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The Catholic Advocate



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August 17, 2016

"Just enjoy this ride..."



Archbishop John J. Myers

By Most Rev. John J. Myers
Archbishop of Newark

On my 75th birthday last month, some of my family from Illinois and a number of friends surprised me with a party at a local restaurant where, amid all of the stories, good-natured kidding and celebration, the Jimmy Buffett song, *Trip Around the Sun* came up.

No, *Trip Around the Sun* isn't about space travel. The opening, "Here they singin' Happy Birthday... Better think about the wish I make...", sets us up for the story of a man of a certain age thinking about the important things in his life, what they mean, and how he has been blessed by everyone and everything that have been a part of that life.

And since Jimmy Buffett is the epitome of pragmatic optimism, the final line of the song—"...just enjoy this ride on my trip around the sun"—made me think about how this particular song reflects my life and my ministry as a priest and bishop. As most of you know, this year

SINCERELY IN THE LORD

is a significant one for me. I have reached the three-quarter century mark and tendered my letter requesting retirement to the Holy Father; I celebrate 15 years as your shepherd in this great archdiocese, and mark the 50th jubilee of my ordination as a priest.

As a seminarian in Rome, I was an eyewitness to the excitement of the Second Vatican Council. That excitement was and remains so much a

part of my priestly life that I adopted "Let the Mystery of the Church Shine Forth"—the central theme of *Lumen Gentium*, the council's Dogmatic Constitution of the Church—as my motto as a bishop. In *Lumen Gentium*, the fathers of the Council stated: "All people are called to union with Christ, who is the light of the world, from whom we go forth, through whom we live and toward whom our whole life is directed!"

Not too many years later, Saint John Paul echoed that call when he wrote in his first encyclical, *Redemptor Hominis*: "The Church's fundamental function in every age and particularly ours is to direct man's gaze, to point the awareness and experience of the whole of humanity towards the mystery of God."

Sadly, our secularized culture, which emphasizes the self and the immediate over the Divine, often puts roadblocks in our way to Christ. Whenever I've tried to take

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ARCHBISHOP JOHN J. MYERS' PASTORAL LETTER PAGES 9-12

Queen of Peace High School will remain open for 2016-17

NORTH ARLINGTON—First, Queen of Peace High School met the challenge of raising a million dollars in order to remain open.

Now, an anonymous family has stepped forward to give the school an additional half million dollars to support strategic planning, accelerate fundraising and propel marketing at the school.

The \$500,000 gift, made to the Archdiocese of Newark, will be used exclusively for the effort underway to sustain Queen of Peace High School, according to terms of the gift.

"We're kind of speechless,"

said Queen of Peace Principal John Tonero. "This gift has the potential to secure and transform our future. All of us at Queen of Peace are deeply grateful."

According to Father Mike Donovan, pastor of Queen of Peace parish, which operates the high school, the donor was introduced to the school by Archbishop John J. Myers.

"There are so many ways the archdiocese supported us over the past few months to help us stay open," said Fr. Donovan. "But bringing this gift to our doors is above and beyond what we could have

expected." The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, are long-time benefactors of the Archdiocese of Newark and strong supporters of Catholic education across the country, said Fr. Donovan.

Archbishop Myers announced July 22 that Queen of Peace High School, which had been slated to close at the end of June due to declining enrollment and sagging finances, will remain open for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Fr. Donovan received the good news via phone from the archdiocese on July 21.

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Queen of Peace High School, North Arlington

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'Morning of Mercy' to be held this fall

One of the "Holy Door" churches will be the setting for an archdiocesan "Morning of Mercy" on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Divine Mercy in Rahway, one of the regional Holy Door parishes designated by Archbishop John J. Myers, will be the setting for a morning that will include opportunities for the faithful to obtain the plenary indulgence offered by the Holy Father during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy that ends Nov. 20.

The devotion is being held a month before the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on Oct. 22. The pilgrimages, held every three years, generally attract about 3,000 parishioners from Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties but more are expected for this Year of Mercy. Each parish is coordinating transportation to the event.

Like the pilgrimage, the Morning of Mercy at Divine Mercy Parish will afford all the opportunities to

qualify for the indulgence: passing through the Holy Door, Confession, Eucharist, a profession of faith and prayers for the Holy Father's intentions.

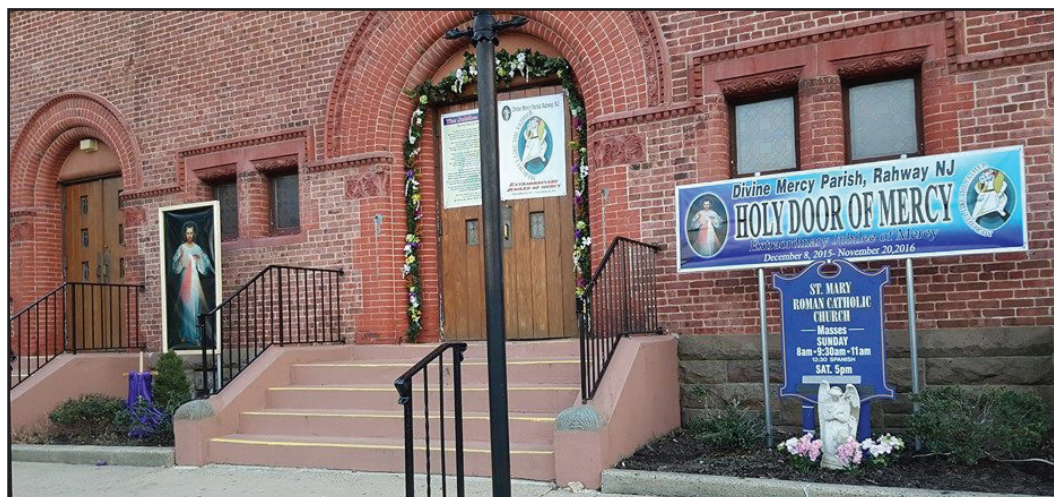
Before the Mass, Rev. Msgr. Joseph Reilly, who Pope Francis named archdiocesan Missionary of Mercy, will present a talk. Msgr.

Reilly is rector of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University in South Orange.

Msgr. Reilly's talk will be preceded by music and prayer that follows opening welcome remarks at 9:30 a.m. After the talk there will be time for adoration, confession and

passing through the Holy Door. The event concludes with Mass, which is expected to end about 12:30 p.m.

"Msgr. Reilly is a great man of God and a wonderful speaker, and it will be a good preparation for the archdiocesan pilgrimage the next month, as well as a terrific day in its own right," said Father John Gordon, associate to the Vicar for Pastoral Life and coordinator of the Office for Evangelization.



Queen of Peace High School

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"I spoke with Archbishop Myers to bring him up to date on our efforts," Fr. Donovan said, "and His Grace expressed his happiness over what we have accomplished. He also said that he has great hopes for our plan to be more financially stable and to grow enrollment over the next few years."

After the high school and Queen of Peace Parish communities were informed in May that the school was slated to close at the end of this most recent academic year, students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni and friends undertook an extensive fundraising effort to

ensure there would be sufficient funds to keep the school open for the coming year.

Under the leadership of Fr. Donovan, a group of staff and volunteers, including prominent alumni, also began developing a series of long-term plans for tuition management, general financial support and management, enrollment and daily operations. To date, the school has raised some \$1.02 million to support the operation of the school for the coming year, when some 225 students are expected to enter the classrooms in September.

As a result of the significant improvement to its fiscal management,

recruitment efforts and development strategies, Archbishop Myers believes that Queen of Peace High School can have a viable future.

"I am extremely grateful to Fr. Donovan, the staff, volunteers, students and families of Queen of Peace High School, and the staff of the archdiocesan schools and finance offices for assuring that Queen of Peace High School can continue to be a vital part of Catholic secondary education," he said.

"The entire Queen of Peace family has worked diligently to create a roadmap for a solid financial foundation and student enrollment. I believe that everyone involved in the school's life now is committed fully to ensuring that this foundation of student growth and develop-

ment of adequate finance resources becomes a long-term reality."

Archbishop Myer noted that although the high school still has obstacles to overcome, including resolving outstanding debt, he is confident that a solution can be reached.

"In heraldry, QP's mascot, the griffin, symbolizes the qualities of strength, courage, intelligence and leadership," Archbishop Myers added. "The results that the Queen of Peace family have produced, and the new start they have created for this great school, clearly show that the griffin has inspired them. I pray that they will continue to be inspired as they work to ensure the brightest of futures for Queen of Peace High School."

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Students explore spirituality and leadership at Caldwell University

CALDWELL—Seventeen high school students participated in the Spirituality and Society Summer Seminar July 16-23 at Caldwell University. The seminar was an opportunity for students to discern how their spirituality could underpin their leadership skills as they explored options for their college and career paths.

Dr. Kyle Bennett, director of the Spirituality and Leadership Institute at Caldwell and a philosophy faculty member, said the aim of the program is to introduce high school students to spirituality disciplines and leadership practices to help them grow as young citizens who promote public justice and seek the common good. Three key areas of study were spiritual formation, theological reflection and vocational discernment.

The students had a taste of college life, living in the dorms, taking workshops and socializing together.

Speakers included Michael Oliver, a Caldwell University theology faculty member, on spirituality and the environment; Bennett on spirituality and consumption; cartoon-

ist Drew Dernavich on spirituality and expression; actor Matt Lowe on spirituality and entertainment, and Alissa Wilkinson, a film critic and English and humanities professor at King's College, on spirituality and the media. They also took part in a journaling workshop with author and adjunct professor in the Caldwell Business Division, Barbara Davey.

"We really wanted the students to begin reflecting on how their everyday activities have implications for the kind of person and professional they become," Bennett said. "I think we succeeded."

There was plenty of time for recreation, ranging from mini golf to kickball to volleyball and a nature walk.

The students were introduced to the Catholic-Dominican tradition and enjoyed time with the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell at an ice cream social.

Gary Striggles Jr., from Saint Mary of the Assumption High School in Elizabeth, said the week

was more than he expected, and was especially enthused about Oliver's talk on spirituality and the environment. Oliver encouraged the students to "dial down on some things" like air conditioning to conserve electricity, "only using the amount you need," said Striggles.

Alizè Stevenson, also from Saint Mary of the Assumption, enjoyed Bennett's talk on food and spirituality and how he probed the students on several points. "I like to answer questions," she said, and the presentation made her think that "we take for granted what we have."

The seminar also included group discussions. "The leaders made sure everyone was connecting," Stevenson said. "We all came from different places, with different thoughts on different topics," and through the discussions, students were able to peek into each other's lives, she said. "It was a life-changing experience; everyone was different, but now our plates are full."

The Spirituality and Leadership Institute was made possible by a grant the university received from the Lilly Endowment Inc. The program is part of the endowment's High School Youth Theology Institutes initiative.



Submitted photo

Kassandra Pardo and Sophia Feijo from Saint Dominic Academy in Jersey City attended the Spirituality and Society Summer Seminar at Caldwell.

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Pope names six women, six men to panel to study women deacons

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis has appointed six men and six women to a commission to study the issue of women deacons, particularly their ministry in the early church.

In addition to the 12 members named Aug. 2, the pope tapped Archbishop Luis Ladaria Ferrer, secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to serve as president of the commission.

The pope set up the commission at the request of the International Union of Superiors General, the organization for the leaders of women's religious orders around the world. Meeting the group in May, Pope Francis said that while his understanding was that the women described as deacons in the New Testament were not ordained as male deacons are today, "it would be useful for the church to clarify this question."

The International Theological Commission, a body that advises the doctrinal congregation, included

the question of women deacons in a study on the diaconate almost 20 years ago. While its report, issued in 2002, did not offer recommendations for the future, it concluded that biblical deaconesses were not the same as ordained male deacons.

In June, Pope Francis told reporters that he had asked Cardinal Gerhard Muller, prefect of the doctrinal congregation, and Sister Carmen Sammut, president of the superiors' group, to suggest scholars to include in the study group.

At least one of the members Pope Francis named to the commission—U.S. scholar Phyllis Zagano—has written extensively on the role of women deacons in the early church, arguing that they were ordained ministers and that women can be ordained deacons today. Zagano is a senior research associate in the religion department at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York.

Zagano told Catholic News Service she learned of the appointment through emails from friends and that she was "happy for the church." She said she knew some of the people named to the commission but was



not familiar with their writings on women in the diaconate.

"The theological question isn't whether women were ordained (in the early church), but rather whether women can be ordained as deacons. The church has stated definitively that women cannot be ordained as priests. The church has always left the question of restoring women to the diaconate as open," she told Catholic News Service Aug. 2.

"It appears to me that this is an opportunity for the church to discuss whether women can be restored to the ordained diaconate," she said.

Another U.S. scholar also is among the 12 commission members: Augustinian Father Robert Dodaro, president of the Pontifical Augustinian Institute in Rome and a professor of patristic theology specializing in the works of Saint Augustine.

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Seton Hall University appoints new deans

SOUTH ORANGE—Seton Hall University recently announced the appointment of Dr. Peter W. Shoemaker as the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, effective July 1. The university also announced the appointment of Dr. Maureen Gillette as the new dean of the College of Education and Human Services, effective Aug. 1.

A scholar of 17th century French literature and culture, Shoemaker is the author of over 15 peer-reviewed journal articles and two scholarly books. Areas of special interest include rhetoric and literature, the social history of literature, the novel and the Moralists. He received his Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures from Princeton University in 1997, where Shoemaker was a Jacob Javits Fellow and the recipient of a French Government Fellowship (Bourse Chateaubriand) that enabled him to study at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris from 1994 – 1995. He also holds a mas-

ter's degree in Romance Languages and Literatures from Princeton and a bachelor's degree in French from the University of Chicago.

Shoemaker is currently serving as vice provost and dean of Undergraduate Studies, director of the University Honors Program and associate professor of French at The Catholic University of America. In addition, he has worked collaboratively with faculty, staff and students across The Catholic University of America campus to develop a sustainability program and agenda that includes an experiential component for students.

As a member of The Catholic University faculty, he taught numerous courses in French language, literature and culture at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as the University's Honors Program, and was the recipient of a Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006 – 2007.

Gillette has served as the Dean



Dr. Peter W. Shoemaker

of the College of Education at Northeastern Illinois University since 2005. Her tenure reflects her commitment to developing a diverse and highly effective teacher workforce, teacher education, and multiculturalism. She has extensive National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education accreditation experience and serves as Chair of their Board of Examiners. Prior to joining Northeastern Illinois, Gillette was an associate dean at William Paterson University from 1999 through 2005. Her responsibilities included recruitment and retention of students, community college articulation and development of partnerships with P-12 schools.



Dr. Maureen Gillette

She has published more than 20 refereed journal articles and book chapters and has presented more than 35 scholarly papers. She is co-author of Learning to Teach Everyone's Children: Equity, Empowerment, and Education that is Multicultural.

Gillette earned her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in the area of curriculum and instruction, with a minor in educational administration. She also earned her masters and bachelor degrees from Northern Illinois University. She holds a certificate in Management and Leadership in Higher Education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.



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Confirmation at St Mary, Closter 2005



100th Anniversary of St. Rocco's Parish, Union City 2012

"Just enjoy this ride..."

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down the roadblocks, the secular culture leaders have tended to get angry with me, and the headlines and editorials show it. As *Trip Around the Sun* says: "This year gone by ain't been a piece of cake."

I have been privileged to serve you and the universal church. I have also been blessed to know and work with saints. The vast majority, including many of you who are reading this column, may not be part of the official Canon of Saints, but you are the living face of Christ to those in need. I also have known, worked with, and earned the friendship and love of two contemporary saints, Saint John Paul and soon-to-be Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Saint John Paul chose me to lead the local churches of Peoria and Newark, and I have tried to emulate his caring for people and his voice of clarity about the teachings of the Church throughout my 29 years in the episcopacy. Saint Teresa of Calcutta and I shared a very strong desire to help the poor. I met the saint in Rome many years ago at a private Mass that Saint John Paul and I, then a very young bishop, concelebrated in his apartment in the Vatican. Right before the Mass began, then-Mother Teresa and a number of her sisters who were to take their vows that day entered. On that day I was doubly blessed. Shortly after that meeting, I asked her to send members of her community to Peoria to help me serve the poor in my home diocese. She challenged me to prove that there were poor people in Peoria. When I did, she came to Peoria herself, along with a group of her sisters. That community continues to work among the poor

in the Peoria diocese to this day. As you all know, Saint Teresa of Calcutta's Missionaries of Charity were also very active in Newark working with the poor in the city, and also providing spiritual support through their contemplative community.

Vocations to the priesthood have always been a key part of my life as a priest and bishop. I am happy to say that throughout my ministry as a bishop I have ordained approximately 300 men to serve the sacramental, spiritual and physical needs of the people of the Churches of Peoria and Newark. Unfortunately, I also have mourned the passing of many good priests over the decades, including: my childhood pastor in Earlville, IL, Father Henry J. Hahn; Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, whom I knew from our days together at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and with whom I served as a brother bishop in the Province of Chicago; and Rev. Msgr. Jim Sheehan, a former priest secretary and good friend here in Newark, to name just a few. Each taught me important lessons about being a solid, true teacher of Catholic faith.

Since coming to Newark in 2001, just after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and through numerous tragic incidents and sad moments, I have walked with and supported family members whose loved ones—first responders, service men who have died in action overseas, students, and so many others—perished before their time and, in our minds, without reason. Together, we have brought our grief to the altar. We have commended our loved ones to the Lord. We have asked Him to give us strength to weather the loss, wisdom to come



Archbishop Myers with Pope Francis 2015

to terms with it, and faith to continue to live and share His love and mercy.

I also have been privileged to be able to place both our Catholic schools and Catholic university, Seton Hall, on truly solid ground in terms of superior academic achievement and Catholic identity. Serving our youth and young adults, however, does not end in the classroom. We've strengthened the archdiocese's commitment to parish-based youth ministry supported by the archdiocese's Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office and Retreat Center in Kearny. Our most recent grant of several million dollars for projects at the Kearny Youth Center is yielding great results, with a summer camp that gains in enrollment each year and a retreat center that challenges our ability to schedule time for all of the groups from within and outside the archdiocese.

Even as I reflect on the many positive elements in our service to children and youth, I also must mention the sadness of dealing with the pain and sin of sexual abuse by clergy. I am thankful that since 2004, there has been no incident of abuse in this archdiocese. The vast majority of incidents that have come to our attention are decades old. We have reported all incidents to law enforcement, and have offered counseling and healing to victims. We have offered financial support as well. We also have removed some 20 priests because of substantiated allegations, and made public to the affected parish communities the names of those we have removed. Most important, through mandatory background checks and compulsory education and training for employees, volunteers, clergy and students, we have established a culture of safe environment for the children and youth we serve.

Echoing my affection and reverence for Saint Teresa of Calcutta, we have faced some of our most difficult challenges to provide educational and social services that flow from the Church's mission and ministry in a manner consistent with our sincerely held religious beliefs. In my first weeks in the archdiocese, I visited numerous Catholic Charities sites to learn from the people we serve and from the staff what is needed to bring dignity and hope to people in need here in northern New Jersey. Since those first visits, I have worked to ensure that this life-giving agency has received millions in fi-

nancial and human resources support to meet challenges that grow and change from year to year. Whether the issues are AIDS, homelessness, job training, emergency food services, immigration and human trafficking, or housing or serving people with disabilities, these charitable works of mercy are offered in Christ's name and in response to the call of the Gospel.

By its very nature, sincere religious belief that takes root in the soul of the human person and forms the foundation for one's words and deeds can never be constrained to private expression or granted liberty only within the confines of a house of worship, something our critics and the secularists seek. Religious liberty extends beyond the freedom to worship. Religious liberty entails the freedom to exercise belief and to order one's life in accord with that belief in affairs both private and public.

When priests and bishops retire from active ministry, I often tell them that this is not an end, but rather the beginning of a new chapter in a life of service to the universal church. As I begin to look toward my own new chapter, many things will occupy me. I will continue to write and teach, two primary activities of a bishop. I will continue to participate in the sacramental life of the Church of Newark. I will work eagerly with my successor to assist him as he undertakes the responsibilities of serving you. I will continue to support the priests of this archdiocese through retreat and study programs. I also will continue to serve for now in several assignments—in particular the Pontifical North American College and the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts—that will call me back to the Vatican throughout the year.

Some of the lyrics of *Trip Around the Sun* express that there's no sense thinking about "what I shoulda done," and that's true. One line in particular, though—"If there's one thing that I've learned from all this living, it's that it wouldn't change a thing if I let go"—speaks to me clearly of the central role of faith in our lives, if we place that faith in the Lord and in His plan for us.

That one line reminds me of a prayer I wrote years ago to encourage people to consider the priesthood or consecrated life: "Lord, help me to be the person You want me to be."

It is my prayer for you as well.



Seton Hall University Graduation 2016



Fatima Pilgrimage 2003



St. John Academy, Hillsdale 2005

Felician University awarded \$10,000 to renovate veterans center

RUTHERFORD – Walking onto a college campus after serving in the nation's military can be a challenging transition for student veterans. To help ease the return to civilian life, The Home Depot Foundation and Student Veterans of America awarded the chapter at Felician University \$10,000 to make considerable improvements to its veterans center on the University's Lodi campus. Felician currently has 43 undergraduate and 19 graduate veterans enrolled in its academic programs.

For the fifth consecutive year, Felician has been named by G.I. Jobs magazine as a Top Military

Friendly School for its commitment to providing a supportive environment for armed forces veterans and their families. Felician's inclusion on the list ranks it in the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide. As a military friendly institution, Felician offers dedicated financial benefits to veterans and their families and has created distinct programs to help them achieve their academic goals.

"In keeping with our Franciscan mission and values, the Veterans Club ensures an easier transition to civilian life by providing an environment where students closely interact with their peers and have an oppor-

tunity to share experiences with one another," said Felician President, Dr. Anne Prisco.

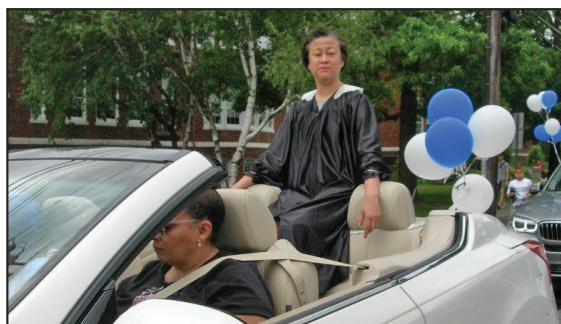
The club also offers students an opportunity to learn about the various support services and resources available at the university. For many veterans, the organization provides opportunities for members to socialize, study, and connect with students of similar background.

Among other initiatives, the Veterans Club is working with Project Rebirth, a resource for all who serve community and country, and its Project Cohort, which is a proven method for treating PTSD through adventure therapy. Throughout the year, the Veterans Club also participates in 5K runs/walks, community events, veteran internships, veteran job fairs, workshops, on campus veteran events and a special Veter-

ans Day ceremony.

This year, the Veterans Club at was invited to march in the New York City Veterans Day parade and the local American Legion Memorial Day parade. The club also participates with Midnight Run, an organization that serves the New York City homeless, by organizing clothing and simple needs collections delivered to areas where homeless veterans live.

Student Veterans of America and The Home Depot Foundation teamed up in 2014 to launch the Vet Center Initiative, offering chapters a chance to compete for up to \$10,000 in grant money to build or renovate a veteran center. By 2015, 61 campuses earned \$500,000 to build or rehabilitate veteran centers that benefit more than 30,000 student veterans. Felician was among 50 campus communities awarded grants this year.



Submitted photos

The New Jersey /Archdiocese of Newark chapter "Friends of Delille" participated in Montclair's African Heritage Day Parade. The chapter was formed to promote the Cause for Canonization for Venerable Henriette Delille, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family. Delille is the first United States-born African-American whose cause for canonization has been officially opened by the Catholic Church. The chapter promotes Venerable Delille's cause for sainthood through prayer and by spreading the message about her many corporal works of mercy. In addition to its participation in the African Heritage Day Parade, the chapter, under the guidance of Father Stephen Fichter, promotes Delille's cause through Mass intentions, daily prayer, and participation in the Women's Day of Reflection. For more information, contact delillecomoff@yahoo.com.



TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

A Pastoral Letter on the Spiritual Nature of the Human Person and the Role of God's Grace in Guiding Us to Live the Fullness of Our Humanity in Today's World According to His Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROLOGUE

Every person has a spiritual nature. We are all a unity of body and soul. Unlike any other bodily being, we have the capacity to seek the truth and question the meaning and purpose of our existence. As we grow and mature, we begin to ask ourselves fundamental questions: Who am I? Why am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? What is the meaning of this intense longing I feel for union and relationships?

These and other similar questions are shared by all humans. Every human who lives an examined life attempts to answer these questions either practically or theoretically or both. The great philosophies and religions of the world speak to some of the most enduring answers that humankind has advanced.

Christian believers ask the same questions. We believe that the best of human reasoning has pointed to truthful and beautiful answers to these questions. For example, reflection has revealed the spiritual nature of the human person and of the existence of the immortal soul. Reason also points to the existence of God for one ought to be able to discern the Artist from his art (cf. Wisdom 13).

But Christians also know from their personal encounter with the Lord that God is loving, kind and merciful (cf. Psalm 103:8). God's love for us is so intimate that he

adopts us as his children. And as a loving Father, he reveals to us his children how to live and love. The fullness of this revelation is seen in Jesus of Nazareth. Fully Human, Fully Divine. The Incarnate Son of God. It is always to him that we turn to discover the truth about who we are as humans.

INTRODUCTION

We all are very familiar with the Gospel story about Jesus teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum (John 6: 60-69). Jesus tells the crowd—and all of us—two essential truths.

THE FIRST: He is the bread of life. All who come to Him shall never hunger.

THE SECOND: "No one can come to me, unless it is granted him by my Father."

In this Gospel, the Beloved Apostle also shares with us that, sadly, some in Jesus' company became uneasy with these words. Many "returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him." But the Twelve stayed.

When Jesus asked the Twelve "Do you also want to leave?", Simon Peter answered: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

All who were present in Capernaum that day had been searching for the transcendent. Happily, the Twelve recognized the Presence of the One True God among them.

Over almost 2,000 years, others have continued to search and, yes, find the Presence—that saving Grace that strengthens and nourishes us to live according to God’s plan.

I joined the faith community of the Church of Newark and the wider civic community while they were in the process of recovering from the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. All people were searching for answers, reaching out to the transcendent, searching for God, reaching out to others.



I. WE CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR THE TRANSCENDENT

Every one of us experiences an inner sense of the transcendent—an undefined awareness of something beyond what we can see, and hear, and touch. We also long for a knowledge of and relationship with a transcendent being, a presence beyond our own self-awareness.

Many have wrestled with this and with larger questions: the purpose and meaning of human existence; the value of suffering; the presence of evil; life after death.

Seeking answers to these questions has been part of the human condition as we search for meaning and happiness in our lives.

II. THE GIFT OF FAITH

As we reach out to God, God reaches out to us. Through nature and personal experience, God leads us by his self-revelation to a personal relationship through His Son.

When we hear God’s Word and are moved to believe, our response is to place our faith in God. For many of us, our response is weak, but nevertheless our response places us on a journey to a deeper encounter with the Son of God who has loved us and who gave himself for us. “Lord, I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mk. 9:24) is an aspiration that many of us can pray with sincere honesty.

Faith is in itself a personal gift from God—a gift that we freely must choose to receive and embrace. It is an encounter with the transcendent Other which demands a response. Our faith totally transforms us as we journey from knowing about Jesus to knowing the person of Jesus Christ. Remember, we do not journey alone; we journey with fellow believers. We journey toward Jesus; happily, He walks with us on our journey.

Together we ask with Peter; “Lord, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life.”

III. FAITH AND A SECULARIZED CULTURE

From the Apostolic Era to today, believers have walked

with Peter and his successors seeking in the Church guidance through the seasons of life and the moments of daily living. We continue the journey with them.

In our day, as in many times and societies in the past, there is a questioning of religious and civil governing authority. Many place reason over faith, not realizing they are complementary. Many see themselves as the center of the world, with little or no reference to others or to the common good—much less, to God.

With such a narrow, self-centered vision, they all too often lose sight of, or fail to seek, the Grace that God so abundantly makes available to help them live according to His design.

Simply put, we all see in much of society a significant absence of belief and reference to God in daily living and public discourse. In fact, many want to eliminate faith from any public manifestation and to restrict faith to within the home and the church building. In effect, the faith of the Church's members would not be allowed to have any influence in the public square.

Yet, when God is removed from the equation of life a questioning void remains—"to whom shall we go?"

IV. LIVED FAITH AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The Catholic Church teaches that the right to religious freedom flows from the very nature of the human person.

While religious organizations enjoy freedom to assemble and worship, all faith communities face new challenges to religious freedom. In recent years government has sought to impose requirements upon religious institutions which are inconsistent with their beliefs. Government continues to acknowledge the right of religious institutions to believe—but not to act in accord with belief. They hold that faith and belief are confined to our private lives and are not to be translated into public practice. But belief must inform action and action must confirm belief—in the privacy of our homes, within the walls of our houses of worship, and in the public sphere.

By its very nature, sincere religious belief which takes root in the soul of the human person and forms the foundation for one's words and deeds can never be constrained to

private expression or granted liberty only within the confines of a house of worship. Religious liberty extends beyond the freedom to worship. Religious liberty entails the freedom to exercise belief and to order one's life in accord with that belief in affairs both private and public.

V. FAITH IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Faith is a personal response to a continuing invitation to live in an intimate relationship with Christ, answering the question of the human heart: "To whom shall we go?"

The Church relies on all the faithful to commit themselves to their baptismal participation to the Church's mission of spreading the Gospel—to bring Christ into the multi-layered dimensions of culture and society—to be "a light to the nations" (Isaiah 49:6, Acts 13:47) and leaven in the world—to re-evangelize culture.

Our first encounters with others will often take the form of dialogue. Dialogue brings into contact two or more persons sincerely searching for the truth. The Christian comes to these encounters as a fellow-seeker of truth. He or she knows that there is much to learn from the other. But the Christian also knows that he or she has truth which must be shared.

Along with dialogue, and perhaps even more important, re-evangelization must be brought about by our personal witness. We are called to witness to Christ in the arenas of our daily lives by the manner in which we live. As the teaching often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi says: "Preach always! When necessary use words." Ultimately the most successful form of evangelization is the witness of a holy life.

There are also external difficulties that we face. Culturally, we live in a society that is not fully supportive of the Christian life and the contribution which faith—Christian or otherwise—has to offer. In fact, many are opposed to what the Lord offers through the Church and Her members. But we must be careful not to fall into the trap of blaming the prevalent culture for our failure to speak and live the truth.

Giving priority to the spiritual dimension of the human person itself takes deliberate consideration and effort. To the foundations of the Christian life – the Eucharist, reflective reading of Sacred Scripture, moments of personal prayer,

and frequent confession—we can join other spiritual practices and devotions.

Outside the family, the first place to find this support is in the local parish community. Many, if not all, of the parishes in the Church of Newark provide opportunities for continuing adult faith formation such as prayer groups, bible study, lectures, parish missions, catechetical offerings, and apostolic service opportunities. Involvement in these and other such faith-based groups can help to provide a greater integration of our faith in our daily life and offer a supportive experience of Christian fellowship and faith formation.

Equally important to the family unit is regular and active participation in the sacramental and communal life of the parish. Our parishes exist first and foremost to provide for the spiritual and sacramental needs of the individual and families through the reverent and meaningful celebrations of the Church's liturgical rites and the proclamation of the Gospel message. They should also serve to bring the faith community together for outreach initiatives, the expression of the rich cultural traditions of the people of the Archdiocese, and provide opportunities for social gatherings. When our parishes are vibrant they provide for both the sacramental and communal needs of the faithful and serve as a well of supernatural grace and much needed communal support for our families.

In the same way, we must seek to support, and find support within, our individual families—the domestic church. As His Holiness Pope Francis so eloquently reminded us in his recent exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, “The love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church.”

In an atmosphere of secularism which undermines the goals and ideals of Christian living and characterizes the person of faith as an oddity rather than the norm, the Christian and the Christian family requires a strong personal relationship with the Lord, a community of support, and a deliberate daily recommitment to Christ in order to counter social and culture pressure to adopt the value system and philosophies of the present day. While fulfilling his or her baptismal vocation of bringing the Gospel message to bear upon society, culture, economics, public policy, and all human endeavors, as disciples of the Lord we require the surety and steadfastness of Joshua: “And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

CONCLUSION

Gathered around Jesus as he taught in the synagogue of Capernaum, the Twelve and a large crowd of followers were both attracted to the person of Jesus and felt challenged by his words. As he continued teaching, revealing his mission and identity, his mind and soul, and His Divinity, the disciples' attraction to Jesus gave way to the challenges involved in following him. Slowly, and we can imagine with reluctance and disappointment, the crowd of followers dwindled as, one by one, they drifted away from Jesus only to begin again the search for words which satisfy the core questions of human existence. But the Twelve remained. Despite the imperatives and challenges, the words and person of Jesus corresponded to the yearning in their hearts: “Lord to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God” (John 6: 68-69).

All who were present in Capernaum that day had been searching for the transcendent. Happily, the Twelve recognized the Presence of the One True God among them.


Today, I invite each of you to recognize and embrace that Jesus is, was and always will be the Second Person of the Trinity, the fully Human, fully Divine Incarnate Son of God. He “has the words of eternal life. Accept this invitation, and you will discover that with the Lord the desires and possibilities of human life find the promise of fulfillment. “I came that they may have life and to have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Peace be with you.

Given at my Chancery this 27th day of June 2016.



✠ Most Reverend John J. Myers
Archbishop of Newark



Reverend Monsignor Michael A. Andreano, V.G.
Vicar General and Chancellor

Notre Dame Volunteers



Submitted photos



Recently, 14 young people from Notre Dame Parish in North Caldwell, along with several chaperones, spent a week in Sea Bright rebuilding a home damaged in Super Storm Sandy. The group worked with Saint Bernard's Project and stayed at Camp Evans in Wall Township. Since 2006, Saint Bernard's Project has rebuilt homes for more than 1,060 families affected by natural disasters with the help of more than 100,000 volunteers in areas including New Orleans, Staten Island, and Columbia, SC.

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Submitted photos

A giant waterfall, lush vegetation and a kapok tree helped transform the auditorium of Sacred Heart in Bloomfield into a rainforest for Vacation Bible Camp, where 23 children, along with many pre-teen and teen volunteers learned about the wonders of the Amazon. Animals from the Turtle Back Zoo also made an appearance during the Aug. 1-5 event.

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August 18

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Garfield, "Las Festa Italiana," Mass and private devotion on Aug. 18-Aug. 20, Mass in Italian and English at 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 21 followed by grand procession, feast featuring food, music and games from Aug. 18-Aug. 21, (973) 772-2295.

August 27

Boy Scout Troop 139, Bergenfield, Red Cross Blood Drive and Health Fair, at Conlon Hall, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., all blood donors will receive a free pancake

breakfast, contact Sergio Valencia at (551) 497-0292 or e-mail svalencia470@gmail.com.

September 13

Holy Name Medical Center, Teaneck, "Sharing the Journey" bereavement group, Tuesdays, which start today from 10-11:30 a.m., or Wednesdays which start September 21 from 10-11:30 a.m., call Lenore Guido at (201) 833-3000 ext. 7580.

September 17

Office of Family Life Ministries, Archdiocese of Newark,

support group for fathers whose children have died, at Notre Dame Parish in North Caldwell, 10 a.m.-noon, (973) 497-4327.

September 21

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington, eight-part Bible study featuring Dr. Edward Sri, through Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., \$22, call Eileen at (201) 933-0576 or Ginny at (201) 715-2087.

September 25

Serra International, District 22, Communion Brunch, Mass at 11 a.m. Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, followed by brunch in the Chancellors Suite at Seton Hall University, featured speaker will be Judge Andrew P. Napolitano, contact Joseph F. Pagano at

(201) 954-1990 or jpagano18@comcast.net.

September 27

St. Catharine Parish, Glen Rock, fall bereavement support group, for nine consecutive Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m., call Drew Rodney at (201) 214-4637.

September 30

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington, beefsteak dinner, \$40, 18 and over only, 7 p.m., call Eileen at (201) 933-0576.

October 15

St. Joseph the Carpenter School, Roselle, Centennial Gala, call (908) 245-6560 or e-mail personette@stjosephroselleschool.org.

Obituaries

Rev. Monsignor Joseph T. Slinger

A mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 3 at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Paramus, for Rev. Monsignor Joseph T. Slinger, 75, who died July 28.

Raised in Garfield, Msgr. Slinger was ordained to the priesthood in 1970 after attending Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington. Following ordination, he served as parochial vicar at Saint Aedan Parish in Jersey City.

He was a professor of sociology at Seton Hall University, chairperson of its sociology department and an associate provost. Later, he also served in administration of the Archdiocese of Newark as the vicar general for the apostolates under Archbishop Theodore McCarrick and Archbishop John J. Myers.

Msgr. Slinger served many parishes throughout the archdiocese, including Saint Paul, Jersey City; Holy Trinity, Hackensack; Saint Peter, Belleville; and Our Lady of the Visitation, Paramus.

Rev. Salvatore Anthony Busichio

A mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 9 at Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Raleigh, NC, for Father Salvatore Anthony Busichio, 82, who died Aug. 2.

Born in in Elizabeth, Fr. Busi-

chio, studied philosophy and classical languages at Seton Hall University, South Orange, before entering Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington. He was ordained to the priesthood May 28, 1960.

Fr. Busichio served as Parochial Vicar at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bloomfield and at Our Lady of Peace Parish in New Providence. He was granted permission from the Archdiocese of Newark to serve in the Diocese of Raleigh in 2007. He retired from active ministry on April 30, 2014.

Sister Johanna Rado, M.P.F.

A mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 11 at Saint Lucy Chapel, Villa Walsh, Morristown, for Sister Johanna Rado, 91, who died Aug. 8.

Sr. Johanna entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1944 and made her final religious profession on Aug. 31, 1947. She graduated from Seton Hall University, South Orange, where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees. Her fields of study included elementary and secondary education as well as business administration.

Sr. Johanna taught in elementary schools throughout New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. She served as a teacher at the following archdiocesan schools: Our Lady Mount Carmel, Orange; Holy Rosary, Jersey City; Saint Bartholomew, Scotch Plains; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Newark.



Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

PASTORS

Reverend Stanley S. Kostrzomb, Pastor at Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Lyndhurst, has been granted a third six-year term to his Pastorate ending Feb. 1, 2022.

Reverend Sergio O. Nadres, Parochial Vicar at Christ the King Parish, Hillside, has been appointed Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Bayonne, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Canon Brian Bovee has been appointed Rector of Saint Anthony of Padua Oratory, West Orange, effective July 18.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Tomasz Koszalka, has been appointed Parochial Vicar at Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden, effective July 14, 2016 – July 14, 2018.

CHAPLAINS

Reverend John Berchmans Antony has been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council #1863, Fort Lee, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Francis P. Azah has been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council #15958, North Bergen, effective Aug. 1.



Reverend Harvey J. Ballance has been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council #1277, Montclair, effective Aug. 1.

Reverend Patrick M. Mulewski has been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council #7041, Hasbrouck Heights, effective Sept. 1.

ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICES

Reverend John F. Gordon has been appointed Associate Coordinator of the Multi-Cultural Office in the Archdiocese of Newark effective July 13 and will assume the role of Coordinator of Multi-Cultural Office effective Feb. 1, 2017.

Reverend Joseph Kwiatkowski, Pastor at Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Newark, has been appointed part-time Archdiocesan Director of Human Concerns, effective Oct. 1.

Reverend Brian X. Needles has been appointed Director of Campus Ministry at Seton Hall University, effective Aug. 1.

RETIREMENT

Reverend Donald E. Blumenfeld has been granted retirement, effective Aug. 1.

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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.

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Thousands participate in community-based wellness challenge

A total of 1,310 participants joined the 2016 Bergen County Wellness Challenge sponsored by the Community Health Improvement Partnership's nutrition and physical activity task force and local health officers. Seventeen towns and the Meadowlands Area YMCA and Holy Name Medical Center hosted the challenge. Each municipality put its own spin on the program, making it unique to the needs and resources in the community.

The challenge lasted up to 12 weeks and included weekly weigh-ins, organized walks and hikes, wellness seminars, free fitness classes, and/or prize incentives. The campaign was supported through partnerships with the Bergen County Department of Health Services, local health departments, community organizations, town councils, fitness centers, YMCAs, hospitals, dietitians and other businesses.

Overall, 728 of the 1,310 people who registered completed the challenge with a final weigh-in and/or walk. The task force members and the participating towns pledged to continue the fitness and healthy eating campaign throughout the year and to conduct the program annually. For further information or to join the 2017 Challenge, please contact Marla Klein at mklein@co.bergen.nj.us.



Submitted photo
Team Upper Saddle River
working to improve their health
through yoga.

Cusack Care Center celebrates 125 years

JERSEY CITY—The Margaret Anna Cusack Care Center at the historic Saint Joseph's Home for the Blind is celebrating its 125th Anniversary with a series of events to commemorate the milestone.

On Sunday, Sept. 25, the center will hold its 125th Anniversary Generations Benefit Luncheon. "This year's Generations Luncheon will prove to be very special," said Thomas Sheehy, CEO and administrator at the Cusack Care Center.

The Partners in Caring celebration will be held at Casino in the Park in Jersey City and will recognize the family of the late Marie Garibaldi, the first woman appointed to the New Jersey Supreme Court; Jack Ford, journalist and "60 Minutes" correspondent; and Tim McLoone of McLoone Restaurants and founder of Holiday Express.

The event's keynote speaker will be former Rutgers University foot-

ball player Eric LeGrand, who will share his story of hope and his fight to build a new life after an injury left him paralyzed in 2010.

Other activities to commemorate the anniversary include the Generations Journal, 50/50 raffle and a gift raffle.

As a way of celebrating the lives of residents, the Cusack Care Center instituted an annual event near National Grandparents Day, traditionally celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day. In 2010, the luncheon shifted focus to generations—those, not necessarily grandparents, who have committed themselves to service to others by carrying on the traditions of those who preceded them.

Proceeds from the 2016 12th Annual Generations Benefit luncheon will be designated toward programs and services for the benefit of our residents at the Cusack Care Center.

For more information, call (201) 653-8300 or visit www.cusackcarecenter.org.

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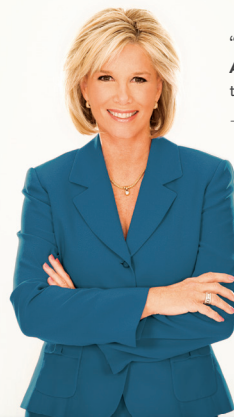
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Loyola Jesuit Center to host Golf Classic

MORRISTOWN—Loyola Jesuit Center will be hosting its 25th annual Father Harvey Haberstroh, S.J. Memorial Golf Classic on Thursday, Sept. 15. Special guest for golf and dinner will be former Loyola director and retreat master, Father Bill Poorten, S.J., who dedicated 25 years to the ministry.

Golfers will enjoy a round of golf at Suburban Golf Club in Union. The cost is \$350 per golfer which includes brunch, on-course refreshments, a cocktail reception and dinner. An awards ceremony, silent auction for sports memorabilia and entertainment experiences and a 50/50 raffle will also be held. Participants will be able to enter various competitions held in conjunction with the golf tournament like the Hole-in-One, Putting and Pot O' Gold contests for prizes. Fette Ford will award a new car to the winner of the Hole-in-One challenge. Non-golfers may purchase tickets at \$100 each which includes cocktails and dinner.

"We offer our players a unique experience that they'll always remember and associate with Loyola Jesuit Center and Fr. Haberstroh. Fr. Harvey was a man of joy, energy and generosity who became Loyola's director in 1960 and spent more than 20 years leading retreats and giving spiritual direction," said Renee Owens, Director of the Work. "The atmosphere at our tournament embodies Fr. Harvey's spirit as participants enjoy golf, fellowship and good food while supporting Loyola's mission of meeting people where they are in their spiritual lives and providing new pathways for spiritual growth and development."

Proceeds from the Golf Classic will go directly to the operations of the center, allowing Loyola to continue its free will offering policy of accepting donations of any size for its retreats. For more information, contact Owens at retreathouse@loyola.org, call (973) 539-0740 or visit at www.loyola.org.



Submitted photo

The Knights of Columbus Queen of Peace Council #3679, based in Closter, presented the second annual Jim McGahren Memorial Scholarship to Andrew Barber from Saint Therese of Lisieux in Cresskill; Christine Ditzel from Saint Mary in Closter; and Jude Rossmann from Our Lady of Victories in Harrington Park. Each received a \$1000 check toward their college or Catholic high school tuition. Money for the scholarships was raised at the council's annual golf outing held on June 13 at the River Vale Country Club. The scholarships were presented by Jim's widow Theresa McGahren, (far left) and Grand Knight John Hernandez (far right). Jim died in 2014. He was a member of the Queen of Peace Council for over 40 years.

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Considering Cremation?

While most Catholics still prefer full-body burial, today many families and individuals are considering cremation as an alternative to traditional burial.

Cremation is another way of preparing you or your loved one for remembrance and memorialization, an integral part of the grieving process. Like a traditional burial, choosing a permanent resting place for the cremated human remains of a loved one is equally important, especially for loved ones who will visit, pray, and remember.

Memorialization may be as personalized as you wish. You and your family may choose an elegant glass niche, a peaceful cremation garden, a distinguished columbarium, or a cherished family estate.



A permanent memorial at Catholic Cemeteries provides families, friends and future generations a place to remember and pay tribute to that special life. It also assures you and your family of the dignified and proper long-term care of loved ones in a safe, holy place. Additionally, detailed records offer family members assurance that future generations can identify and gain access to precious family relationships, histories, and your family tree.

Ask about the many beautiful and meaningful ways to memorialize your loved one or plan ahead to leave your own lasting legacy. Speak with a trained Memorial Planning Advisor today to choose a personal expression that's right for you or your family.

P.S. If you are holding the cremated human remains of a loved one at home, whether they passed recently or many years ago, consider bringing the urn to a Catholic cemetery. The dignified

interment of human cremated remains in a holy place properly recognizes the Order of Christian Funerals.

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