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# The Catholic Advocate

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The community newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark

January 20, 2016

## New project reconnects local Catholic schools with alumni

When Father Jude (William) Brady, O.S.B., current pastor at Saint Benedict Parish in Carrolltown, PA, received a letter from his elementary school alma mater about one month ago, he was a bit surprised. A Benedictine monk for over 40 years, he graduated from Saint Anne School in Fair Lawn in 1959.

"It is wonderful to hear that the school is still a wholesome and holistic service offered to the chil-

dren of the area, Fr. Brady wrote. "Most of my apostolic ministry has involved Catholic education, a love which I first developed many decades ago."

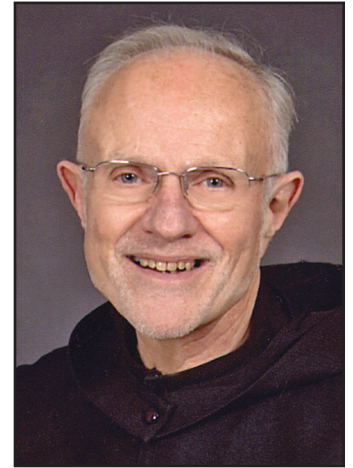
The Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Newark was able to reach out to Fr. Brady through the Catholic Alumni Partnership project. The project's aim is to reconnect Catholic elementary schools with their alumni. Along with his donation, Fr.

Brady reflected on his experience at his former elementary school.

"I attribute much of my monastic vocation to the vibrant and vital experience that I had while at Saint Anne's," he wrote. "The nuns were great - full of life, love and the Holy Spirit. The kids that I met were a real blessing. My experience was a gift from God."

Finding Fr. Brady and other far-

Continued on page 17



Father Jude Brady, O.S.B.

Catholic Schools Week Pages 17-36

## Archdiocese launches third phase of 'Living Stones'

By Al Frank  
Associate Publisher

The third and final group of archdiocesan parishes launched their participation in the \$90 million We Are Living Stones campaign last week. The 99 parishes begin their pledge drives as other parishes have begun spending their shares of the campaign money they raised.

The archdiocese announced last month the distribution of another \$584,380 to 46 parishes that exceeded their goal. That comes on top of the \$553,407 distributed in August to 33 parishes, for a total of \$1,137,787.

The funds "will be used to carry out the many vital projects throughout our parishes," according to Carla L. Repollet, archdiocesan executive director for development, adding that the money is spent as each parish decided in a case statement filed

as part of its campaign.

For Saint Peter the Apostle of River Edge, it was restoring the parish carillon—just in time for Christmas.

"People were always asking for the bells but we needed to find a way to raise money," said Father Michael J. Sheehan, pastor.

Living Stones provided the tool to restore a carillon that had fallen silent in 2013, a victim of age and nonexistent replacement parts. The refurbishment was completed on Dec. 23 and the bells rang again for the community as they assembled for their Christmas Eve masses the next day.

"It was a great Christmas for us that way," Father Sheehan says, adding that the \$33,000 rebate covered the \$18,000 job, while leaving some \$15,000 for other projects.

Parishes draw their funds through an account created on their

behalf. The next distribution is scheduled for the end of March.

In all, an archdiocesan study estimated 1,100 churches, schools, rectories, parish center and other building in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties need \$125 million in upkeep during the next 10 years.

In addition to half what they collect for the campaign, parishes will share in the proceeds of a new \$8 million fund for parish renewal. Another \$18 million is dedicated to a new endowment for tuition assistance in archdiocesan Catholic schools; \$8 million to increasing the endowment for the seminaries and \$6 million for the medical expenses of retired priests.

So far, \$28 million has been pledged to the campaign since fundraising began last spring.

Parishes in the campaign groups one and two will resume the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal this year.

### Top Five Parishes (based on percentage over goal)

- 1. Holy Family, Union City**  
Goal: \$19,551.00  
Total Given: \$61,834.50
- 2. Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood**  
Goal: \$126,315.00  
Total Given: \$276,537.04
- 3. Saint Francis, Hoboken**  
Goal: \$27,808.00  
Total Given: \$54,673.00
- 4. Saint Gabriel, Saddle River**  
Goal: \$80,426.00  
Total Given: \$138,069.60
- 5. Holy Family, Linden**  
Goal: \$7,904.00  
Total Given: \$12,205.00

SINCERELY IN THE LORD  
Page 2  
AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE  
Page 7  
CLASSIFIEDS  
Page 8  
APPOINTMENTS  
Page 9

# Reflections on conscience and public actions

There is much discussion offered today about conscience and the following of one's conscience. St. Thomas Aquinas understood conscience to be the judgment of practical reason reached by human intelligence seeking to know that which is morally permissible or commanded action in a given practical situation. From this point of view, the primary function of conscience is to associate the private judgment of the person with objective and morally good actions that promote the human good.

For Aquinas the underlying basis for conscience is a natural openness to the moral good with which human beings are gifted. Unfortunately, some modern interpretations tend to make the private judgment of conscience absolute and autonomous. The Second Vatican Council, following deeply rooted Church teaching, has resisted this interpretation, holding that authentic conscience has to be formed in accord with both the dictates of "right reason" and the authentic moral teachings of the Church which are rooted in Divine Revelation.

There are those, even some in the Church, who tend to make absolute the private judgment of conscience, even one that is not properly formed. This is a serious mistake. More serious questions also arise. It is a mistake to think that a private judgment of conscience can simply be acted upon in the public order. For example, marriage is a public status, especially sacramental marriage for baptized Christians. This truth has consequences.

To move from a private judgment of conscience, if poorly formed, or even to act publicly in a way contradictory to a well-formed

conscience, leads to many problems. Since receiving the sacraments, including Holy Communion, are public actions, it can lead to serious confusion and even scandal if one acts in such situations. A person might well be leading others to make misguided decisions about receiving the sacraments when they are not properly prepared or disposed. It also raises the question: if one spouse makes such a private

## *Sincerely in the Lord*

decision, how is the other spouse to act? Is he or she free to marry and receive the sacraments? What if persons who knew the married couple were convinced that all the elements indicating a valid marriage were present? What if the other spouse firmly believes that the marriage is valid? What about any scandal which might be given to children of the marriage or to relatives and friends? As you can see, this presents very complex issues.

In his homily during the Angelus at St. Peter's Square on June 30, 2013, Pope Francis spoke directly to the faithful on what it means to have a fully formed conscience. He said, "We also must learn to listen more to our conscience. Be careful, however: this does not mean we ought to follow our ego, do whatever interests us, whatever suits us, whatever pleases us. That is not conscience. Conscience is the interior space in which we can listen to and hear the truth, the good, the voice of God. It is the inner place of our relationship with Him, who speaks to our heart and helps us to discern, to understand the path we ought to take, and once the decision is made, to move forward, to remain faithful."

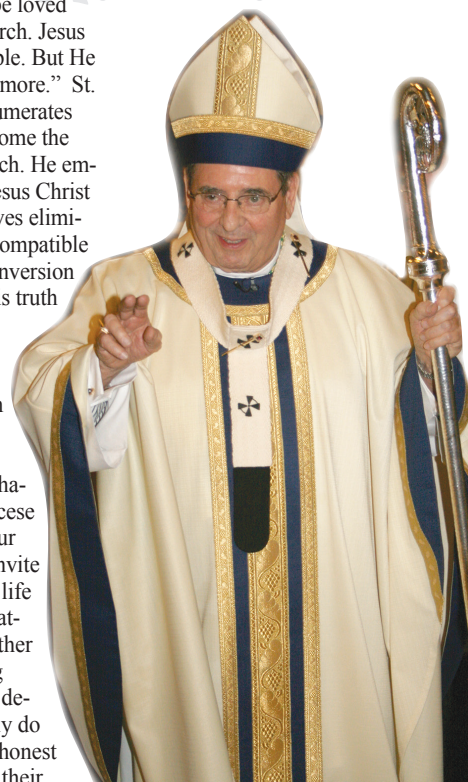
Certainly, as His Holiness rightly

points out, people are to be loved and welcomed in the Church. Jesus loved and welcomed people. But He also said: "Go and sin no more." St. Paul in various places enumerates consistently what has become the long teaching of the Church. He emphasizes that turning to Jesus Christ and His mercy also involves eliminating actions that are incompatible with following Jesus. Conversion is part of the process. This truth

seems to be overlooked in much of our current discussions.

It is consistently emphasized here in the Archdiocese that we are to welcome our sisters and brothers and invite them to participate in the life of the Church, including attending Holy Mass and other parish events and inviting them to participate to the degree that they can honestly do so and in a way which is honest also with the Church and their brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. Respectfully to call others to live the truth in love is certainly not to disparage them. It is, rather, an invitation to live life in a more deeply human way according to the mind of our Creator. Part of our relationship in the communion of faith in the Church is to assist and support one another to take this deeper journey and to embrace the beauty of human existence as God has intended it.

So often in our secular culture people accept as true only those things which they can see and taste and touch and grasp within their own mind. Following this line of thought, people create their own



**By Archbishop John J. Myers**  
Archbishop of Newark

world and do not choose to live in God's world. Realizing that the greater part of reality is not available to the senses, but is of another realm, we who believe in God and in our Savior Jesus Christ can offer to our sisters and brothers in the human family an invitation by word and example to live in the fullness of reality and thereby encourage them to choose the sure way to joy and happiness both now and in the world to come.

God's mercy includes the gift of turning away from sin and the ways of a worldly life.

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### FREQUENCY FOR 2016:

ONLINE: February 10, March 9, July 20, August 17, November 16 and December 21

PRINT: JANUARY 20, April 13, MAY 11, JUNE 15, September 7, October 12



# Holy Name receives Women's Choice Award

TEANECK—Holy Name Medical Center has received the 2016 Women's Choice Award as one of America's Best Hospitals for Bariatric Surgery. This designation identifies the country's best healthcare institutions that consider female patient satisfaction and clinical excellence.

"Women are the chief healthcare decision-makers in families today," Michael Maron, president and CEO of Holy Name, said. "We know the data show our standards and outcomes to be outstanding, but it's especially satisfying to see women themselves giving Holy Name top grades for quality and service."

Holy Name has earned this award by meeting the standards of the American College of Surgeons and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery through the metabolic and bariatric surgery accreditation and quality improvement program. Awarded hospitals, like Holy Name Medical Center, also ranked above the national average for patient recommendations on the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and



Systems surveys, as indicated by the data reported by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"We are proud of our outstanding outcomes in bariatric medicine, which isn't only about our work in the operating room," said Stefanie Vaimakis, Chief of Bariatric Surgery at the medical center. "As bariatric specialists, we are committed to thorough preparation and lifelong follow-up care for our patients, which maximizes the benefits of surgery and the patients' chances for success."

According to a study in April 2015 by the University of San Diego Health, 80 percent of patients who undergo bariatric surgery are female, despite equal rates of obesity among American men and women.

"Women tend to be risk averse,

confidence," says Delia Passi, CEO and founder of the Women's Choice Award.

Holy Name is also the recipient of Women's Choice awards for stroke care and cancer care excellence.

so we're simplifying her choices by verifying those hospitals providing outstanding patient care and performance, allowing her to choose with



Photo courtesy of Holy Name Medical Center  
President and CEO of Holy Name Medical Center Michael Maron, right, was honored with the 2015 New Jersey Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Healthcare Executives for his ongoing contribution in the field of health care locally and globally.

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## Bishops call for end to deportation raids

WASHINGTON—The bishops who chair the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network called on the Department of Homeland Security to stop deporting mothers with children.

In a letter sent to Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security, Jan. 11, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, auxiliary bishop of Seattle and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration

and Bishop Kevin W. Vann of Orange, CA, chairman of Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., urged the administration to end such practices, which began earlier this month and have targeted individuals in Georgia, Texas and North Carolina.

"We find such targeting of immigrant women and children—most of whom fled violence and persecution in their home countries—to be inhumane and a grave misuse of limited enforcement resources," the bishops

wrote. "Department of Homeland Security's action contrasts sharply with statements by President Obama in November 2014, that his administration would pursue the deportation of 'felons, not families; criminals, not children; gang members, not a Mom who's working hard to provide for her kids.'"

Bishop Elizondo and Bishop Vann also raised concerns that due hearings had not been held. "Some of these cases, and likely many oth-

ers, illustrate the serious due process issues facing these mothers and children. We object to the removal of any migrants who were apprehended without first confirming that they received meaningful opportunities to present their asylum claims at hearings in immigration court," the bishops wrote.

Bishop Elizondo and Bishop Vann also urged the administration and Congress to adopt long-term solutions such as supporting humanitarian efforts in Central America and addressing the root causes of forced migration.

## Catholic Social Ministry gathering to emphasize ecology, mercy

WASHINGTON—Hundreds of Catholics from across the country who work in ministries at parishes, dioceses, national organizations and college and university campuses will explore the implications of Pope Francis' teachings on ecology and mercy at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, Jan. 23-26, in Washington. The theme of the gathering, "Called to Live Mercy in Our Common Home," is meant to echo Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the ongoing

celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The gathering, which seeks to equip leaders and rising leaders in the Church to bring the voice of faith into the public square, is organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and 16 other national organizations, including Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities USA, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Rural Life and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

"Our faith impels us to promote human dignity and to act in solidarity for those most in need, especially during this Jubilee Year of Mercy," said Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. "The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering is a unique opportunity for people to come together to pray and learn more about issues threatening human life and the dignity of our brothers

and sisters here and around the world, issues that include environmental degradation, poverty, war and persecution. Participants will explore ways to address these vital concerns in our shared home."

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, KY, Conference president, will celebrate the opening Mass Jan. 23. Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, VT, chairman of the Bishop's Committee on Communications, will celebrate the closing Mass Jan. 26.

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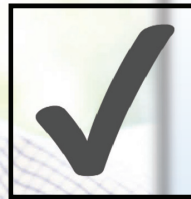
LENTEN EVENING OF PRAYER  
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FASTING IS CELEBRATION  
Led by Judy Schiavo



# Three things my family should know



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**Father Allen H. Weber, O.F.M.**

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 30 at Our Lady of the Assumption, Wood-Ridge, for Father Allen H. Weber, O.F.M., 75, who died Dec. 25.



Fr. Weber made his Solemn Franciscan Profession on June 21, 1986 and was ordained a priest on May 29, 1965. He earned a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University; a bachelor's in Sacred Theology from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.; a master's degree in religious education from Fordham University; a master's degree in school and community psychology from Seton Hall University; and a doctorate in counseling from Catholic University of America.

From 1990 to 2014, Fr. Weber served as assistant/associate professor at Saint Bonaventure University, NY. He assisted the Secular Franciscans at Saint Anne Parish in Fair Lawn before he was appointed parochial vicar at Our Lady of Assumption in 2014.

**Sister Mary Louise Conlon, I.H.M.**

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 7 at Our Lady of Peace Residence, Scranton, PA, for Sister Mary Louise Conlon, I.H.M., who died Jan. 3.



A Pennsylvania native, Sr. Mary Louise made her final profession of vows to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Aug. 2, 1952.

She ministered throughout New York and Pennsylvania and served as Director of Religious Education at Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Linden and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Scotch Plains.

**Father Thaddeus Stasik**

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 13 at Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Lyndhurst, for Father Thaddeus Stasik, 81, who died Jan. 9.



Born in Mariampol, Poland, Fr. Stasik was ordained a priest in Krakow March 12, 1960, by Cardinal Karol Jozef Wojtyla, who became Saint John Paul II. After parish work in southern Poland, Fr. Stasik was transferred to Sao Paulo, Brazil. There, he became rector of Cardeal Motta College and an expert in the field of Indian ethnography.

Fr. Stasik was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Newark on May 24, 1977. He served as parochial vicar at Saint Benedict Parish in Newark and Saint Michael Parish in Lyndhurst. He then served as pastor at Saint Joseph Parish, Hackensack, and Saint Ann Parish, Jersey City.

**Sister Margaret Thomas McGovern, O.P.**

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 14 at Saint Catherine Convent, Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, for Sister Margaret Thomas McGovern, O.P., 92, who died Jan. 10.



Born in Jersey City, Sr. Margaret

entered the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell on Feb. 2, 1948, and professed vows on Sept. 7, 1949. She earned a bachelor's degree from Caldwell College, a master's degree in theology from Providence College, and a doctorate in psychology from University of Santa Barbara.

Sr. Margaret Thomas taught at Saint Brigid School, North Bergen; Saint John the Apostle School, Clark; and Saint Mary School, Rahway. She served many years in leadership positions for the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell as secretary general, vicar, and Major Superior of the order.

Sr. Margaret Thomas was the director of admissions, registrar and counselor for student development at Caldwell University and was a guidance counselor for students and parents at Trinity Academy, Caldwell.

She served as the Archbishop's Delegate for Religious from 2002-2009 and was a member of the Dominican Leadership Conference. Sr. Margaret Thomas was on the board of trustees of both Caldwell University and Emmaus House. She was also the recipient of the Pro Ecclesiae et Pontifice (for service to the Church and the Pope).

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange, NJ  
Presents:  
*16<sup>th</sup> Annual Saint Joseph's Novena*  
Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
thru  
Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:30 p.m.




We invite you to join us for our wonderful annual novena. Each evening includes an exciting guest speaker, who discusses the Gospel of the day as well as devotion to Saint Joseph.

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The novena culminates on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> with the Saint Joseph's dessert table.

**All are welcome!**

For more information contact: Our Lady of Lourdes  
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## January 22

**Sacred Thread Ministries,** "Gifts Given, Gifts Received" retreat, at All Saints Parish House, Millington, \$50, presenters include Father Peter J. Krebs, S.T., and Kathleen Detlet, D.Min., call (908) 608-3160.

## January 23

**Lacordaire Academy,** Upper Montclair, Beefsteak Dinner, 6:30 p.m., \$60 per person, e-mail [advancement@lacordaire.net](mailto:advancement@lacordaire.net) or call (973) 744-1156 ext. 33.

**Don Bosco Preparatory School,** Ramsey, The Julliard Trombone Choir concert, 7:30 p.m., \$15, at the Don Bosco Prep Chapel in St. John's Hall, call (201) 327-8003 ext. 188 or visit [www.donboscoprep.org](http://www.donboscoprep.org).

## January 26

**Lumen Center,** Caldwell, "Aging into Our Divine Center," presented by Jane Selinske, \$25-\$35, 5:30-7:45 p.m., call (403) 3331 ext.25 or e-mail



Submitted photo

Students in Academy of the Holy Angels' Studio I Honors course recently designed original necklaces and other accessories using recycled items. By re-envisioning found objects, including corks, cotton swabs, magazines, paper cups, coffee filters and more, students created 3-D wearable works of art that were both beautiful and sustainable.

[lumencenter@caldwellop.org](mailto:lumencenter@caldwellop.org).

## January 28

**Immaculate Heart Academy,** presentation by Jessica Lahey, author of *New York Times* bestseller, "The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed," 7 p.m., call (201) 445-6800.

## February 2

**Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart,** Newark, 7:30 p.m., evening prayer service to

mark the close of the Year for Consecrated Life, call Sister Theresia Maria Holtschlag at (973) 497-4582.

## February 3

**Holy Spirit Parish,** Union, Holy Hour for Life, 7:30-8:30 p.m., call (908) 687-3327 or e-mail [jsondey@comcast.net](mailto:jsondey@comcast.net).

## February 4

**Koinonia Academy,** Plainfield, open house, 9:30 a.m. - noon, call (908) 668-9002 or visit [www.KoinoniaAcademy.org](http://www.KoinoniaAcademy.org).

## February 16

**Lumen Center,** Caldwell, "Adventures in Solidarity with Haiti," presented by Father Jack Martin and Dr. James Morgan, \$25-\$35, 5:30-7:45 p.m., call (403) 3331 ext.25 or e-mail [lumencenter@caldwellop.org](mailto:lumencenter@caldwellop.org).

**Immaculate Conception Parish,** Mahwah, "Holy Marriage, Happy Marriage: Faith-Filled Ways to a Better Relationship," presented by Chris and Linda Padgett, at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30p.m., call (201) 327-1276 or visit [www.iccmahwah.org](http://www.iccmahwah.org).

Immaculate Conception Seminary  
School of Theology presents:

## 70 x 7: Faith, Family, & Forgiveness, PART III Developing a Heart of Mercy

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Most retreats: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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Seton Hall University

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Open to the public.

Half-day retreats, including continental breakfast: \$10

Full-day retreats, including continental breakfast and lunch: \$25

#### DATE

**Saturday, Jan. 30**

**Saturday, Apr. 2<sup>†</sup>**

**Saturday, Aug. 20**

**Saturday, Sept. 17**

**Saturday, Oct. 1**

**Saturday, Nov. 12<sup>†</sup>**

#### TOPIC

The Holy Spirit: Living Fountain of Merciful Love

Keys to Unlocking a Heart of Forgiveness and Mercy

You Always Hurt the Ones You Love

The Gospel Within the Gospel: The Parable of the Prodigal Son

St. Thérèse, Little Servant of God's Merciful Love

Surprised by Mercy: The Conversion and Compassion of Dorothy Day

#### PRESENTER

Rev. Frederick Miller, S.T.D.

Robert Enright, Ph.D.

Msgr. Joseph Chapel, S.T.D.

Rev. Christopher Ciccarino, S.T.D.

Rev. Frederick Miller, S.T.D.

Dianne M. Traflet, J.D., S.T.D.

<sup>†</sup> 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.**

To register, please contact Anna Capizzi at [anna.capizzi1@student.shu.edu](mailto:anna.capizzi1@student.shu.edu) or (973) 275-2440

Should you require accommodations to attend this event, please contact Anna Capizzi.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY



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Several Source Shelters, is a Pro-Life, Christian based, registered 501c (3) charity organization based in Northern New Jersey. For over 30 years Several Sources has provided hope, assistance and shelter to pregnant teens/women, needy families and homeless women.

Ideal candidate must be PROLIFE, Christian to work as role model for pregnant/parenting women and their babies. Valid/clean driver's license and HS graduate/some college pref'd. Generous salary, three weeks' vacation (after one year) and holiday/floaterdays-quarterly contribution to health insurance. Positions open immediately.

**Email-resume:** sssvirginiam@gmail.com.

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## HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the archdiocese immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

To Place Your  
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**973-497-4200**

## NOVENAS

## PRAYER TO ST. LUCY

Saint Lucy, Whose beautiful name Signifies light. By the light of faith which God bestowed upon you, Increase and preserve His light in my soul. So that I may avoid evil, be zealous in the performance of good works, and abhor nothing so much as the blindness and the darkness of evil and sin. Obtain for me, by your intercessory with God, perfect vision, for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them. For God's greater honor and glory and the salvation of souls. St. Lucy Virgin and martyr, here my prayers and obtain my petitions Amen. Prayer to be Published in gratitude

**M.C.**

## PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition (make request). In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. Thank you for answering my prayer.

**G.S.P.**

## BLESSED MOTHER NOVENA

Dear Blessed Virgin, Thank you for listening to me and to answering my prayers. I shall always keep you close to my heart and continue to honor You. Praise Jesus.

**M.C.**

## THANK YOU

For all you have given, Thank You Infant Jesus. For all you have withheld, Thank You Infant Jesus. For all you have withdrawn, Thank You Infant Jesus. For all you have permitted, Thank You Infant Jesus. For all you have prevented, Thank You Infant Jesus. For all you have forgiven me, Thank You Infant Jesus. For all you have prepared for me, Thank You Infant Jesus. For the death you have chosen for me, Thank You Infant Jesus. For the place you are keeping for me in heaven, Thank You Infant Jesus. For having created me to love you for eternity, Thank You Infant Jesus. Amen.

**M.C.**

## Announcement

## COURAGE

An archdiocesan sponsored spiritual support group for persons experiencing same-sex attractions who desire to lead a chaste life in accord with Catholic teaching on homosexuality. For information, call (908) 272-2307.

(All calls confidential)

## Funeral Home

## Cemetery &amp; Mausoleum

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Advocate**

and online @

**www.rcan.org**

Email your submissions  
to Melissa McNally  
mcnallme@rcan.org

or fax to

**(973) 497-4192**



## Felician University's School of Business appoints new Dean

RUTHERFORD AND LODI—Felician University has appointed Robert P. Evans as Dean of its School of Business. Evans is a former partner at KPMG LLP, a global network of professional firms that provides audit, advisory and tax services.

"Bob Evans brings a remarkable, lifetime career of hands-on leadership experience to our School of Business," said Felician University President Dr. Anne Prisco. "His deep understanding of all levels of business infrastructure and operations, coupled with a proven track record of considerable domestic and international client responsibility while at KPMG, will be invaluable to our faculty and student body."

"Having been involved with the corporate world my entire career, I have always felt that a close working relationship between academia and business would be a win for both," Evans said. "I look forward to helping Felician University develop partnerships with businesses to bring the best of both worlds to our students."

A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Evans earned a degree in accounting, and attended courses at Stanford University and the Wharton School.

A partner at KPMG from 1983 until his retirement, Evans held a number of leadership positions within the company and in the business community.

He was appointed by former Governor Christine Todd Whitman to be an ambassador to her Prosperity New Jersey, an initiative to promote and improve economic activity, job creation and the overall business climate in the state.



Robert P. Evans

## Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:



### PASTOR

**Reverend Joseph D. Girone,**  
Pastor of Holy Cross Parish,  
Harrison, and Saint Anthony Parish,  
East Newark, has been appointed  
Pastor of Saint Rocco/Saint Bridget  
Parish, Union City,  
effective Feb. 1.

### ADMINISTRATOR

**Reverend Michael S.P.  
Trainor,** Parochial Vicar of  
Saint Mary Parish, Dumont, has  
been appointed Administrator of  
Immaculate Conception Parish,  
Hackensack, effective Feb. 1.

### PAROCHIAL VICARS

**Reverend Guillermo L. Mora,**  
Parochial of Blessed Sacrament  
Parish, Elizabeth, has been appointed  
Parochial Vicar of Saint Joseph/Saint  
Michael Parish, Union City,  
effective Jan. 13.

**Reverend Fredy Sanchez,**  
Parochial Vicar of Saint Joseph Parish,  
Jersey City, has been appointed  
Parochial Vicar of Blessed Sacrament  
Parish, Elizabeth, effective, Jan. 13.

**Reverend Michael Barone,**  
Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of  
Mount Carmel Parish, Bayonne, has  
been appointed Parochial Vicar of  
Saint Mary Parish, Dumont,  
effective Jan. 13.

**Reverend Sangkyun Kim,**  
has been appointed Parochial  
Vicar of Saint Andrew Kim Parish,  
Maplewood, effective, Feb. 5.

### RETIREMENTS

**Reverend Thomas C.  
Roberts,** has been granted  
retirement, effective Jan. 1.

**Reverend Gerard T.  
Prindiville,** has been granted  
retirement, effective Feb. 1.



# a defining moment

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OPEN HOUSE • 11:00 AM**

**RSVP [caldwell.edu/rsvp](http://caldwell.edu/rsvp)**



**CALDWELL  
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# Local parishioner named 'Professor of the Year'

DUMONT—Geoffrey Sadlock, a parishioner of Saint Mary, was named U.S. Professor of the Year for New Jersey by the Carnegie Foundation and the Council for the Advancement of Schools and Education.

Sadlock, who holds a doctorate in English, has taught at Bergen Community College for 43 years.

Conducted by the council and sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation, the awards recognize professors for their influence on teaching and commitment to undergraduate students. Sadlock topped finalists from the state's public and private universities and colleges to join 35 state and four national winners for the 2015 awards. Nearly 1,300 professors have been recognized since the awards program launched in 1981.

With his wife Karen, Sadlock worships at Saint Mary, where he is also a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus and an officer of Council 1345.

He began teaching as a grad-



uate assistant at Tufts University before securing instructor positions at Brown University and Fairleigh Dickinson University in the 1960s. Bergen hired him in 1972; he achieved the rank of full professor in 1995.

He co-founded the college's honors program in 1975 and has taught courses such as English Composition, World Literature and Introduction to Shakespeare.

"I'm very grateful for this recognition," Sadlock said. "It

confirms me in my vocation and my colleagues who strive to impart humanistic learning. It means somebody is noticing that humanities are still valid in a time when the number of majors has declined."

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology  
invites you to

## Developing a Heart of Mercy: A Day of Theological Studies

In celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

**Saturday, February 20, 2016** • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Seton Hall University, Lewis Hall

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Join the  
conversation!  
#heartofmercy



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- Luke: The Gospel of Mercy
- The Charism of Mercy in the Life of the Church as Mediated through the Saints
- The Virtue of *Misericordia*: Learning to be *Les Misérables'* Jean Valjean in a Javert World
- Mercy: The Heart and the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven in Scripture and Tradition
- Experiencing and Bestowing God's Mercy: Spiritual Lessons from Saint Augustine
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation as a School of Mercy
- Mercy as a Sign of the Presence of the Father

To register, and for more information,  
visit [www.shu.edu/heartofmercy](http://www.shu.edu/heartofmercy)

or contact Anna Capizzi at [anna.capizzi1@student.shu.edu](mailto:anna.capizzi1@student.shu.edu) or (973) 275-2440. Please let us know should you require accommodations to attend this event.

**REGISTRATION: \$75 General Admission**  
Pre-registration required by February 12

#### INCLUDES:

- Mass in the Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd
- Continental breakfast and lunch



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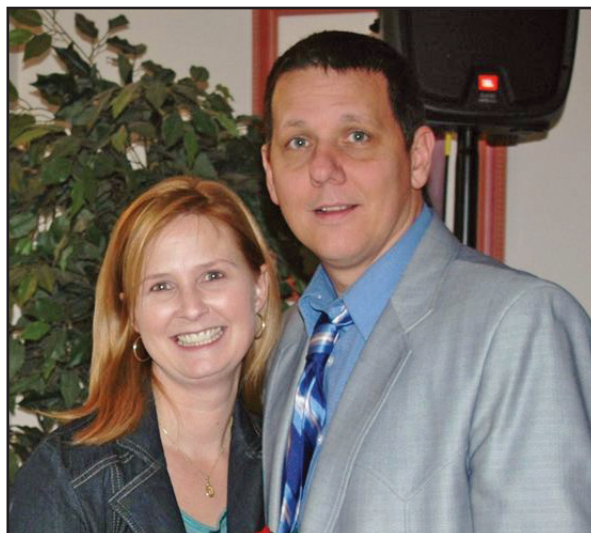
## Immaculate Conception Parish to host discussion on marriage

MAHWAH—To celebrate the month of love, Immaculate Conception Parish, 900 Darlington Ave., will host Catholic speakers and authors Chris and Linda Padgett will present the Saint Valentine inspired talk, "Holy Marriage, Happy Marriage: Faith-Filled Ways to a Better Relationship." on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

There will be two opportunities to hear the Padgetts with an afternoon program at 12:30 p.m. and an evening program at 7:30 p.m. All married couples are invited and encouraged to attend the free program together.

The Padgetts met in high school, have been married for over 25 years and have nine children. Through their share of ups and downs, they know from experience how a strong faith creates a strong relationship. Their perspectives are a result of faithfully practicing mutual respect, solid commitment and open communication. With humor, honesty and personal stories, they offer hope for even the most challenging relationship. A book signing and light refreshments will follow the discussion.

For more information contact the parish office at (201) 327-1276 or visit [www.iccmahwah.org](http://www.iccmahwah.org).



Chris and Linda Padgett

## International Migration Month Mass held at Cathedral Basilica

NEWARK—In celebration of International Migration Month, a Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Jan. 24 at noon.

Although celebrated every year, the event has a special commem-

oration during the Year of Mercy with the theme "A Stranger and You Welcomed Me."

During this liturgy, faithful are encouraged to pray for immigrant brothers and sisters and also for the legislation that will offer them

justice. The call for comprehensive immigration reform has long been a priority of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and there are continuing efforts for advocacy in this area.

The archdiocesan Office of

Human Concerns has a Justice for Immigrants Task Force and sponsors several activities throughout the year to highlight the need for immigration reform. For more information, e-mail Father Tim Graff at [grafftim@rcan.org](mailto:grafftim@rcan.org) or call (973) 497-4341.

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# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Archdiocese of Newark 2015-2014

January 20, 2016

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*I*n the pages that follow, we present to you the highlights of the financial information of the Archdiocese of Newark for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014.

The financial information for the two years was audited according to generally accepted accounting principles by Grant Thornton, L.L.P., one of the major accounting firms in the nation. Grant Thornton issued an unqualified, or “clean,” opinion, which states that the financial information presents “fairly, in all material respects, the financial position” of the Archdiocese’s Chancery Office.

During this year, through prudent stewardship practices and your generosity, we continued to reach out to others in need, to provide faith-filled education, to ensure essential pastoral, physical and spiritual outreach to those at the fringes of society, and to strengthen our ability to worship according to our teachings and traditions.

You will note in the pages that follow two significant figures—an increase of some \$13,417,000 in total Assets between 2014 and 2015, and an increase of \$16,110,000 in Liabilities for the same period. Your generosity in supporting this year’s Sharing Our Blessings annual campaign and our Living Stones Campaign for long-term support of parishes and ministries, as well as increases in assessments to parishes, have contributed largely to the increase in Assets and sources of funds for programs. At the same time, the increase in expenses reflects the implementation of the Lighting the Way initiative for the future of the Catholic elementary schools of the Archdiocese. In most other areas of service, in particular financial support of parish and pastoral programs and social services ministries, your support of the Archdiocese enabled this local Church to maintain levels of expenditures that were comparable to those of fiscal year 2014.

I am grateful that, in these continuing difficult economic times, you, the people of this great Archdiocese, are heeding the words of St. John Paul II who, in his historic visit to Newark 20 years ago reminded us that we are “the living stones which make up the Body of Christ.”

As we all work together to demonstrate in the most effective way our caring and careful stewardship of local and Archdiocesan resources, let us pray that the Holy Spirit sends us wisdom and strength to carry out those choices and patience as we meet these challenges.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely in the Lord,

✠ Most Reverend John J. Myers  
Archbishop of Newark





Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark Chancery Office  
**CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**  
 Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2015 and 2014.

## Assets

	2015	2014
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 18,567,783	\$ 20,235,248
Accounts and loans receivable, net (Notes 3 and 8)	15,549,053	15,934,627
Contributions receivable, net	4,584,078	181,345
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,447,481	1,355,046
Mortgage receivable	2,250,000	2,250,000
Note Receivable	4,000,000	
Investments:	432,337,303	426,308,568
Property held for sale	-	-
Property and equipment, net	32,066,675	31,120,990
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 510,802,373</b>	<b>\$ 497,385,824</b>

## Statement of Activity and Changes in Net Assets

	2015	2014
<b>CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>		
Operating support and revenue	\$ 45,584,108	\$ 37,876,515
Operating expenses	50,729,378	43,334,924
Environmental remediation	2,860,083	
Increase (Decrease) in unrestricted net assets from operation	(8,005,353)	(5,458,409)
Non operating revenue	1,908,493	35,763,249
Increase (Decrease) unrestricted net assets	(6,096,860)	30,304,840
Increase (Decrease) in temporary restricted net assets	998,953	14,686,722
Increase (Decrease) in permanently restricted net assets	2,404,467	108,395
Increase (Decrease) in net assets	(2,693,440)	45,099,957
Net assets, beginning of the year	233,902,403	188,802,446
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 231,208,963</b>	<b>\$ 233,902,403</b>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

	2015	2014
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 7,707,897	\$ 5,366,053
Accrued subsidies to affiliates and other obligations	8,933,473	9,221,466
Amounts due to affiliates (Parish Share)	450,700	
Obligation due under split-interest agreements	837,325	983,350
Custodial funds	259,697,975	246,058,827
Conditional asset retirement obligations	1,966,040	1,853,725
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 279,593,410</b>	<b>\$ 263,483,421</b>
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	76,174,455	82,271,315
Temporarily restricted net assets	57,218,881	56,219,928
Permanently restricted net assets	97,815,627	95,411,160
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 231,208,963</b>	<b>\$ 233,902,403</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 510,802,373</b>	<b>\$ 497,385,824</b>

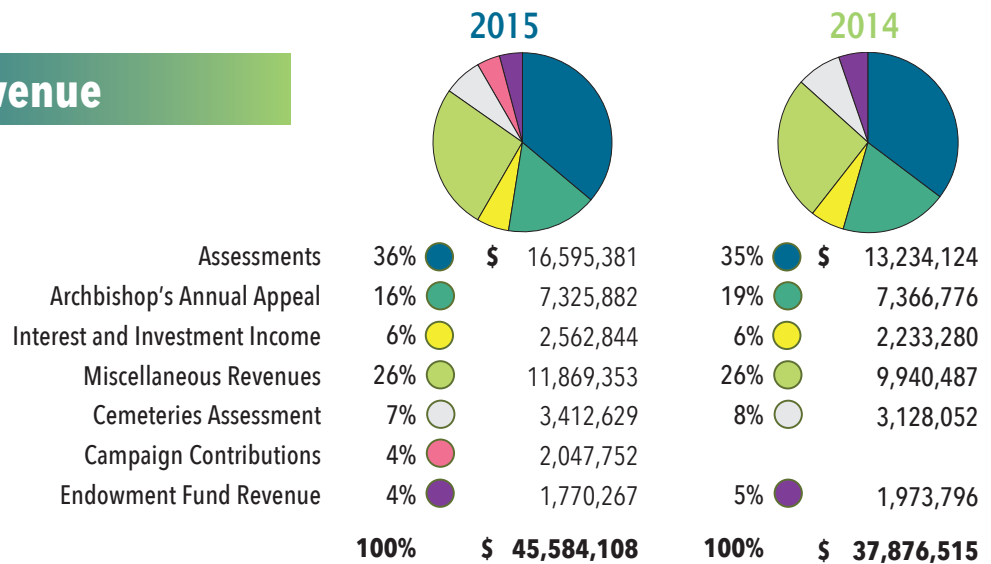
## Statement of Cash Flows

	2015	2014
Net cash provided (used) in operating activities	\$ (6,602,568)	\$ (9,593,572)
Net cash provided (used) in investing activities	4,578,780	9,549,015
Cash flow provided by financing activities	356,323	103,283
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,667,465)	58,726
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year	20,235,248	20,176,522
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the year	<b>\$ 18,567,783</b>	<b>\$ 20,235,248</b>
Supplemental Data:		
Mortgage receivable received from sale of property	\$	\$ 2,250,000

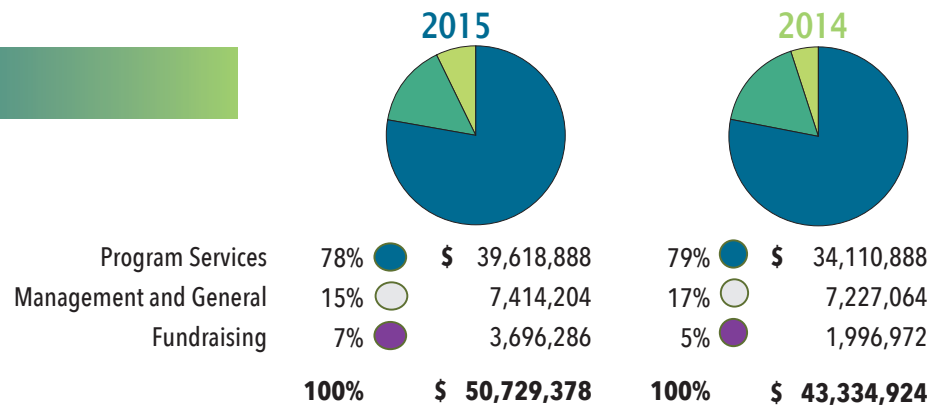


Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark Chancery Office  
**CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**  
 Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2015 and 2014.

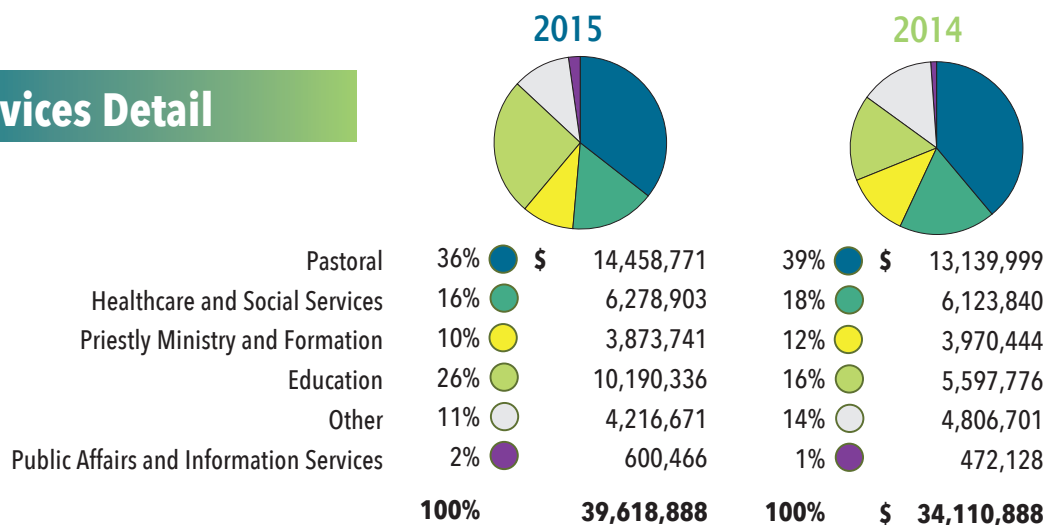
## Support and Revenue



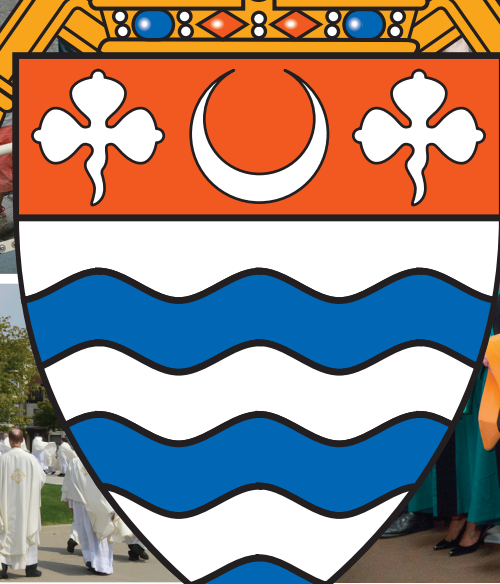
## Operating Services



## Program Services Detail

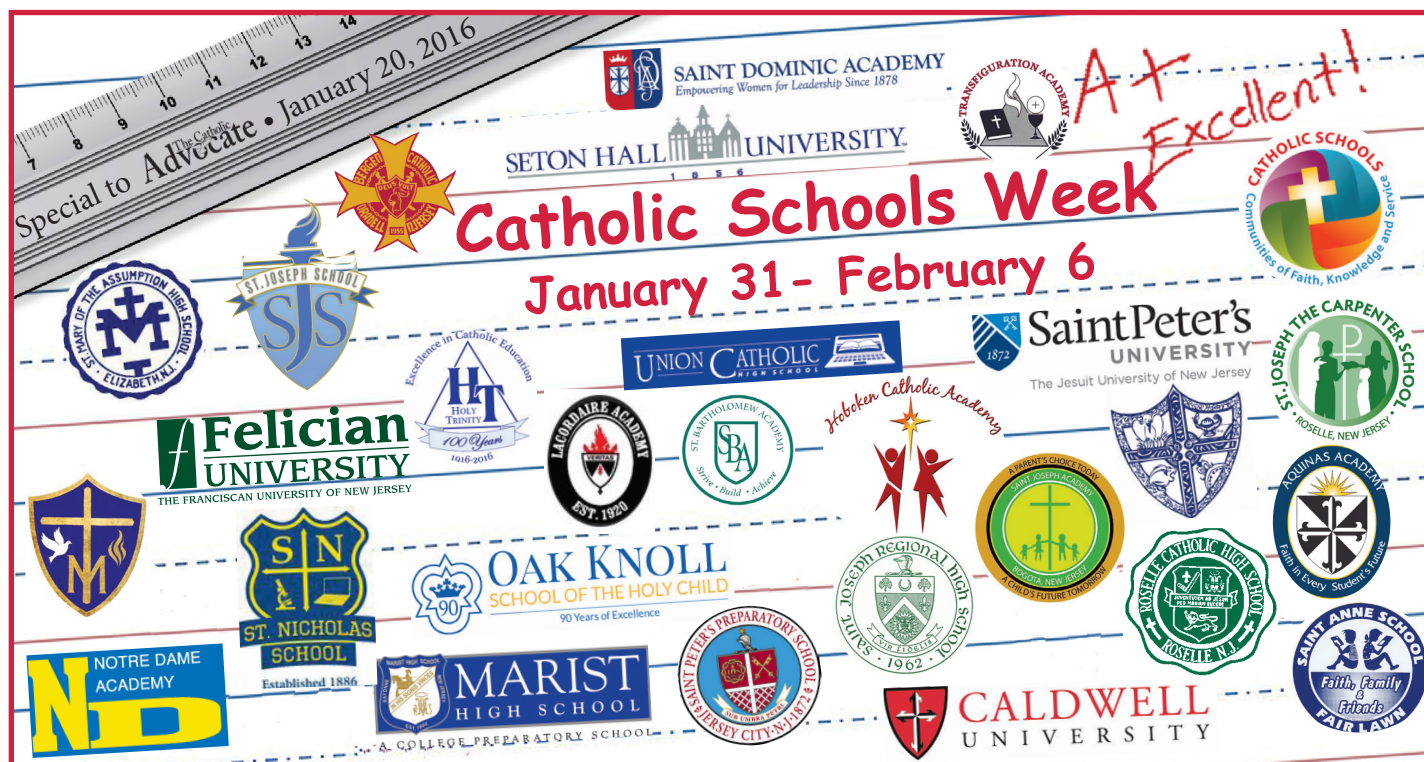






Advocate photos





## New project reconnects

Continued from page 1

flung Catholic school alumni was no easy feat for the Schools Office. Beginning in fall of 2014 through late spring 2015, the office collected records from currently operating archdiocesan Catholic elementary schools covering the graduates from 1950-1990.

All the records were on cardboard cards in filing cabinets. Many were written in faded fountain pen. Some had abbreviations for towns, or referred to sections of a town when indicating addresses. Additionally, up until the mid-1960s, there were no zip codes. Sometimes the snow and the extreme cold slowed the project as many of the record cabinets were in unheated storerooms and sub-basements.

Once all the records were found, transferred into electronic form, edited and reformatted, they were merged into one master file and sent to Blackbaud, the company used for alumni research and donor relations. Blackbaud tracked down current contact information and the Schools Office was able to locate close to 100,000 alumni.

"The Catholic Alumni Partnership program has been a tremendous asset to our elementary schools," said Dr. Margaret A. Dames, Superintendent of Schools and Secretary for Catholic Education. "The efforts

of (Director of Marketing and Public Relations) Laura Cristiano and (Development Assistant) Andrea Koenig-Feldman to reach out to the alumni of our 60 Catholic schools, is establishing a new stream of revenue for our elementary schools to use to help stabilize tuition."

The first phase of the Catholic Alumni Partnership began in 2010 after the Archdiocese of New York had a conversation with one of its donors, multi-millionaire Robert Wilson. Although he never attended Catholic schools, he proceeded to help not only the Archdiocese of New York, but also the Diocese of Brooklyn/Queens, the Diocese of Rockville Center, the Diocese of Buffalo, and the Dioceses of Hartford and Bridgeport to find their alumni.

Wilson passed away before he could fully launch the second phase of the project, in which the Archdiocese of Newark took part. The Wilson Trust continues to fund the project, with a grant of more than \$700,000.

The schools office recently sent introductory letters to alumni, re-introducing them to their schools. Recipients were encouraged to visit their former school's Web sites and social media accounts. Alumni were also asked to share what their Catholic education has done for them.

Oscar E. Arriaga graduated



Holy Family School 1st graduating Class June 17, 1955

Submitted photo

from Our Lady of Czestochowa, Jersey City, in 1979. He now resides in Florida. "All I have are fond memories of the school that will last a lifetime. Thank you for reaching out and contacting me. I would be more than happy to be a member of the Our Lady of Czestochowa community," he responded.

After the initial letter, solicitation letters will be written several times a year to ask alumni to support their Catholic elementary schools. Even if alumni are unable to give monetary support, they are

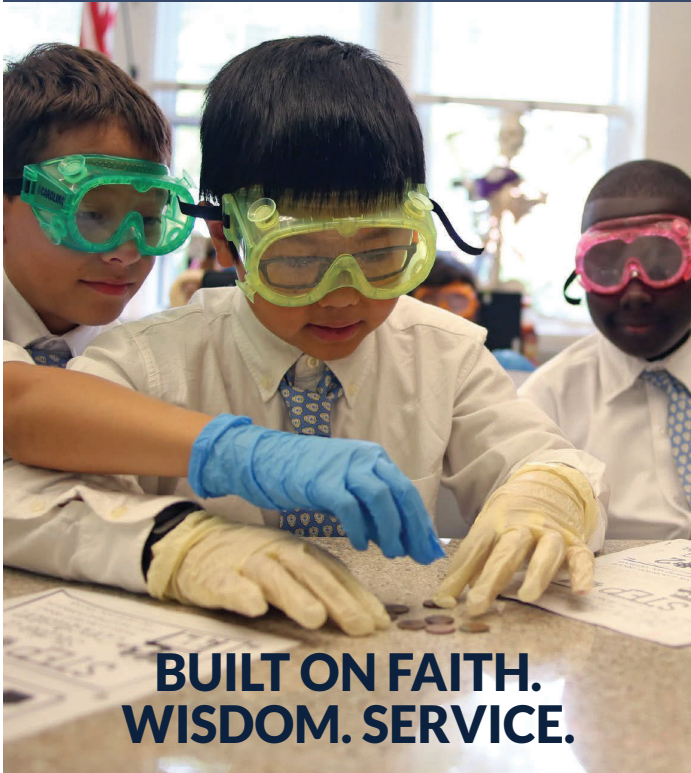
encouraged to remember the schools in their prayers.

All proceeds from the Catholic Alumni Partnership project goes directly to the schools. The archdiocese does not take a cut. The archdiocesan staff manages the mailings, reaches out to schools for information to share with alumni, tracks incoming funds, distributes the funds to schools, and assists schools in writing thank you letters to alumni.

For more information, e-mail [alumni@rcanschools.org](mailto:alumni@rcanschools.org) or call (973) 497-4258.



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# Oak Knoll students participate in 'Hour of Code'

**SUMMIT**—The student body at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child joined millions across the globe last month to embark on the “Hour of Code” to heighten interest in the growing studies of computer science and engineering.

“Hour of Code,” an introduction course to basic computer coding, was part of a grassroots effort to expose students to computer programming during Computer Science Education Week.

Each day Upper School computer science and engineering classes as well as the middle school-level technology and Robotics Club showcased their work by crafting ornaments with Oak Knoll’s two 3D printers, demonstrating Makey invention kits and using Arduino kits to light up a Christmas tree.

Students also utilized Finch and Lego robots to play with Etch-a-Sketches and demonstrate basic robotic movements and functions.

Joan Mruk, Upper School computer science teacher, said she hopes the “Hour of Code” will encourage students to study sciences that could open career doors.

“The ‘Hour of Code’ is a small step to expose everyone to coding. The idea is to spark interest in this area so students will consider this as an elective in high school and a minor, if not a major, in college,” Mruk said. “Computer science as a career is a very open field with more jobs than qualified people.”

Apart from engineering, other fields such as law enforcement and medicine also have strong computer science components as the world becomes more and more digital, she said.

In addition, Mruk said the demonstrations helped other students understand that computer science, not unlike the arts, can be a creative process.

“Even a few simple coding activities can introduce new ways of thinking by exposing students to logic in a visual and interactive way,” she said.

Camille Burke, Upper School computer science teacher, said she hoped the week provided a unique spotlight for computer science and engineering courses at Oak Knoll.

“We are hoping students will get excited by what we showcased



Submitted photo

Seniors Audrey Picut and Mary Noelke demonstrate a 3D printer to their classmates during Computer Science Education Week.

during Computer Science Education Week and become interested in taking these courses in the future,” Burke said.

In the Lower School, students

learned coding during the month of December through the computer game “Minecraft.” Students also used Tynker.com to learn about programming.



Submitted photo

Jackson DiLullo, an eighth grade student at All Saints Catholic Academy, was awarded the grand prize for middle school students in a Hispanic Heritage Month essay contest sponsored by Optimum.com Community. Jackson beat over 1,000 entrants in the tristate area contest and received a \$2,500 scholarship to the high school of his choice. Dec. 21 was proclaimed Jackson DeLullo Day in Bayonne by Mayor James Davis. Pictured along with a representative from Optimum are Mayor Davis, Jackson’s parents, his sister Ava, Principal Sister Rita Marie Fritzen, O.S.F., Father Peter Wehrle, and Jackson’s Spanish teacher Miryam DeChiaro.





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Union Catholic High School, Scotch Plains, was recently selected to be an Under Armour Highlight School. Representatives from the company visited the campus, and noted the quality and scope of its programs, teams, athletes and facilities, including a new state-of-the-art turf field. Supporters of the school's athletic teams, particularly the student-run group "Blue Crew," who has become a staple at every home and away game, also left an impression. Union Catholic athletes will now be equipped with gear from Under Armour, and supporters will be able to buy gear online from the Union Catholic Website. Union Catholic's Athletic Director Jim Reagan is thrilled about the new partnership with Under Armour. "Our student athletes are now outfitted with the finest uniforms available," he said. "It has brought our entire athletic program to a new level and we could not be more proud."



Submitted photos



Submitted photo

During the Christmas season, students from Notre Dame Academy in Palisades Park and the National Junior Honor Society come together to support people in need. The Pre-K and Kindergarten families donated new teddy bears for children at Englewood Hospital. The youngsters spread holiday cheer by delivering the toys and singing Christmas carols in the hospital's lobby.



Submitted photo

Colin Salandy, a fifth grade student at Saint Thomas the Apostle School in Bloomfield, discussed different artistic interpretations of the Feast of the Epiphany with his classmates. Using Smart Board technology, students were able to visualize how artists viewed the feast day and other religious celebrations throughout history.



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# Templeton Foundation Funds Grant for Course on 'Creation and Science'

SOUTH ORANGE—This semester, Seton Hall University's Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology will offer the award-winning course "Creation and Science," taught by Father Joseph R. Laracy, adjunct professor and former NASA engineer.

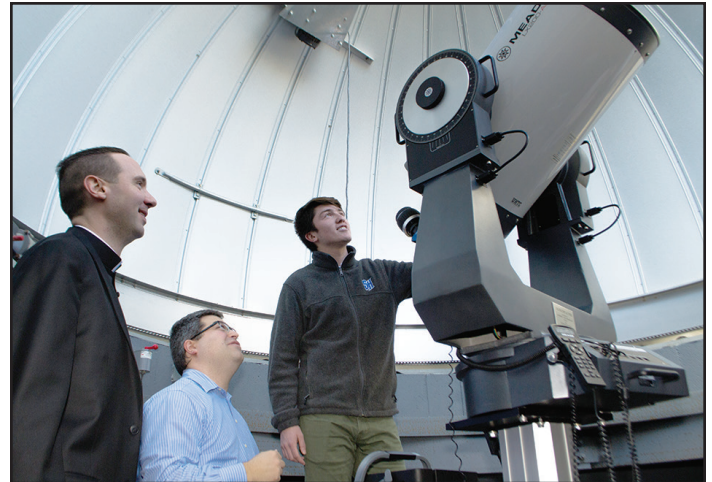
Father Laracy was one of 15 recipients of a grant awarded by the Planning Team of Science in Seminaries Initiative at John Carroll University and funded by the John Templeton Foundation in a national competition. The course launched Jan. 14 and is scheduled to run for at least three semesters during the next three years. It is currently open to all graduate students, though there are plans to extend the course to advanced undergraduates in future semesters.

Fr. Laracy holds a master's degree in engineering systems from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He



Father Joseph Laracy, here at Seton Hall's observatory, received a Templeton Foundation grant to develop a science course at the seminary.

wrote his licentiate thesis on the compatibility of the theology of creation with the natural sciences in the thought of Pope Benedict XVI. As



Submitted photos  
Dr. Jose Lopez (center), assistant professor of physics, will be a guest lecturer for Father Laracy's (left) "Creation and Science" course during the semester.

a systems engineer, he worked with Ball Aerospace and Technologies on the NASA Deep Impact Mission; as a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, he serves as parochial vicar of Saint Philomena in Livingston, and teaches mathematics and computer science at Seton Hall.

"I'm honored to have received this award and to teach this course," Father Laracy said. "The Church has long been foundational in scientific inquiry—whether we speak of the father of genetics,

Father Gregor Mendel; the father of geology, Blessed Nicolas Steno; the father of the Big Bang Theory, Monsignor Georges Lemaître; or countless other priests who have expanded and expounded upon the scientific frontier, the Church has been there. This course will help both lay students and seminarians to explore the fundamentals of faith and science, which are not mutually exclusive; in fact, many people are surprised to find just how compatible they are."



Submitted photo

The Academy of Our Lady robotics team, RoboNation, comprised of students in grades six through eight, took top honors at the FIRST Lego League Regional Qualifying competition held at Liberty Science Center Dec. 5. The team won several awards in Robot Design & Performance and were the highest scoring rookie team. RoboNation went on to be one of 62 teams competing in the state finals for Northern New Jersey. There were nearly 700 teams across the state competing in the league.

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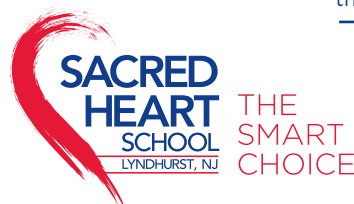
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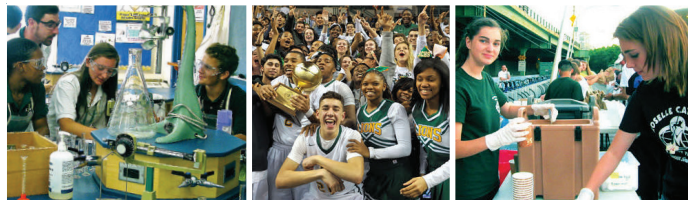
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## Caldwell University hosts lecture on St. Thomas Aquinas

CALDWELL—Celebrating the 800th anniversary of the Order of Preachers, the Theology/Philosophy Department at Caldwell University will continue its Sister Maura Campbell, O.P., Lecture Series on Feb. 1 with a talk on Saint Thomas Aquinas.

Father Innocent Smith, O.P., of Saint Vincent Ferrer Priory in New York City will speak on “Aquinas, Liturgy, Prayer” 4 - 5 p.m. in the Alumni Theatre.

Fr. Smith, a Dominican friar of the Province of Saint Joseph, also serves as parochial vicar at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish on Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

The lecture will focus on how Saint Thomas Aquinas,

one of the most influential theologians in the history of the Catholic Church, was deeply influenced by his life of communal prayer in the Dominican order. He will explore the connection between Thomas’s prayer life and his theological writing, drawing on the rich resources offered throughout the *Summa Theologiae* and the saint’s other writings.

The lecture series will continue April 12, when Sister Judith Miryam Boneski, O.P., director of advancement at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit, will present on “Dominic’s First Daughters: In the Heart of the Holy Preaching.”

For more information, call (973) 618-3931.



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Elizabeth (St. Michael's)



Submitted photo

To recognize students who demonstrate academic excellence, Immaculate Heart Academy in Washington Township presented Soaring Eagle Awards to teacher-nominated students. This award, presented by Principal Patricia Molloy, recognizes enthusiastic, compassionate, creative, and intelligent young women who embody the ideals of an Immaculate Heart education. Award recipients for the 2015-16 academic year were: standing, left to right, Madison Dietz (communications); Zoie Spinnler (religious studies); Lily Polster (mathematics); Reilly Medzadourian (English); Bernadette Goratowski (social studies); Regine Thimothee (technology); and Kayleigh McCann (science). Seated, left to right: Natasha Oshepkova (physical education); Riley DeRosa (the arts); and Megan Brockmeier (world languages).

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# Saint Dominic Academy glee club performs for Pope Francis

By Melissa McNally  
Editor

**"I**'ve been doing his for 37 years, and being at a Papal Mass was the most significant experience of my life," said Joseph Napoli, longtime choir director at Saint Dominic Academy in Jersey City.

Earlier this month, he traveled to Rome with 17 glee club singers and chaperones as members of Pueri Cantores, the official student choral organization of the Church. For the organization's 40th International Congress, Saint Dominic's glee club members, along with 5,000 singers from across the globe, performed at a Papal Mass at Saint Peter's Basilica on Jan. 1.

"The Mass had grandeur and pomp; Gregorian chant filled the space and it was just overwhelming and emotional," he added.

Senior Jennifer Valencia, pres-



Jennifer Valencia got her selfie with Pope Francis.

ident of the glee club, checked one item off her bucket list. "I got my selfie with Pope Francis. It was an amazing and unique experience," Valencia exclaimed.



Submitted photos

Joe Napoli and Glee Club Executive Board officers (from left) Jennifer Valencia, Alyssa Roaquin, Katherine Gomez and Dana DeCastro stand next to Bernini's famous fountain in the Piazza Navona, Rome.



Students pose outside the Coliseum.

Napoli recalled that the pontiff had a spirit that resonated with the children and young adults. "He was like a rock star. Kids ran to the aisle as he came near them and they tried to grab his hand, calling his name. Everyone got their Selfie Sticks out; it was unreal."

Before the New Year's Day Mass, the pilgrims from Saint Dominic had the opportunity to explore Rome and Vatican City in tours led by the Pueri Cantores team. The group visited landmarks including the Sistine Chapel and Trevi Fountain.

Glee club members even held an

impromptu concert at the Cornaro Chapel, Santa Maria della Vittoria, in Rome a few days after Christmas. The group sang "Oh Holy Night" by the Ecstasy of Saint Teresa statue.

"It was just on the fly," explained junior Christina Little, who has a solo part in the carol. "I didn't have time to be nervous. Everyone in the church was paying attention to us. It was one of the most beautiful, spiritual experiences of my life. A tourist couple from Spain tapped me on the shoulder after we sang and said 'thank you for your gift.' It was absolutely amazing."

## Our Lady of Czestochowa School awarded National Blue Ribbon

JERSEY CITY—Our Lady of Czestochowa School has been recently named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

"We were selected for this prestigious award, because our standardized test scores in reading and math placed us among the top performing schools in the nation," Principal Anna Mae Stefanelli explained. "This award recognizes our students' accomplishments and the hard work and dedication of our committed faculty and staff, past and present."

The student body was thrilled when the announcement was made Oct. 1. Grades 4 through 8 watched the live stream declaration by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "When our name came up, the place burst into cheers," a sixth grade student recalled.

"This honor recognizes your students' accomplishments and the hard work and dedication that went into their success," Duncan said in a video message to the awardees. "Your journey has taught you collaboration, intentional instruction, and strong relationships in school

and with your community. You represent excellence—in vision, in implementation, and in results—and we want to learn as much as we can from you."

Nelly Morales, vice principal, noted, "It's a great day. This was a team effort. We could not have done it without our students and dedicated faculty. This honor is based on overall academic excellence, and we are so proud of everyone who has been a part of it."

Our Lady of Czestochowa, with its Little Harbor Academy preschool, serves a population from the

youngest in Mommy & Me, 2-year-olds, and through eighth grade.

The school, which has been a fixture on the Jersey City waterfront since the 1920s, has grown and changed with its surroundings. For many years, it served mostly the Polish Catholic community. As the neighborhood changed, so did the enrollment. Originally, the surrounding area was a working-class neighborhood, with a mostly Roman Catholic population. Today, the school is part of a diverse community, with families from all over the world.





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Visitation Academy, Paramus, welcomed the Year of Mercy on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Each student received a blessed medal of Pope Francis and Saint Francis of Assisi, in addition to a prayer card listing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. In the fall, Visitation welcomed the Mothers of Mercy Messengers who presented illuminated images of the Divine Mercy image, crucifix, tabernacle, image of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Submitted photos

and Shroud of Turin. These images helped tell the story of Saint Faustina Kowalska and her mystical experiences with Jesus. The Passion of Christ was discussed, and His wounds were pointed out on the image of the Shroud of Turin. Students joined in praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the end of the program. To highlight Corporal Works of Mercy, students participated in toy, food and clothing drives to support local shelters. The school also held bake sales to support pediatric cancer research.



## Bergen Catholic connects Newark grammar school to the digital age

ORADELL —As part of the ongoing celebration of the 60th Bergen Catholic Jubilee Year, members of the high school community installed an Internet Wi-Fi network at Saint Francis Xavier grammar school in Newark during Christmas break.

Prior to Bergen Catholic's involvement, the school operated with little Internet. In addition to wiring the complex and increasing the number of outlets at Saint Francis Xavier, Bergen Catholic will also donate 32" Sony televisions and laptops for the faculty and students.

Members of Bergen Catholic's technology department headed by Brother Christopher D. Hall, C.F.C., and Al Spiegel helped to install the new wireless network, with the assistance of students Emilio Montes de Oca, Matthew Selvaggi and Francis Milone. Bergen Catholic maintenance workers Dan Kurpick and Rick Ferriola also helped with the installation, while JAL Electric upgraded electrical service for the project.

Bergen Catholic plans to continue their service partnership with Saint Francis Xavier in the future, with the high school's technology department and other service groups making monthly trips to the Newark school.



Submitted photos

Brother Christopher Hall helps to install Wi-Fi equipment in the hallways of Saint Francis Xavier grammar school.





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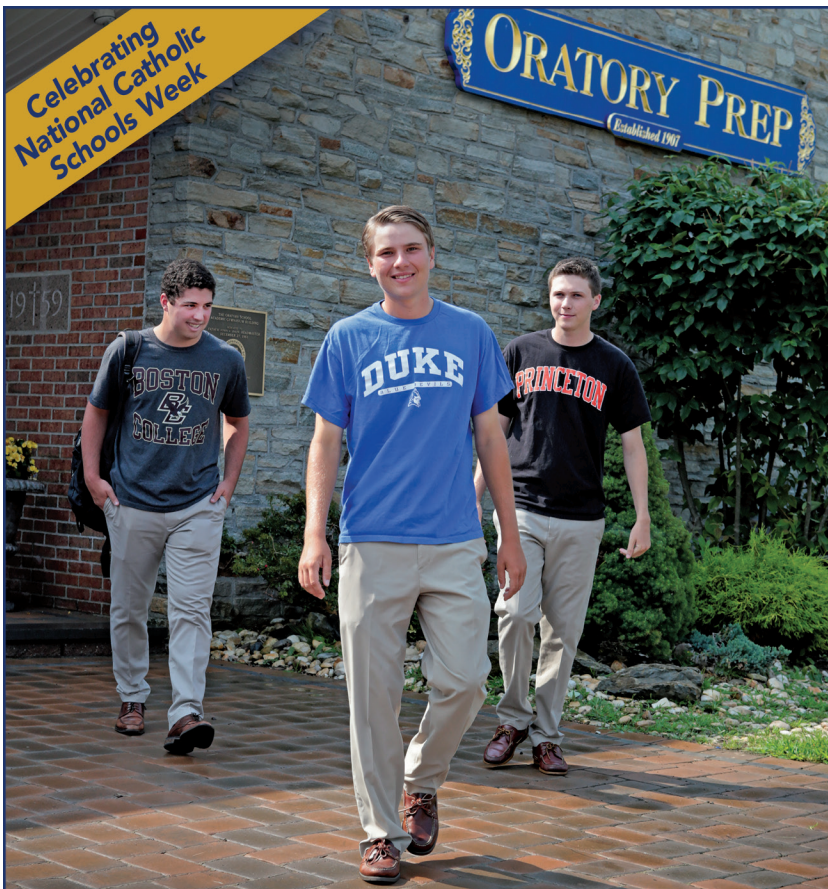
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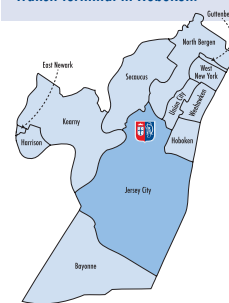


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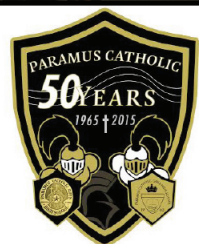


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## Bergen Community College offers continuing education courses

PARAMUS—The Division of Continuing Education, Corporate & Public Sector Training at Bergen Community College plays an integral role in the college's mission of supporting workforce development and providing opportunities for lifelong learning. Offering, affordable classes and flexible scheduling, the courses aims to reach students of all ages and interests.

This spring, Continuing Education will offer courses that provide pathways to a variety of careers, including environmental services, aviation, health professions, teaching and advanced manufacturing.

Additional courses in different languages and a larger selection of on-line options will also be offered this spring. Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands in Lyndhurst and the Philip Ciarco Jr. Learning Center in Hackensack now offer continuing education courses as well.

For more information, call (201) 447-7488 or visit [www.bergen.edu/continuinged](http://www.bergen.edu/continuinged).



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## Marist senior creates international organization in support of women

BAYONNE – Last summer, to help the women and children of her native Vietnam, Marist High School senior Minh Le founded the non-profit, social activism organization Daughters of Vietnam. The organization's mission is to raise funds for and promote the rights of women and children in Third World countries by selling books through an online bookstore.

Daughters of Vietnam has been in the planning stages for the last two years but over the summer, Le had the resources to make it a reality. She founded the organization with two other high school students, one living in California and the other living in Vietnam, who have three passions in common: literature, feminism and helping others.

"I wanted to do something," Le said. "I lived in Vietnam and immigrated to the United States. When I

was in Vietnam, I didn't pay attention to the loss of rights or discrimination of women. However, when I moved to the US and noticed it, I knew I had to do something."

The organization operates by selling books through an online bookstore on their Web site. As well as being the founder, Le is also the chief editor and chooses the books that will be sold on the site. The list of books changes every two weeks and revolves around a new theme. Selections include Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" and Virginia Woolf's "A Room of One's Own."

"We have raised over \$1,000 so far from the sale of our books," Le explained. "Daughters of Vietnam also coordinates with other organizations that travel to Third World countries. We supply them with books and ask that they distribute



Submitted photo

them to the orphanages and children that they work with."

Le has continued to grow her organization by attending and speaking at different conferences throughout the country. "I like attending the conferences. I am the youngest person there and most people are businessmen but I like to talk about my organization," she said.

Daughters of Vietnam hopes to open another branch of the organization in the United States soon. She has enlisted the help of three other Marist High School students; Casey Ambrosio, Le's brother, Junior Tri Le, and Tumaresi Yalikun.

For more information about Minh Le's organization, visit [www.daughtersofvietnam.com](http://www.daughtersofvietnam.com).

## Christ the King: a 'school that works'

For incoming freshmen, the school year at Christ the King Preparatory School begins during the summer with four weeks of BOOT Camp. The acronym for Business Orientation and Opportunity Training, BOOT initiates these 100 students to a new life that Bill Gates believes in. His foundation has provided two separate multi-million dollar grants to make sure the students who begin BOOT Camp graduate from college, secure sustainable, professional careers and become leaders in their communities.

Christ the King, in Newark, is one of 30 Cristo Rey Network schools across the country. Each has a corporate work study program that begins with BOOT Camp. The four weeks includes training on Microsoft Office and in skills like public speaking, proper work dress and grooming, attention to detail, responsibility, team and leadership building and time management. At that point, students are prepared to begin amassing the 1,400 hours of professional experience they will need to grad-



Submitted photo

uate. Additionally, the preparatory school students contribute more than 25,000 hours of community service in the Newark area.

Each student starts the school year with a job interview with one of the more than 60 law firms, hospitals, major pharmaceutical

and health insurance corporations that participate in the work-study program. Once students are paired with a suitable corporate partner, they don their navy and khaki uniforms and join the American workforce one day each week. As they gain professional experience

and build resumes, the school's rigorous academic program readies them for college.

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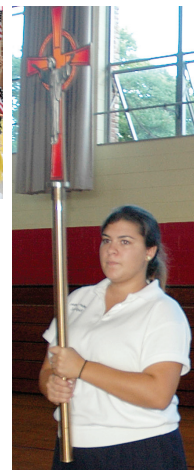
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**REGISTRATION:**  
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