

A detailed illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary, in a blue robe and white veil, kneels in prayer on the right. Joseph, with a halo, stands behind the infant Jesus, who lies on a white cloth over a manger. A shepherd kneels in the foreground, holding a small lamb. Other shepherds and sheep are visible in the background under a starry night sky.

# The Catholic Advocate

Vol. 66 No. 14  
December 20, 2017

# Rejoice



# Local volunteers bring relief aid to Puerto Rico

By Melissa McNally  
Editor

**D**espite more than \$1 billion in aid, some 30 percent of Puerto Rico remains without power and thousands are still in desperate need of assistance three months after Hurricanes Irma and Maria decimated the island.

In response, four volunteers from Peace Care Saint Ann's in Jersey City flew to Puerto Rico to bring relief supplies to nursing home residents and family members affected by the hurricanes. Formerly Saint Ann's Home for the Aged, Peace Care is a not-for-profit organization sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace.

For many employees at Saint Ann, the hurricanes hit close to home because they have relatives

on the island. Among them is Janet Merly-Liranzo, administrator at Saint Ann, who lived in Puerto Rico until she was nine.

"After the hurricanes, people were asking what they can do to help," she said. "We decided to collect supplies and monetary donations. The response was overwhelming."

Her husband Angel, a Jersey City firefighter, also enlisted the help of his co-workers. In just a few weeks, people donated clothing, food, flashlights and more. Several of Saint Ann's vendors donated medical supplies.

In October, Merly-Liranzo, along with her husband and a few volunteers, decided to personally haul 15 of the boxes to Puerto Rico while another three, 100-pound boxes were shipped by United Airlines, which waived customary fees.

"It was divine intervention," Merly-Liranzo said. "I learned from the Sisters of Saint Joseph that sometimes you have to take matters into your own hands."

She reached out to her aunt Marta in Aibonito, who contacted the town's mayor. He arranged for the National Guard to escort the volunteers from the airport in San Juan. Angel made arrangements with local firefighters to use their fire station to sort the supplies. The five volunteers stayed in Cayey at the home of Merly-Liranzo's parents.

"It was chaos at the airport," recalled nurse Gena McCarthy, explaining how the volunteers had to manage carrying the boxes of supplies



Group photo: Front row, left to right; Gena McCarthy, Dilenia Rodriguez, (back row) Janet Merly-Liranzo and Elizabeth Rata.

while jostling with the crowds of people waiting for outbound flights.

Merly-Liranzo was shaken when she saw her 96-year-old grandmother's house. "The house that I lived in as a child, the house my grandmother lived in all of her life, was gone. The only thing left standing were two walls with photos of her grandchildren still on them."

Dilenia Rodriguez, assistant administrator of Saint Ann, was equally shocked. "This beautiful place that I've visited so many times to see my family just looked so dark. A place that had such vibrancy, energy and joy was just devastated. It was really difficult to see. Everything

looked burnt."

McCarthy, who had never been to Puerto Rico, recalled the huge uprooted trees and "telephone poles were hanging in the streets on wires. All the traffic lights were blown out so the roads were jammed."

After sorting through the donations at the firehouse, the volunteers brought supplies to four nursing homes and provided assistance to other residents. They also assembled care packages that included money donated by the staff at Peace Care and the Jersey City Fire Department.

Despite the destruction, Elizabeth Rata, director of nursing at

Continued on page 10



Submitted photos

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## Oak Knoll opens new lab

SUMMIT—The IDEAS Lab at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child officially opened Nov. 28 during a ceremony that included a blessing by Father Rocco Danzi and a ribbon-cutting by Head of School Timothy J. Saburn.

At the ceremony, alumna Mary Ellen Dundon, also a trustee, was praised for her donation, which created the lab in honor of her late brother Richard. “We wanted to do something to thank Mary Ellen and to her sister-in-law, Lynn, for supporting Oak Knoll and its students in such a meaningful way,” Saburn said.

“Richard was a person known to tinker and build things,” he continued. “So I thought it was a good match and a great way to honor him and to think of him every time students come into this space so that they can play and tinker and learn how things work.”

Richard Dundon, a Vietnam veteran and Summit attorney, developed photos at home, crafted his own crystal radio and tinkered with a German steam engine he acquired.

“I think that this lab, with (Dundon’s) very generous donation, made it possible for our children to be prepared for whatever the world

may be for them,” said Lower School Technology Integrator Kim Connolly.

The concept of the IDEAS Lab—which stands for innovation, design, engineering, art and science—was introduced in the Lower

School during the 2016-17 school year and the space was developed during the summer and early fall. It includes a number of tech learning tools that will allow students in grades K-6 to design and create computer and engineering projects.



Submitted photo

*May the story of Christmas bring Peace and Joy throughout the World*



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# God does not lead us into temptation, Satan does, pope says

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY—The Italian and English translations of the “Our Father” can give believers the wrong impression that God can and does lead people into temptation, Pope Francis said.

The Italian bishops’ television channel, TV2000, has been broadcasting a series of conversations between the pope and a Catholic prison chaplain looking at the Lord’s Prayer line by line.

The episode broadcast Dec. 6 focused on the line, “Lead us not into temptation.”

Father Marco Pozza told the pope that friends have asked him, “Can God really lead us into temptation?”

“This is not a good translation,”

the pope said.

The standard versions of the prayer are translated from the Latin, which was translated from the New Testament in Greek.

While he said nothing about ordering a new translation, Pope Francis noted how the French bishops had decided that beginning Dec. 3, the first Sunday of Advent, French Catholics would change the line to the equivalent of “do not let us enter into temptation.”

French-speaking Catholics in Benin and Belgium began using the new translation at Pentecost last June. The common Spanish translation already is “no nos dejes caer en la tentación” or “do not let us fall into temptation.”

The Italian bishops’ conference

in 2008 adopted a new translation of the Bible; for the Lord’s Prayer both in Matthew 6 and Luke 11, they chose “do not abandon us in temptation,” although they did not order the change in liturgical use. The New American Bible, revised edition, is the basis for the Lectionary used at English-language Masses in the United States; the petition from the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew and Luke is translated as: “do not subject us to the final test.”

Pope Francis told Father Pozza, “I’m the one who falls. But it’s not (God) who pushes me into temptation to see how I fall. No, a father does not do this. A father helps us up immediately.”

“The one who leads us into temptation is Satan,” the pope said.

“That’s Satan’s job.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in its discussion of the Lord’s Prayer, says, “our sins result from our consenting to temptation; we therefore ask our Father not to ‘lead’ us into temptation. It is difficult to translate the Greek verb used by a single English word: the Greek means both ‘do not allow us to enter into temptation’ and ‘do not let us yield to temptation.’”

Referring to James 1:13, the catechism says, “‘God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one’; on the contrary, he wants to set us free from evil. We ask him not to allow us to take the way that leads to sin.”

Cindy Wooden writes for Catholic News Service.

## What the church teaches about sexual abuse and harassment

By Peggy DeKeyser

Incidents of sex harassment that have cost high-profile figures in media, government, the arts and elsewhere their jobs has prompted introspection by many and the Catholic Church has lessons to share in the continuing aftermath of its clergy sexual abuse scandal.

The church grounds her understanding of the goodness and dignity of the person in the very act of

creation. Genesis tells not only of the creation of man and woman in the image of God; it also tells of the fall from grace. As Adam and Eve succumbed to the wiles of Satan, hunger for power (to be equal to God) introduced evil forever into the human spirit.

Hunger for power in sexual matters drives abusers. *While the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2332) teaches that sexuality affects all aspects of the human person, the*

church also tells us that it can seduce one to violate the dignity of another person.

Coupled with money and power, sin attains potent sway over offenders, with “a desire for dominion, and ... sex, as the expression of one’s affection, fails every time it expresses the desire to dominate rather than the donation of one’s self and the acceptance of others.” (*Theological and Moral Reflections on sexual child abuse in the Catholic Church, p 10*)

Saint John Paul II, in his *Theology of the Body*, said, “Alone man does not completely realize this essence of being a person. He realizes

it only by existing ‘with someone’ ... (and) the communion of persons means existing ... in a relationship of mutual gift.”

Until their expulsion from paradise, Adam and Eve saw each other as made in God’s image, and knew that “a person can never be merely a means to an end.” When lust enters in, it “has the internal effect, that is, in the heart, of obscuring the significance of the body, of the person itself.” Shame is the result of using another. “Only the nakedness that makes woman an object for man, or vice versa, is a source of shame,” Saint John Paul wrote.

“For the man, shame united with lust will become an impulse to ‘dominate’ the woman...” according to John Paul. “This is the relationship of possession of the other as the object of one’s own desire.”

Purity of heart, which desires only love, brings with it the capacity to act chastely and overcome the lust for sex and power that drives sexual abuse. “Victory over that discord in the body... can and must take place in man’s heart. This is the way to purity, that is, ‘to control one’s own body in holiness and honor.’”

Saint John Paul also tells us that the church teaches as she does not to merely control us, but because “she desires true freedom for all of her children. Man can only be free while living in accord with his dignity as a human person.”

Peggy DeKeyser writes for Faith Catholic.

Anne Masters, Director of Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities for the archdiocese, recently attended the Vatican conference, “Catechesis and Persons with Disabilities: A Necessary Engagement in the Daily Pastoral Life of the Church.” The conference was also attended by Joanne DePasquale-Parent, associate director for Adult and Family Catechesis; Eileen O’Neill, Coordinator for Special Services for Archdiocesan Schools; and Eileen Hanrahan, parish catechetical leader for Saint Peter the Apostle in River Edge. Masters presented Pope Francis with a book of greetings from individuals and families living with disabilities in the archdiocese.



Photo courtesy of Anne Masters



# Rutgers medical school to sponsor residency programs at Trinitas

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School is now sponsoring the Internal Medicine and Psychiatry Residency Programs of Trinitas Regional Medical Center. The agreement took effect last month for the 30 year-old residency program that now enrolls 42 physicians.

"Sponsorship of our graduate medical education program by Rutgers is a home run that brings great benefits to our residents and our patients," said Gary S. Horan, president and chief executive of Trinitas.

"Rutgers is one of the oldest and perhaps best known universities in the state, and it has a successful history of sponsoring residency programs in other hospitals," he added. "It stands for strong academic commitment and the staff

is heavily involved in scholarly activities including research. In addition, our residents will have full use of their exceptional research and laboratory facilities."

As the sponsoring institution, Rutgers will have responsibility for all aspects of the training of residents. Rutgers and Trinitas will coordinate to determine the number and qualifications of residents. Residents will be instructed by Rutgers faculty and Trinitas-employed physicians and will have access to the educational resources at the medical school.

Internal medicine program director at Rutgers William Farner will also become the director of medical education at Trinitas. Rehan Malik, the new psychiatry program director, will begin duties on January 1.




Submitted photo  
Middle school students from Saint Leo's School in Elmwood Park donated items to the Tomorrow's Children's Fund at Hackensack University Medical Center. The sixth through eighth grade students collected items for children their age and bundled them in "Chemo Care Bags" that included wool hats, headbands, playing cards, coloring books and iTunes gift cards. The project was initiated during Respect Week in October and ended with the handing over of some 60 Chemo Care Bags that were delivered on Nov. 30, #GivingTuesday.

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## Benedictine Sisters celebrate 150th anniversary

ELIZABETH— Prioress Sister Mary Feehan, O.S.B., and the Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth opened their 150th Anniversary Year with a Mass and dinner Nov. 19. The presider was Bishop Paul Bootkoski, Bishop Emeritus of Metuchen, and concelebrants were Father Hilary O'Leary of Saint Mary's Abbey,

Morris Township, and Father Augustine Curley of Newark Abbey. Benedictine sisters from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia joined the celebration.

The Benedictine Sisters began teaching in Elizabeth when the Rev. Peter Henry Lempke invited sisters in Newark to teach German immigrant children at Saint Michael's parish school. Eventually the Elizabeth community became the independent St. Walburga Monastery on North Broad Street and the Newark sisters moved to Ridgely, MD.

For the last 150 years, the



Submitted photo

From left to right, Prioress Sister Mary Feehan, O.S.B., Sister Dorothy Huggard, O.S.B., and Sister Rosemary Kenny, O.S.B.



Submitted photo

Dozens of students, family members and faculty from Corpus Christi School marched in this year's annual Hasbrouck Heights Holiday Parade. The float was adorned with the school's logo, paw prints and was ridden by students and Principal Elizabeth Pinto dressed as "Corpus the Cougar" the school's mascot. Members of the school's student council, National Junior Honor Society, baseball and hockey clubs, as well as the CYO basketball and volleyball programs marched along.

Elizabeth community has staffed schools in New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Washington, DC, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Ecuador. For more than 100 years they administered Benedictine Hospital in Kingston, NY. Presently the community sponsors Benedictine

Academy in Elizabeth and a pre-school and spirituality center at the monastery.

Future anniversary celebrations include a Lenten discussion led by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., on Feb. 25 in the monastery church and an open house on Oct. 7.



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**Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., has announced the following appointments:**
**PASTOR**

**Reverend Monsignor Michael A. Andreano, V.G.,** Vicar General and Chancellor, Archdiocese of Newark, has been appointed Pastor of Saint Peter and Saint Paul Parish, Hoboken, effective Dec. 8.

**ADMINISTRATORS**

**Reverend Monsignor Paul L. Bochicchio** has been appointed Temporary Administrator of Saint John the Baptist Parish, Jersey City, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City, effective immediately.

**Reverend Charles P. Granstrand,** has been appointed Temporary Administrator of Saint Joseph Parish, Maplewood, effective immediately.

**DEANS**

**Reverend John M. McCrone,** Pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills, has been appointed

Dean of Deanery 22, Union County Northwest, effective immediately.

**Reverend Sean A. Manson,** Pastor of Our Lady Mother of the Church Parish, Woodcliff Lake, has been appointed Dean of Deanery 2P, Pascack Valley Bergen, effective immediately.

**Reverend Ireneusz Pierzchala,** Pastor of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden, has been appointed Dean of Deanery 24 Union County, effective immediately.

**Reverend Marek B. Wysocki,** Pastor of Saint Pius X Parish, Old Tappan, has been appointed Dean of Deanery 2N, Northern Valley Bergen, effective immediately.

**Reverend Alexander M. Santora,** Pastor of Our Lady of Grace/Saint Joseph Parish, Hoboken, has been appointed Dean of Deanery 9 Central Hudson, effective immediately.

**Reverend Jerzy R. Zaslon,** Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Jersey City, has been appointed Dean of Deanery 11 Jersey City Downtown, effective immediately.

**PAROCHIAL VICARS**

**Reverend Kevin E. Valle Diaz,** has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Saint Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, effective July 1, 2018.

**Reverend Yeongmin Michael Kim,** Parochial Vicar of Church of the Korean Martyrs, Saddle Brook, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Saint Andrew Kim Parish, Maplewood, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

**CHAPLAINS**

**Reverend Richard J. Kelly,** Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Rochelle Park, has been appointed Chaplain of the Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus Council No. 2842, Rochelle Park, effective immediately.

**Reverend Monsignor Anselm I. Nwaorgu,** Pastor of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Union, has been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Union Council No. 4504, Union, effective immediately.

**Reverend Monsignor Robert S. Meyer,** Pastor of Saint Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, has been appointed Chaplain of the Summit Fire Department, Summit, effective immediately.

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

**Very Reverend Antonio F. Da Silva, V.F.,** Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima, Newark, has been appointed Spiritual Director of the Portuguese Cursillo Movement in the Archdiocese of Newark, effective immediately.

**RETIREMENT**

**Reverend Thomas J. Ciba** has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1, 2018.

## Obituaries

### Brother Kevin O'Neill, F.M.S.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 3 at Saint Mary Star of the Sea Parish, Bayonne, for Brother Kevin O'Neill, F.M.S., 82, who died Oct. 27.



A member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 64 years, Br. Kevin professed first vows in 1954. He served Marist High School, Bayonne, as a teacher in 1976 and became an assistant principal until 1985. He served as principal of Roselle Catholic High School from 1986-89.

Br. Kevin ministered in the Philippines and Texas before returning as treasurer at Marist High School from 1996-2000 as well as treasurer for the Marist Brothers USA Province from 2000-2009. After retiring in 2009, he continued to live in Bayonne and serve on the Marist High School board.

### Brother Thomas Delaney, F.M.S.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 6 at Saint Helena Parish, Bronx, NY, for Brother Thomas Delaney, F.M.S., 82,



who died Oct. 30.

A member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 62 years, Br. Thomas began his ministry serving as a teacher at Marist High School in Bayonne in 1959. He professed perpetual vows in 1961.

Br. Thomas was a teacher throughout New York before returning to Marist High School from 1969-1975 and 1983-1985. He also taught for 16 summers in Dublin, Ireland, at the Marist Brothers International Language School.

### Sister Mary Palance, M.P.F.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh, Morristown, for Sister Mary Palance, M.P.F., 95, who died Nov. 15.



Sr. Mary entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1939, received her habit a year later, and made her religious profession in 1943. She was a member of the community for 77 years.

She attended the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, and earned a master's degree in elementary education administration from Rhode Island College, Providence.

Sr. Mary served as a teacher at Assumption School, Bayonne. She also taught in Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island.

### Father F. Kevin Murphy

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 30 at Corpus Christi Parish, Chatham, for Father F. Kevin Murphy, who died Nov. 27.



A graduate of Iona College, NY, and Immaculate Conception Seminary, Fr. Murphy was ordained May 30, 1981. He served as parochial vicar at Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills, and Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Verona.

Fr. Murphy was headmaster and teacher at Oratory Prep School in Summit and chaplain at Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark.

### Father Michael C. Santoro

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 7 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City, for Father Michael C. Santoro, 63, who died Dec. 1.



A graduate of Seton Hall University, South Orange, and Immaculate

## Around the Archdiocese

### January 14

**St. Peter the Apostle Parish,** River Edge, Annual Peace Service, featuring speaker social justice columnist Tony Magliano, 3 p.m., call (201) 261-3366 or e-mail [MBertani@saint-peter.org](mailto:MBertani@saint-peter.org).

### January 17

**Loyola Jesuit Center,** Morristown, day of prayer: "Dark Night: Through Darkness and Doubt..." presented by Anna Graziano, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., call Renee at (973) 539-0740.

ulate Conception Seminary, Fr. Santoro was ordained on May 31, 1980. He served as parochial vicar at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Cedar Grove; Saint Matthew Parish, Ridgefield; Saint Bernard of Clairvaux and Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish, Plainfield; and Saint Valentine Parish in Bloomfield.

He was assigned pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in 2000 and in 2007, Fr. Santoro also served as pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Jersey City.



The 47th annual Candlelight Carol Sing drew capacity crowds to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Wednesday and Thursday nights last week.

The cathedral choir, accompanied by an orchestra, sang Christmas songs in nine different languages and led the assembly in traditional favorites. The climax came after the lights were turned off and all sang *Silent Night* in a cathedral aglow with candles held by the 2,000 present.

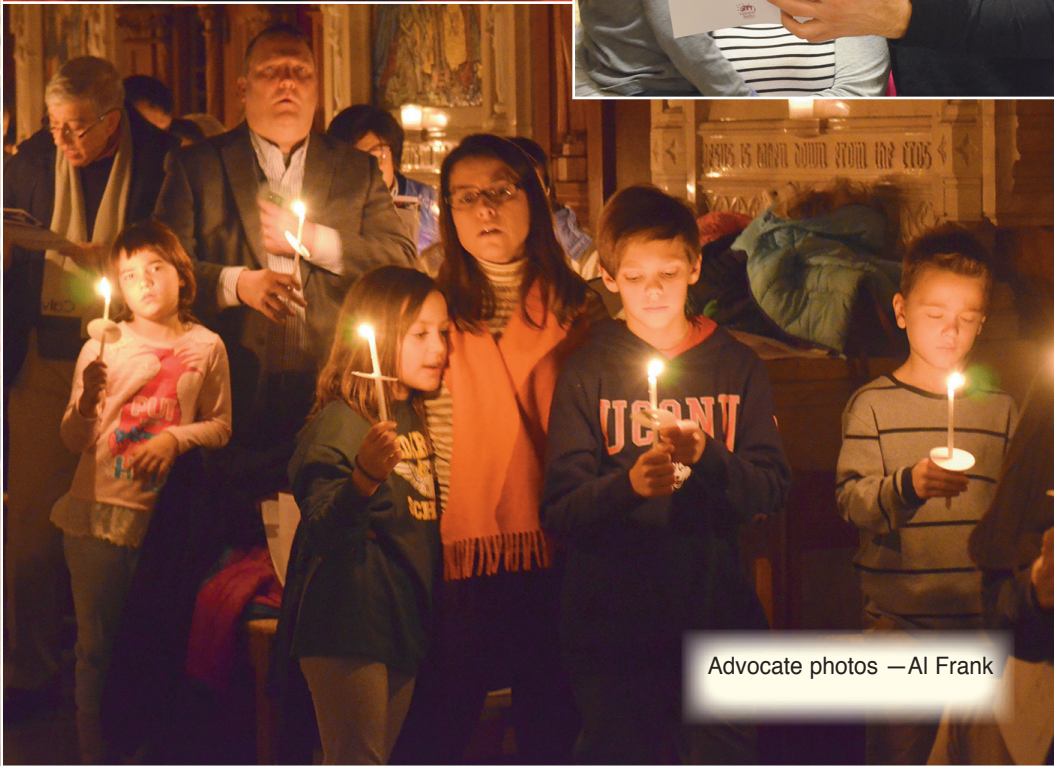
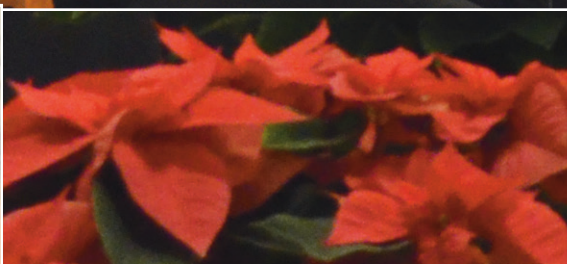
The custom began after a more traditional concert with professional performers in 1969 was derailed by their canceled flight from Albany. Instead of sending the 50 people who showed up home, everyone gathered around the organ to sing carols.

A second performance was added in 2008.

# Carol Sing 2018









# Aid to Puerto Rico

Continued from page 2

Saint Ann, was impressed by the care the elderly were receiving. "I was amazed at the nursing homes in Puerto Rico. The residents and patients were well taken care of. The spaces were relatively clean. They had generators so there was some light."

Along with visiting the nursing homes, the volunteers also checked on relatives of Saint Ann staff mem-

bers. They brought water and care packages to towns barely touched by rescue efforts, if at all.

"Everyone was so surprised that people came to see them," McCarthy explained. "The supplies were secondary; they just wanted for us to hear their stories. They didn't want people to forget about them."

"One of the most important things we offered the people we vis-



Gena McCarthy hands water to Elizabeth Rata and Jersey City firefighter Angel Liranzo at a resident's home in Puerto Rico.



ited was a listening ear," Merly-Liranzo recalled.

Although the volunteers only spent a few days on the island, the experience left a lasting impression. McCarthy recalled a delivery of adult diapers and a clean set of sheets to a woman in desperate need.

"She was hugging me and crying. I never realized how something so simple could change a person's life. I would love to go back," McCarthy said.

For Merly-Liranzo, it was especially difficult to return home.

"Leaving my family members behind and knowing they have to face such hardships was not easy. But the people of Puerto Rico are resilient."

Rodriguez believes that during these trying times, Puerto Ricans are banding together to support one another. "Helping our neighbor is the mission at Saint Ann and I saw that same spirit in Puerto Rico."

Volunteers from Saint Ann plan to visit Puerto Rico again early next year. For more information on donations, call Danielle Sommella at (201) 433-0950 ext. 528.

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**BATHWRAPS**





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The glee club and Dominoes from Saint Dominic Academy in Jersey City recently concluded a busy holiday season of local performances. On Dec. 4, the choirs were on stage at the annual City Hall tree lighting ceremony and on Dec. 7, the Dominoes performed at the Cusack Care Center. The glee club's annual Christmas concert was Dec. 10 at Saint Aloysius Parish. That week, they also sang during the Academy's Advent liturgy and at the annual senior Christmas play. They performed again during Mass at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Hoboken. To wrap up the festive season, the choirs performed in New York City at the New York Athletic Club's hall of fame ceremony.

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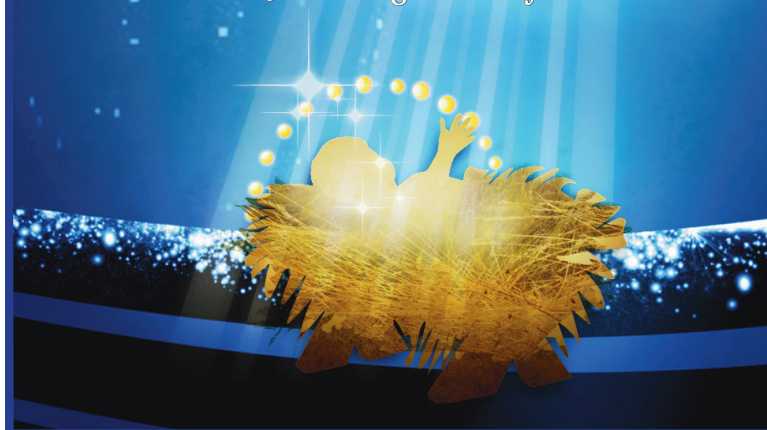
*Christmas is a special time for us.*

*A time to recognize the goodness of God.*

*A time to know that Christ has come among us.*

*A time to remember that God shares our joys and sorrows.*

*A time to rejoice in the hope of eternal life  
that Jesus brings to each of us.*



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# Cardinal Tobin celebrates Advent Mass at Caldwell

"We have to try to have the eyes of Jesus," Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., explained during an Advent Mass at Caldwell University Dec. 6.

In his homily, Cardinal Tobin reflected on the Gospel (Mt. 15:29-37), the story of the multiplication of loaves and fishes, and how it is "the most-told miracle of Jesus."

Just as the disciples had only seven loaves and a few fish to give, and Jesus was able to abundantly multiply that, Cardinal Tobin said, "all we have to do is give what

we have." If we give "our time, patience, a hug," and do this out of compassion, it will not only be enough, but it will be abundant, said the cardinal. Noting that students were making sandwiches for the homeless, he encouraged the Caldwell community to continue to care for the dignity of others. "Like Jesus," he said, "you are moved with compassion."

President Nancy Blattner welcomed the cardinal to campus, sharing with him how in the 78 years since Caldwell opened it "has



Submitted photos



embraced the needs of the times through consistent growth, providing excellence in education with dedicated faculty and staff and an unwavering focus on its Catholic mission and Dominican heritage."

While on campus, Cardinal Tobin met with students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell.

Freshman Brittany Gaule said the cardinal's homily was a good boost to help the students as they

prepare for final exams

Senior Irielis Garcia said the homily came at an important time for her since she has an illness and has had to have treatments during the holiday season for the last couple of years. "He gave me the joy I needed," Katherine Llangari, who will be graduating in December, said the cardinal's words helped her as she prepares to apply to law school. "The Lord gives us what we need at the moment we need it."

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Hackensack Meridian Health Mountainside Medical Center, Montclair, collected gifts from their staff to donate to 25 children in Essex County who have one or both parents incarcerated. Coordinated by Father Thomas Cembor, director of Pastoral Care and Catholic chaplain, the effort was in collaboration with the national Angel Tree Prison Ministry Fellowship. From left to right, Susan Rich from the Archdiocese of Newark Chapter of Friends of Delille; Adrienne Carey, nurse manager for Ambulatory Care Services; Patricia Delarusso, director of Surgical Services; and Fr. Cembor.



Submitted photos

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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.



# Parish leaders attend Innovation Lab

By Jonathan Azzara

KEARNY—Developing strong family faith was the focus of pastors and parish leaders who attended the inaugural Innovation Lab held at the archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center. Organized by the Catechetical Office, the series of workshops feature interactive and collaborative experiences aimed at transforming parish faith communities.

"Reception and attendance has been wonderful," said Joanne DePasquale-Parent, associate director for the Catechetical Office. More than 100 pastors and parish leaders attended the Dec. 5 lab and another is scheduled for Jan. 11.

At the first workshop, the keynote speaker was John Roberto, author of several books and president of LifeLongFaith Associates. He described how to tailor an adult

faith formation for today's spiritually diverse adults.

"Only 39 percent of American Catholics actively practice their faith," Roberto said. "That is something we need to change. In order to do that, we need to transform our narrative from viewing the parish as the center of faith forming, to recognizing the family as the center of faith forming."

He said parents are key in determining whether or not a family practices the faith.

"First, they are the sponsor of the faith because they are the point of access between Church and home," Roberto said. "Second, they are the gatekeepers of the faith, because they have control over how much, and what type of religious content their children encounter. Third, they are the interpreters of the faith because they represent the faith in the lives of their children."



Advocate photo- Jonathan Azzara

Keynote speaker John Roberto addresses attendees of the Dec. 5 lab at the archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center in Kearny.

In addition to a speaker, each lab includes a workshop, where parish leaders design new methods to engage Catholics in their faith. A webinar provides parish leaders feedback and assistance for their initiatives.

The Jan. 11 lab will be held

from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, including registration forms and fees, contact Joanne DePasquale-Parent at [parentjo@rcan.org](mailto:parentjo@rcan.org).

*Jonathan Azzara is the public relations specialist for the Archdiocese of Newark.*

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