships to young researchers worth 10,000 euros (around \$11,800) and 20,000 euros.

The biennial award will be allocated in 2021, and proposals must be submitted by Sept. 30. For more information, visit www.centesimusannus.org/en/activities/economy-and-society-international-award.

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Season of Creation launches Sept. 1

By Gerry Dalzell

Five years after promulgating his environmental encyclical *Laudato Si' (On Care for Our Common Home)*, Pope Francis announced a year of concentrated study and action based on the encyclical.

The Holy Father has declared May 24, 2020, to May 24, 2021, as the special *Laudato Si'* anniversary year, with special events tied into prayer, education and action. A central theme of the encyclical is "everything is connected," and the events of the year will cover a broad pallet of themes.

Pope Francis has directed the faithful to the annual celebration of the Season of Creation, from Sept. 1-Oct. 4. Activities and resources to celebrate the Season of Creation are supported by an ecumenical steering committee and a coalition of partners from around the world. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians are expected to come together to care for our common home.

The Season of Creation is an opportunity to pray, participate in hands-on projects and advocate for environmental causes. Projects can be done individually, or parishes may work together in activities, including picking up litter in a park, committing to using less plastic or even cele-

brating Mass outdoors. For more ideas, visit www.seasonofcreation.org.

A major thrust of the year will be the launch of a program and a public commitment from various institutions, including dioceses, schools, hospitals and health care centers, to begin a seven-year journey to total sustainability in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*.

The encyclical addresses the environmental challenge through integral ecology, looking at issues such as pollution, climate change, quality of life, societal stress and inequality. The objectives of the encyclical parallel the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The *Laudato Si'* goals will be pursued in several areas, including the cry of the earth; the cry of the poor; ecological economics; adoption of simple lifestyles; ecological education; ecological spirituality; and community involvement and participatory action.

To encourage and promote concerted

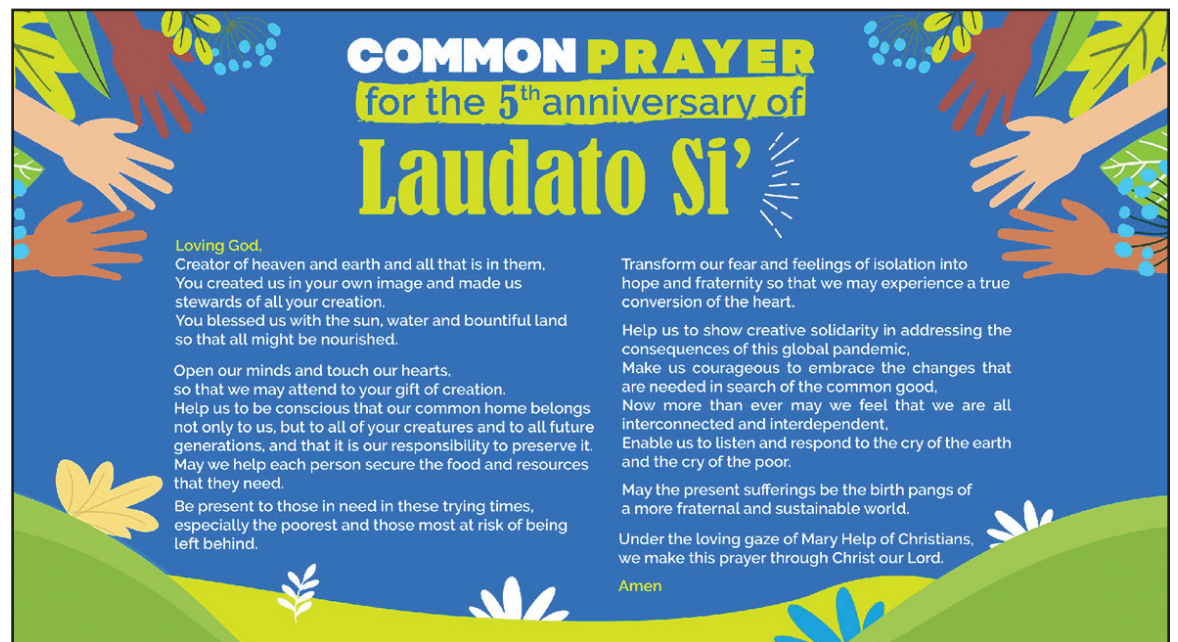
action for the care of our common home, and to acknowledge best practices, the Vatican will hand out annual awards. The awards will recognize individual and family leadership; outstanding parish, diocesan and religious communities; schools and universities; action initiatives; business and agriculture; and creative communication. Several awards will be specifically tailored for youth

initiatives.

The Newark Archdiocesan Environmental Justice Task Force is in the process of developing plans to offer to parishes and the faithful. In February, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., requested that pastors designate a parish liaison to work with the task force.

For more information or to share suggestions, contact Gerry Dalzell at gerald.dalzell@verizon.net.

Gerry Dalzell is a member of the archdiocesan Environmental Justice Task Force.



CNS photo

The Vatican-based Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development published a prayer card to mark the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si' (On Care for Our Common Home)*.

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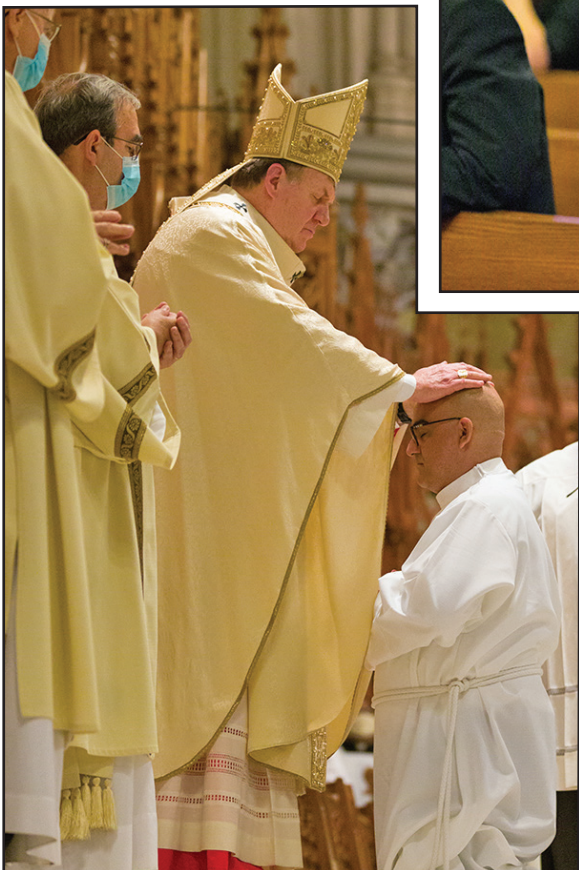
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Advocate photos-Steve Hockstein/HarvardStudio.com

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., ordained 22 permanent deacons for service in the Archdiocese of Newark on July 11 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The ordinations were celebrated during two Masses that were livestreamed at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The two separate ceremonies helped ensure that proper social distancing protocols were observed for those in attendance. Cardinal Tobin blessed each of the permanent deacons before they were presented with their diaconal vestments. Deacon John McKenna, who serves as the director of Deacon Personnel, assisted Cardinal Tobin with each Mass. Permanent deacons are those not planning to be ordained priests but are ordained ministers of the Catholic Church. The last group of men called to the diaconate order for service in the archdiocese was ordained in 2016. The biographical information for each of the permanent deacons is available in the June 10 edition of *The Catholic Advocate*, which can be viewed at www.rcan.org/the-catholic-advocate.






CARDINAL JOSEPH W. TOBIN, C.S.S.R., HAS ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:
– ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICIALS –

Very Reverend John J. Chadwick, S.T.D., has been appointed vicar general of the Archdiocese of Newark, effective Aug. 1.

Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. McDade has been appointed vicar for education and acting superintendent of schools, effective July 22, for a term of two years.

– PASTORS –

Reverend James T. Brown, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Bloomfield, has been granted an extension to his pastorate, ending July 1, 2021.

Reverend Oscar Martin Dominguez, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Elizabeth, has been granted an extension to his pastorate, ending July 1, 2021.

Reverend Joseph A. Ferraro, pastor of Holy Family Parish, Nutley, has been granted a second term to his pastorate, ending June 30, 2026.

Reverend Monsignor Thomas P. Nydegger has been appointed pastor of St. Helen Parish, Westfield, effective July 15.

Reverend Canon Andrzej Ostaszewski, pastor of St. Casimir Parish, Newark, has been granted a third term extension to his pastorate, ending July 1, 2026.

Reverend Andrew M. Prachar, pastor of Little Flower Parish, Berkeley Heights, has been granted an extension to his pastorate, ending July 1, 2022.

Very Reverend Alexander Santora, V.F., pastor of Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph Parish, Hoboken, has been granted an extension to his pastorate, ending July 1, 2023.

Reverend Monsignor Peter Smutelovic has been appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Hillsdale, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Joseph Urban, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Jersey City, has been granted an extension to his pastorate, ending July 1, 2021.

Reverend Jose Helber Victoria has been appointed pastor of St. Joseph of the Palisades Parish, West New York, effective July 1.

– ADMINISTRATORS –

Reverend Yuvan Alvarez, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, North Bergen, has been appointed temporary administrator of Church of the Epiphany, Cliffside Park, effective June 29.

Reverend Duverney Bermudez has been appointed administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish, Elizabeth, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Camilo Cruz has been appointed administrator of St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral Parish and St. John Parish, Newark, effective Aug. 1.

Reverend Vincent D'Agostino has been appointed administrator of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Park Ridge, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Rocco C. Danzi, S.J., has been appointed administrator of St. Aedan: The Saint Peter's University Church, Jersey City, effective June 1.

Reverend Eustace Edomobi has been appointed administrator of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Jersey City, effective July 1.

Reverend Ashley Harrington, O.Carm., has been appointed temporary administrator of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Tenafly, effective immediately.

Reverend Thomas Nicastro has been appointed administrator of St. Mary Parish, Nutley, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Ronnie Nombre has been appointed administrator of Assumption of Our Blessed Lady Parish, Wood-Ridge, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Jonathan Perez has been appointed administrator of Immaculate Heart of Mary/St. Patrick Parish, Elizabeth, effective July 1.

Reverend Mauro Primavera has been appointed administrator of St. John the Apostle Parish, Linden, effective Sept. 1.

– DEANS –

Very Reverend Jorge E. Acosta Pena, V.F., has been appointed dean of Deanery 19, North Newark, for a period of 5 years, ending June 1, 2025.

Very Reverend Jose Erlito Ebron, V.F., has been appointed dean of Deanery 15, West Essex, for a period of 5 years, ending June 1, 2025.

Very Reverend Marc A. Vicari, V.F., has been appointed dean of Deanery 16, North Essex, for a period of 5 years, ending June 1, 2025.

Very Reverend Philip J. Waters, O.S.B., V.F., has been reappointed dean of Deanery 20, Central Newark, for a period of 5 years, ending June 1, 2025.

Very Reverend Robert Wolfee, V.F., has been appointed dean of Deanery 2N, Northern Valley Bergen, for a period of 5 years, ending June 1, 2025.

**– NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS –
SUMMER PAROCHIAL VICAR
ASSIGNMENTS
(All effective July 1- Aug. 30)**

Reverend Diego Arce Aricapa has been assigned as parochial vicar of St. Aloysius Parish.

Reverend Kamil Jacek Belling has been assigned as parochial vicar of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden.

Reverend John Paul Ginty has been assigned as parochial vicar of Nativity Parish, Midland Park.

Reverend Drazen Hosi has been assigned as parochial vicar of St. Mary Parish, Plainfield.

Reverend Edmond Philip Ilg has been assigned as parochial vicar of St. Benedict Parish, Newark.

Reverend Jae H. Joo has been assigned as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Park Ridge.

Reverend Anthony Joseph Palombo has been assigned as parochial vicar of Holy Family Parish, Nutley.

Reverend Preston Daniel Peredo Perez has been assigned as parochial vicar of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lodi.

Reverend Darren M. Santo Tomas has been assigned as parochial vicar of Holy Trinity Parish, Hackensack.

Reverend Nicholas C. Sertich has been assigned as parochial vicar of St. Peter the Apostle Parish, River Edge.

– PAROCHIAL VICARS –

Reverend Maciej Zajac has been appointed temporary parochial vicar of St. Pius X Parish, Old Tappan, effective July 8.

Reverend Chan Lee has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Catharine Parish, Glen Rock, effective July 27.

Reverend Jose Maria M. Parcon has been appointed parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish, Secaucus, effective July 1.

Reverend John R. Hyatt, S.J., has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Aedan: The Saint Peter's University Church, effective June 1.

Reverend Rafael Velasquez has been reappointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Divine Providence Parish, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, effective July 1, and ending July 1, 2023.

Reverend Johan Betancourt Hurtado has been appointed parochial vicar of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Parish, Bayonne, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Juan Rojas-Chavarria has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Bayonne, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Oliver Nilo has been appointed parochial vicar of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Lukasz Rokita has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Eduardo Bustamante has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish, Bogota, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Thomas P. Quinn has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Luis Fernando Romero Diaz has been appointed parochial vicar of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fairview, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Joseph Montes de Oca has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Hillside, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Gustavo Alfaro has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Aloysius Parish, Jersey City, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Duberley Salazar has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Jersey City, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Melvin Oseguera has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Jersey City, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend William Halbing has been appointed parochial vicar of St. John the Apostle Parish, Linden, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Cesar Chen Arrocha has been appointed parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish, Lyndhurst, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Jeong-Gyeong (Silvano) Kim has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Andrew Kim Parish, Maplewood, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Francisco Mendonca has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Jose Ortiz Bedoya has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Benedict Parish, Newark, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Marcin Kuperski has been appointed parochial vicar of Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Cesar Quinones has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary Parish, Plainfield, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Hermes Diaz Vargas has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Paul Parish, Ramsey, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Archibald Mabini has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Verona, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Tadeusz Mierzwa has been appointed parochial vicar of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Jakov Vidov has been appointed parochial vicar of Holy Redeemer Parish, West New York, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Maciej Zajac has been appointed parochial vicar of Assumption of Our Blessed Lady Parish, Wood-Ridge, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Diego Arce Aricapa has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Andrew Parish, Westwood, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Kamil Jacek Belling has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend John Paul Ginty has been appointed parochial vicar of Holy Family Parish, Nutley, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Jae H. Joo has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Drazen Hosi has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Columba and St. Augustine Parish, Newark, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Edmond Philip Ilg has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Victories Parish, Harrington Park, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Anthony Palombo has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Preston D. Peredo Perez has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lodi, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Darren M. Santo Tomas has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Peter Parish, Belleville, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Ralph D. Siendo has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary Parish, Nutley, effective Sept. 1.

– CHAPLAINS –

Reverend Monsignor Joseph Chapel has been appointed chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, St. Thomas More Council #2188, Westwood, effective immediately.

Reverend Bogumil Misiuk has been appointed assistant chaplain of Seton Hall Preparatory School, West Orange, effective Aug. 1.

Reverend John Opara has been appointed chaplain of Holy Name Medical Center, Teaneck, effective July 13.

Reverend Antonio Sarento has been appointed chaplain of the IHS Campus of Seton Hall University, Nutley, effective Sept. 1.

– IN RESIDENCE –

Reverend Stephen Aribé has been assigned to residency at St. Antonius Parish, Newark, effective June 10.

Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. McDade has been assigned to continued residency at St. Luke Parish, Ho-Ho-Kus, effective July 22.

Reverend Bogumil Misiuk has been appointed to residence at Seton House, West Orange, effective Aug. 1.

Reverend Antonio Sarento has been assigned to residency at Seton Hall University, South Orange, Sept. 1.

– OTHERS –

Reverend Gerald Buonopane has been appointed minister to priests of Seton Hall University, South Orange, effective June 1.

Reverend Pedro Bismarck Chau has been appointed rector of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, effective Aug. 1.

Reverend Thomas M. Cherry has had his release for itinerancy extended for a period of three years, ending on June 22, 2022.

Reverend Hong-Ray Cho has been appointed rector of the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at St. Andrew's Hall, Seton Hall University, effective Aug. 1.

Reverend Luis Orlando Gonzalez has been reappointed chancellor of the *Missio Sui Iuris* and pastor of the Church of Our Lady of the Divine Providence, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, from July 1 through July 1, 2023.

Reverend Neil Xavier O'Donoghue, a member of the academic staff of the Pontifical University of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland, has also been appointed executive secretary for liturgy for the Irish Episcopal Conference (IEC) for a period of three years, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Leonardo Caceres, serving in the Archdiocese of Marseille, France, has been granted an extension to continue to serve in the Archdiocese of Marseille until July 1, 2023.

– RETIREMENTS –

Reverend Thomas F. Blind has been granted retirement, effective May 1.

Reverend Monsignor Robert F. Coleman has been granted retirement, effective June 1.

Reverend Donald K. Hummel has been granted retirement, effective July 1.

Reverend Lawrence B. Porter has been granted retirement, effective July 1.

Reverend Monsignor John A. Radano has been granted retirement, effective July 1.

Reverend Ernesto C. Tibay has been granted retirement, effective July 1.

Reverend Monsignor Robert J. Wister has been granted retirement, effective July 1.

Reverend Richard Barbary has been granted retirement, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend John Korbela has been granted retirement, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Robert McBride has been granted retirement, effective Sept. 1.

– RELEASED –

Reverend Zeljko Guberovic has had his release to the Diocese of Gaylord, Mich., as pastor of Divine Mercy Parish, extended for three years, ending July 1, 2023.

Reverend Pablo Martinez has had his release to the Diocese of Gaylord, Mich., as parochial vicar of Divine Mercy Parish, extended for three years, ending July 1, 2023.

Reverend Paul A. Passant has been released to the *Missio Sui Iuris* of the Turks and Caicos Islands for three years, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Nicholas C. Sertich has been released to continue studies in Rome, effective September 2020 until July 2021.

Reverend Zachary Swantek has been released to the Diocese of Trenton to serve as Catholic chaplain of Princeton University, Aquinas Institute for Catholic Life, effective July 1.

– NEWLY ORDAINED TRANSITIONAL DEACONS – (All effective July 4 - May 1, 2021)

Reverend Mr. Gabriel Celis Camacho has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Mary Parish, Plainfield.

Reverend Mr. Moris Enrique Montoya Cruz has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Michael Parish, Cranford.

Reverend Mr. Luis Carlos Rodrigues de Araujo has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Benedict and St. Aloysius Parish, Newark.

Reverend Mr. Christian Scalo has been assigned to diaconate ministry at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Maywood.

Reverend Mr. Lynx Soliman has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield.

– NEWLY ORDAINED PERMANENT DEACONS – (All effective July 15)

Deacon Michael J. Alfano has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Union.

Deacon Scott A. Califano has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Theresa Parish, Kenilworth.

Deacon Victor M. Conversano has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Ridgefield Park.

Deacon Arcadio A. Cordova has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Cecilia Parish, Kearny.

Deacon Roberto Del Rios has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Michael Parish, Newark.

Continued from page 9

Deacon Roberto Demetillo has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Cassian Parish, Upper Montclair.

Deacon Matthew G. DeVoti has been assigned to diaconate ministry at Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell.

Deacon Junelito Fuertes has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Anne Parish, Fair Lawn.

Deacon Bernard J. Hayes has been assigned to diaconate ministry at Annunciation Parish, Paramus.

Deacon Hugh A. Keffer has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. James the Apostle Parish, Springfield.

Deacon John Yeong Kim has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Andrew Kim Parish, Maplewood.

Deacon Suk Chan Kim has been assigned to diaconate ministry at Madonna Parish, Fort Lee.

Deacon John La Duca has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff.

Deacon Carl R. Lordi has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Mary Parish, Nutley.

Deacon Thomas Moore has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Philomena Parish, Livingston.

Deacon Michael Pasquale has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield.

Deacon Krzysztof Pawlik has been assigned to diaconate ministry at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington.

Deacon Raymond L. Schembri has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Mary Parish, Rutherford.

Deacon Mark Inbo Shim has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Joseph Parish, Demarest.

Deacon Edward J. Stoker has been assigned to diaconate ministry at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Park Ridge.

Deacon Eugene J. Sullivan Jr. has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Philomena Parish, Livingston.

Deacon Paul C. Zeller has been assigned to diaconate ministry at St. Andrew Parish, Westwood.

Corrections

In the July 15 issue of *The Catholic Advocate*, we mistakenly listed a Date of Ordination for several religious brothers and sisters celebrating milestones. In the Catholic Church, only bishops, priests and deacons are ordained. It should have read Date of Entrance, Date of Reception, Date of First Profession or Date of Investiture.

The photos for Sister Marge Jaros, O.P., and Sister Jeanne Goyette, O.P., were accidentally switched.



Sister Marge Jaros, O.P.



Sister Jeanne Goyette, O.P.

The assignments for Sister Jeanette De Sena, M.P.F., and Sister Judith Miryam Boneski, O.P., were incorrect. The correct information is included below. We regret the errors.

Sister Jeanette De Sena, M.P.F.

Anniversary: 75 Years

Assignments: St. Bartholomew Academy, Scotch Plains, teacher; Ironbound Catholic School, Newark, principal; St. Joseph School, East Orange, teacher; educational supervisor and elementary school coordinator for the Religious Teachers Filippini; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pompton Plains, principal; Our Lady of Mercy School, Park Ridge, teacher; Holy Rosary School, Jersey City, teacher; other assignments in New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania

Sister Judith Miryam Boneski, O.P.

Anniversary: 25 Years

Assignments: Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary, Summit

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Family reflects on daughter's First Communion during pandemic

By Jai Agnish

Communications Manager

Despite the oddness of the moment when Miracle Joy Anciano received her First Communion, it was a day the 7-year-old and her parents won't soon forget. There she was in a beautiful white dress, but also a matching face mask. She had prepared for this moment for months.

Miracle Joy sat in a pew with her parents, all of them socially distanced from the other first communicants gathered for Mass on a summer Saturday at St. Aloysius Parish in Jersey City. When it was her turn to receive the Eucharist for the first

time, the priest came to her. The taste surprised her at first. Her parents reassured her and explained that Jesus was present in the host.

"I was happy to receive Jesus with my parents finally," Miracle Joy said, following a nearly three-month delay. "Soon after, I knelt down and prayed."

She also received first reconciliation.

As parishes emerged from the pandemic lockdown in June, similar scenes began to play out across the archdiocese. The faithful were once again experiencing the grace of God through sacraments like Communion, baptism and marriage.

Miracle Joy's First Communion was a special occasion for her parents, Paul and Stephanie Anciano, who carefully raised their daughter in the Catholic faith, and who weren't sure if they would be able to have a child at one point.

"We had difficulty conceiving," Stephanie explained. "I found out I was pregnant after attending a healing Mass months before. My husband and I were surprised and thought it was a

miracle that, after about one year trying, we were able to conceive. That's why we called her a miracle, and it was a joy."

Paul and Stephanie received Communion with their daughter on her special day, ending a Eucharistic fast of their own that began in March when parishes first closed. It was their first time back to church since the coronavirus lockdown eased.

The young family lives in Jersey City and also attends Our Lady of Victories, where Stephanie received her sacraments and attended school when she was a child. She would attend high school at St. Aloysius, where she is now part of the parish's Catholic adult ministry with her husband.

"It's a youth group for adults," Stephanie said. "We're all older now, so we had to change the name from 'young adults' to 'Catholic adults.' We meet weekly on Fridays on Zoom now with the whole pandemic."

Miracle Joy also was baptized at St. Aloysius. Since her First Communion, she's been attending daily livestream Mass with her mom to learn the responses.

"I feel like Sunday Mass isn't enough to grasp the whole Mass," Stephanie said. "The daily Mass can supplement what she is learning."

In addition, Miracle Joy sometimes attends daily Mass with her grandmother. She participates in Fatima devotions and



Submitted photo

vigil adorations and prays the rosary with her parents. Currently, she is enrolled in Hoboken Catholic Academy.

"She was immersed in religion since birth," Stephanie said. "She might not fully understand it, but she understands now. I just want her to be guided and know that having faith is really important in her life."

At the end of the day, before Miracle Joy goes to sleep, she says the Angel of God prayer.

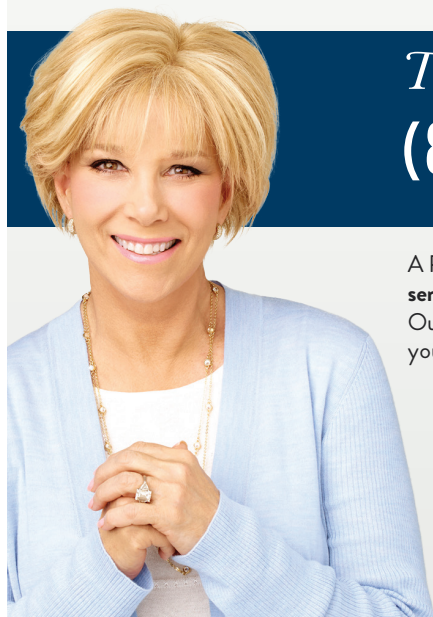
"I pray to God for my family," she said. "I also pray to Him whenever I need help or am worried."



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The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: one pastor's perspective

By Father Paul A. Cannariato

In the middle of summer, the Church invites us to contemplate the mystery of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Celebrated on Aug. 15., it is a holy day of obligation throughout the world. The mystery of the Assumption is a mystery because we as human beings cannot fully understand it with our finite minds. The more we contemplate it, the more we can probe the depths of something so profound and wonderful.

Mary, the mother of Jesus and the mother of all of us in the Church, was taken up into heaven at the end of her earthly life. This is the essence of what the Assumption celebrates. The Church herself, since the 8th century, has celebrated the Assumption of Mary. But, it was only 70 years ago, on Nov. 1, 1950, that Pope Pius XII solemnly and infallibly defined the dogma of the Assumption. The dogma states that "the virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

Most Catholics know the Assumption as one of the glorious mysteries recited in the rosary. Whenever we pray the rosary, we are invited to contemplate the Assump-

tion. While we can certainly understand what the Assumption meant for the Blessed Virgin Mary, we need to ask ourselves: What does the Assumption mean for me as a believer, as a Catholic? How does this mystery enliven my own faith journey? How does this mystery enliven and bring enrichment to our own lives? This is a very important question because the doctrines and dogmas of our faith must be lived out in the real world each day.

The Blessed Mother sought to conform her life to the Gospel; she sought to do God's will from the very beginning. So too she can teach us that our lives must be conformed to God's will for us. God's life given to each of us in baptism can never die, the life of the Holy Spirit within us can never die, therefore we say we have the gift of eternal life. The goal of our life is to be one with God, one of mind, one of heart and one of spirit. Each and every believer is invited to realize that on this earth we have no lasting home, our home is heaven, to be one with the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Mother and the communion of angels and saints. We are called to develop in our

lives that desire for this oneness. Mary's Assumption into heaven prefigures the oneness with God that we ourselves have yet to attain.

As pastor of the Assumption in Emerson, our parish community has always commemorated our patronal feast by celebrating a triduum—three days of prayer prior to the feast—which we continue to do after each of the Masses. As we prepared this year to celebrate the feast day of

the Assumption, many who have always come to church on this day to celebrate were not able to be there in person due to the pandemic. Parishioners celebrated the feast of the Assumption at home and in a variety of ways. First, by praying the glorious mysteries of the rosary and taking some time to meditate on the mystery of the Assumption in particular. They prayed to Mary, asking God to help them be like the Blessed Mother, who was obedient to God's will. Parishioners prayed to Mary and asked her powerful intercession. Second, the parish livestreamed Mass that day, asking those who participated virtually to make a spiritual communion.



Mary will help us to be servants of the Lord as she was. We are called to serve others in our families, parish and community using all the gifts with which God has blessed us. Although we are not sinless like Mary was from the first moment of her conception, we can ask her to help us to overcome our sins and receive the sacrament of reconciliation regularly. The feast of the Assumption is an opportunity to unite our minds and hearts and spirits with Jesus and Mary. May this oneness with God that Mary has achieved in her Assumption help and guide us to this union as well with God.

Father Paul A. Cannariato is the pastor of Assumption Parish in Emerson.

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Dominican Sisters partner with Morgan Stanley for climate change initiative

On the fifth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, along with 15 other U.S. congregations of Dominican Sisters, announced the launching of a strategic investment initiative in collaboration with Morgan Stanley to address climate change, especially as it affects marginalized communities disproportionately impacted by global warming. The congregations collectively committed \$46.6 million to their initiative, called Climate Solutions Funds, and have attracted millions more in capital investments.

"Dominicans have long been engaged in addressing issues related to poverty and Earth's degradation," said Sister Patrice Werner, O.P., prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell. "Today, we are extending these efforts to Wall Street by proactively investing in marketplace climate solutions that we hope will have a catalyzing impact for the common good of people and planet."

Leaders of 16 congregations of Dominican Sisters, representing nearly 3,500 Catholic sisters from Washington to New York and Texas to Michigan, are participating in this collaborative initiative in partnership with the Chicago office of Graystone Consulting Group, a women-led institutional consulting practice that is part of Morgan Stanley. The Sisters' anchor investments in this initiative, which is five years in the making, have attracted additional investors, providing a pool of more than \$130 million for investment in climate solutions that integrate the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals on water, sanitation, food security, energy and related challenges facing economically impoverished communities.

"We are bringing these resources to the



marketplace to help address our deep concern about the integrity of God's creation and the people most impacted by climate change," Sister Patrice said. "Although we initiated this effort well before the outbreak of COVID-19, the global pandemic has underscored the link between climate change and ecological degradation and the health and well-being of people, especially those most vulnerable."

Father Séamus P. Finn, O.M.I., chief of Faith Consistent Investing of the Oblate International Pastoral (OIP) Invest-



Photo courtesy of the Dominican Sisters

Two years ago, leaders of the 16 congregations gathered at the global headquarters of Morgan Stanley in Times Square to celebrate the inauguration of the initiative.

ment Trust, said of the initiative, "The OIP Trust is excited by the opportunity to join the Dominican Climate Fund and was especially attracted by the insight and innovation that is at the core of the fund's approach. The vision for the fund is grounded in the transformation of the current financial system and gives priority to people, planet and sustainability."

Sister Patrice noted, "We are delighted this integrated approach to climate investing has attracted other investors and investment managers, helping to scale this kind of approach to climate finance globally."

The unusual partnership between U.S. Catholic Sisters and a global Wall Street investment firm emerged from a commitment the Dominican Sisters made as a Conference in 2015 to "develop an appropriate strategy to promote investment in climate solutions." The commitment was the fruit of a yearlong faith-praxis cycle of study, contemplation and action developed by the Earth Council of northeast Dominican congregations that had engaged Dominicans throughout the United States.

A Sisters' Climate Finance Taskforce was formed, reaching out to more than three dozen financial institutions in search of a manager that would develop financial products addressing climate change and integrating the Sustainable Development Goals.

"We found that manager in the Graystone Consulting Group of Morgan Stanley," said Sister Patricia Daly, O.P., a longtime corporate-responsibility advocate who played a leading role on the taskforce and in forging the partnership. "This marks a new moment of collaboration in the world of finance. May this milestone spark a new movement of integrated climate solutions that are responsive to Pope Francis' moral call to humanity in *Lauda-*

to Si' to care for God's creation and God's people."

On June 18, 2018, leaders of the 16 congregations gathered at the global headquarters of Morgan Stanley in Times Square to celebrate the inauguration of the initiative with their anchor

commitments.

"Partnering with Morgan Stanley's Graystone Consulting, we seek to identify models for faith-based organizations and other institutions and individuals to proactively invest in climate solutions that will help our world shift to a renewables-based economy while assisting the neediest communities around the globe," Sister Patrice said. "We want to do all we can to protect Earth, our common home and help safeguard the future for young people today and for generations to come."

Sister Patrice noted that their integrated approach to climate finance echoes the call Pope Francis issued in *Laudato Si'* for "an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged and, at the same time, protecting nature." The initiative is aligned with efforts that Catholic sisters around the world have undertaken for years to address issues related to poverty and ecological degradation. These include support for affordable housing and health care, education, microenterprise, community development, as well as clean water, land conservation and renewable energy, among others.

The Dominican Sisters are financially independent of the Catholic Church. Their revenues come from the ministerial earnings of their sisters, which are pooled along with donations in support of their mission, social security payments and earnings on investment of these resources.

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OBITUARIES

Brother Leo Shea, F.M.S.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated Aug. 7 at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus, N.Y., for Brother Leo Shea, F.M.S., 85, who died June 3.

Brother Leo entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate in 1952. He professed first vows in 1953, perpetual vows in 1958 and the vow of stability in 1969.

He was elected and served in provincial leadership of the Marist Brothers' Esopus Province for many years. Brother Leo served as an educator, administrator, counselor and teacher while assigned to Marist High School in Bayonne. He also served as an educator in Texas, New York and Pennsylvania.



Brother Leo was a founding member of the USA Marist Mission to Liberia, West Africa.

Monsignor Vincent J. Doyle

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 20 at Holy Spirit Parish in Union for Monsignor Vincent J. Doyle, 82, who died July 14.

Born in Jersey City, Msgr. Doyle was ordained into the priesthood on May 20, 1965, and received his doctoral degree in canon law from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in 1968. In 1979, he was appointed a Chaplain to His Holiness with the title of monsignor.

He served in residence at numerous parishes, including St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bloomfield from 1970-1986 and Our Lady Queen of Peace Par-



ish in North Arlington from 1986-1992. He was pastor at Holy Spirit Parish from 1992 to 2004.

Msgr. Doyle served as judicial vicar of the Archdiocese of Newark Tribunal for 25 years. He also served in the U.S. Army National Guard for 37 years, obtaining the rank of colonel before retiring in 2008.

Father John G. Netta

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 4 at St. Theresa Parish in Little Egg Harbor for Father John G. Netta, 88, who died July 29.

Father Netta attended Seton Hall University in South Orange and Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 25, 1957.



He served as parochial vicar at the following archdiocesan parishes: St. Anthony of Padua, Newark; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Jersey City; Our Lady of Mercy, Jersey City; and St. Genevieve, Elizabeth.

Father Netta retired from ministry on April 1, 2000.

Deacon Daniel O'Neill

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 17 at St. James the Apostle Parish in Springfield for Deacon Daniel O'Neill, who died Aug. 11.

Deacon O'Neill was ordained for the Archdiocese of Newark on June 1, 2002, and served at St. James the Apostle Parish.



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The Mercy House rises to challenges brought on by pandemic

By Jai Agnish
Communications Manager

The demand for food and clothes has surged at the Mercy House in the Clinton Hill section of Newark where the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the area's poor is ever-present. Volunteers at the Catholic resource and referral center have been giving away bags of food to those in need almost as quickly as the donations come in.

"There's a lack of food," said Mercy House Director Cheryl Riley. "In the first few weeks when we reopened, we were bone dry. There was nothing."

Riley said demand for food, clothes and toiletries is the highest it has ever been since the Mercy House was established in June 2018. And due to the pandemic, donations have been down.

"We're wiped out of all our clothes," Riley said. "Everything. Bedding. We had people who were counting on us to help get small household items, and everything came to a halt."

Like so many other organizations and businesses around the world, the Mercy House closed in March because of pandemic lockdown measures. The organization reopened in May for one day a week on Tuesdays with new health protocols. Until recently, volunteers gave away food and clothes to those in need over a table by the front door.

"You feel bad because the whole purpose was to let people come in and give them dignity to be able to look on the racks and pick out what they want," Riley said. "They're not going to the mall shopping. They just basically have what



Submitted photos

we give them."

Riley hopes to open the Mercy House for a second day soon and recently began letting two people in the building at a time. Masks and gloves are required.

Donations of clothes and household items are starting to come back, she said, but food is still in high demand. Unemployed and underemployed residents are adding to the demand, according to Riley.

One of the reasons there was so much demand for food is because it took some

time for many area food pantries, like Blessed Sacrament next door, to reopen.

"We were the food pantry," Riley said. "We were making bags and bags and bags of food because we were the only gig in town until the others opened."

Another factor was that the Mercy House counts on donations from parishes and Catholic schools, and when those buildings also shut down, it left an impact.

"Parishes would do a diaper drive or school kids would come down and volunteer to help us, and that all stopped," Riley said.

She is grateful to the parishes, organizations and individuals that have made donations, and encouraged more people to get involved. People can drop off nonperishable food, toiletries, diapers, wipes and clothes on Tuesdays for now.

One trend that Riley has observed during the pandemic is a heightened interest in religious items like Bibles, rosaries and statues of Our Blessed Mother.

"I think because of COVID, people really had time to be alone and focus on some spirituality," she said. "A woman came in and asked me for dresses so she could go to church. All she wanted was to

be able to go to church."

Volunteers at the Mercy House encourage residents to attend Mass and baptize their babies. As a result of their efforts, five babies were baptized into the faith by Father Albert Nzeh, the pastor of Blessed Sacrament.

Riley is grateful for the volunteers, who have been working under stressful conditions in very hot weather.

"There is something about it at the Mercy House that hooks you in," she said. "People want to come and help down there. They want to volunteer, they want to help, they want to donate, they want to give. It's a feel-good thing. You're helping people. Just think about not having anything. That's what it is. The need is tremendous."

Visit www.rcan.org/mercyhouse or call 973-497-4350 to arrange a donation.



Advocate photo-Jai Agnish

Employees of the Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) recently delivered a personal donation from the entire staff to the Mercy House. The donation consisted of diapers, toiletries and about 200 pounds of food. When they heard about the need at the Newark facility, staff members said they volunteered to collect items to give to the community that they often serve through SFIC. For more information, visit www.sficnj.org and www.rcan.org/mercyhouse.



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