

Thousands of men and women gather to grow in faith



By Melissa McNally and Jonathan Azzara

More than 3,000 men and women throughout the Archdiocese of Newark gathered at Seton Hall University over two Saturdays for the annual men's and women's conferences. Both events provided the opportunity to listen to inspirational speakers and music, experience fellowship and join in prayer and worship, including Holy Hour and confession.

Close to 1,500 women attended the Women's Commission Day of Reflection on Mar. 11.

Continued on page 3

Advocate photo-Melissa McNally

Additional pictures of the Men's and Women's Conferences on pages 6 and 7.

Preparing to receive the sacraments



By Kelly Marsicano
Associate Publisher

The Archdiocese of Newark will welcome nearly 1,200 new Catholics this Easter season. Among them are the 499 catechumens who will be baptized. They celebrated the Rite of Election with Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., on Mar. 5 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

During this ceremony, held annually on the First Sunday of Lent, catechumens supported by their sponsors, RCIA directors and family members, publicly declared their desire to receive the sacraments. The bilingual celebration consisted of a Liturgy of the Word and a

homily by the cardinal.

"Jesus has touched your hearts and has sown within them a hunger and longing for participation in his special presence within his church in the sacraments of Christian initiation, especially, the Eucharist," Cardinal Tobin said.

Afterward, the celebration of election began. Father Armand Mantia, the archdiocesan director of the RCIA, called each catechumen by name, which included both adults and children. Cardinal Tobin then asked questions of the godparents, the assembly and the catechumens.

"Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist," Cardinal Tobin asked the catechumens, to which they replied, "We do."

Continued on page 2

Advocate photo-Kelly Marsicano
A young catechumen signs the Book of the Elect, publicly declaring her desire to receive the sacraments.

APPOINTMENTS
Page 8
AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE
Pages 14-15
CLASSIFIEDS
Page 12

Preparing to receive the sacraments

Continued from page 1

The RCIA coordinators, holding the Book of the Elect in front of them, led the catechumens and their godparents to the altars along the side aisles of the cathedral where each individual signed their names into the book. The coordinators then led the catechumens down the center aisle to the sanctuary.

The cardinal addressed those standing before him saying, "I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil."

The sponsors placed their right hands on the shoulders of the elect as a sign that they are taking them under their care.

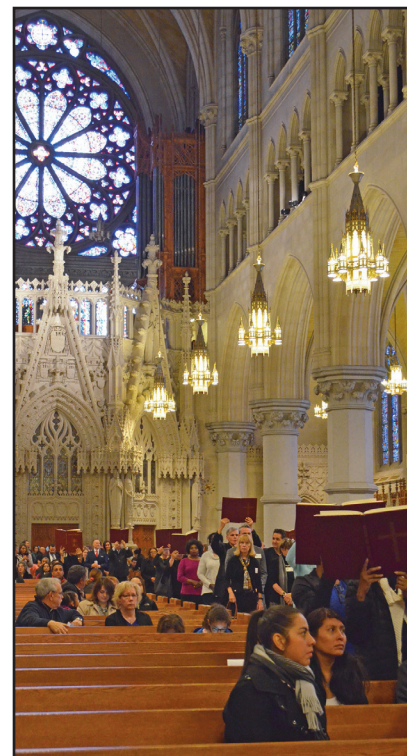
Once everyone returned to their seat, Cardinal Tobin offered a final prayer before blessing the elect.

"(It's) a new beginning, a community, a family," said elect Jennifer Tamagnini of Saint John the Apostle in Linden.

"I was not raised with any religion really and I got to a point later in my life where I just wanted to develop a relationship with God," said Joe LoCasco of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Nutley. "This is the last hurdle before the Easter Vigil. It's been a long time, but I'm very excited about it."

"It's a very important day for him because he's going to receive all the sacraments so he can become a Catholic. To him that's very important," said the teacher and translator for Jesus Estrada of Saint Joseph of the Palisades in West New York.

The previous day, the Call to Continuing Conversion was held at the cathedral with 693 candidates. Most were Catholics who will complete their sacraments of initiation; others were baptized in another Christian tradition that is recognized by the Catholic Church. They will be confirmed and receive first Communion during the Easter season.



Advocate photos-Kelly Marsicano

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Men and women gather to grow in faith

Continued from page 1

Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart gave the first keynote address. Founder and mother servant of Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, she was born and raised in Iraq. In 1993, as a young laywoman, she started a movement called Love Your Neighbor. She invited young men and women from Christian and Muslim communities to serve the needs of the poor in Iraq. In 1995, Mother Olga established the order of Marth Maryam Sisters-Missionaries of the Virgin Mary, the first order for religious sisters in the Assyrian Church of the East in 700 years.

Mother Olga came to the United States in 2001 and earned a master's degree in pastoral ministry from Boston College. From 2002 to 2011, she was involved in the campus ministry at Boston University. In April 2011, Archbishop of Boston Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, O.F.M.Cap., entrusted her to establish Daughters of Mary of Nazareth in the archdiocese.

"Sometimes I think I am living the life of somebody else," she said. "I am living a life driven by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are only his instruments."

Mother Olga explored the Day of Reflection's theme "Alive in Christ as Missionary Disciples."

"The Lord counts on each of us to continue his mission and his Gospel," she explained. "Grace comes to us every day through the sacraments and a life of prayer. It does not happen once; it is a daily commitment. It is only through

that grace that I can rise and serve him; it is a daily conversion."

Through her hardships, Mother Olga said she has always counted on Christ.

"I asked him to lead and guide me. The call is different for each one of us. We are all daughters of God and servants of Christ," she said. "If we allow his grace to

"GOD WILL NEVER CLOSE THE DOOR ON THOSE WHO ASK FOR IT TO REMAIN OPEN."

—CARDINAL SEÁN PATRICK O'MALLEY, O.F.M.Cap.

touch us, and converse with him in daily prayer, we will go to our own families and neighbors and be missionaries. We must be a vessel for the Holy Spirit. We carry his heavenly treasure in this earthly vessel."

Susan Pensoy, a parishioner at Saint Aedan in Jersey City, found Mother Olga's presentation "inspiring and energizing."

"I feel it is our duty and obligation as Catholic women to be here," said Pensoy, who attended the Day of Reflection for her third time.

"I think the Day of Reflection is a great way to begin the season (of Lent) by spending time with the Lord," said Yolette Bateau of Saint Aloysius Parish in Jersey City. "Mother Olga really got my attention. She faced so many difficulties in her life and never gave up."

Lisa Hendey, the founder and editor of CatholicMom.com and

the bestselling author of the Chime Travelers children's fiction series, gave the second keynote address. She talked about finding balance between faith and family.

Joan Shaw, a parishioner at Saint Andrew in Bayonne, said Hendey's message resonated with her.

"As busy moms, we have to

God is what will truly guide people to discover their calling in life.

"God is still calling people to religious life, marriage, and single life," he said. "But in this secularized society, it is easy to become distracted. We need to make time for prayer and have faith that God will show us where we need to go."

The theme for the Men's Conference was "Be Not Afraid: Becoming Missionary Disciples."

"God will never close the door on those who ask for it to remain open," the cardinal added. "If we make time during our day for God, we will understand why he loves us."

Presentations were also given by Dr. Scott Sullivan, a doctor in philosophy, and Jeff Feagles, a former punter for the New York Giants.

Both events featured Spanish-language presentations and concluded with Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., celebrating Mass.

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Child killed, church damaged in Union City fire

UNION CITY—A fast-moving fire that started in an apartment building claimed the life of 2-year-old Eddie Gonzalez Jr. and severely damaged nearby Saints Joseph and Michael Parish.

Officials said the fire was believed to have started inside the three-story building at 1404 Summit Ave. in the early morning hours on March 4. The fire quickly spread to nearby buildings, leaving 15 apartments damaged or destroyed. Officials said the Red Cross is providing hotel rooms for the 40 residents who lost their homes.

Saints Joseph and Michael Parish is located roughly 100 yards from the start of the fire, but 30-45 mph winds carried burning embers to the church, quickly igniting the roof and steeple. Thousands of gallons of water were used to continuously fight the flames for more than nine hours.

The church rectory, located across the street on Central Ave., was not damaged.

In a statement, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., expressed con-



Photo courtesy of Steve Belloise

Ice from fire hoses clings to power lines after firefighters battled an early morning, multi-alarm fire that ravaged Saints Joseph and Michael Parish in Union City on March 4.

lences on behalf of the Archdiocese of Newark to the Gonzalez family and all those who were injured.

"We also are thankful for the efforts of the fire and public safety workers who battled the blazes on

such a frigid and icy night and day, as well as Union City Mayor Brian Stack as we have sought to maintain a sense of parish life at this time," Cardinal Tobin said.

In a letter to his parishioners,

Father Aro Nathan thanked the community for their support and prayers: "The Lord is with us. We are in His hands. We are sure that, being united, after these moments of trial we will see better days. For now, I ask for your understanding and your patience."

Executive Director of Property Management for the archdiocese Steve Belloise was on the scene of the fire early Saturday morning. The church's steeple and roof collapsed, destroying the floor and pews. The building also has significant water damage and structural problems.

"Right now we are trying to determine where the emergency construction ends and the renovation begins. We want to make the venerable parish seem whole again without compromising the aesthetics," he explained.

For now, 8:30 a.m. weekday Masses will be held in the chapel of Saint Francis Academy located at 1601 Central Ave. Weekend Masses will follow their regular schedule and will be celebrated at Veteran's Memorial School next to the church.

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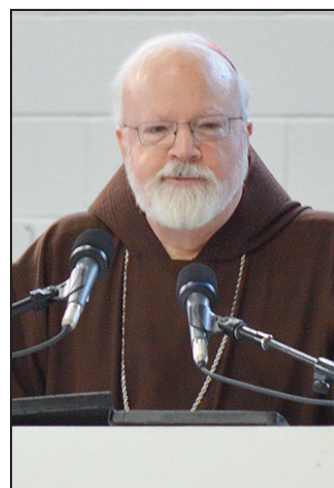
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Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. has announced the following appointments:

PASTORS

Reverend Monsignor Beaubrun Ardouin, Pastor of Saint Leo Parish, Irvington, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Reverend Joseph J. Astarita, Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, East Rutherford, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Reverend Fabio Brenes-Chaves, Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary/Saint Patrick Parish, Elizabeth, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Desmond, Pastor of Saint Aloysius Parish, Caldwell, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2018.

Reverend Joseph C. Doyle, Pastor of Saint Anne Parish, Fair Lawn, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Reverend Eugene J. Field, Pastor of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Paramus, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Reverend Carlo Fortunio, Pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, West New York, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Reverend George D. Gillen, Pastor of Saint Genevieve Parish, Elizabeth, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Very Reverend Miroslaw K. Krol, Pastor of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Very Reverend Robert G. Laferrera, Pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Roseland, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2019.

Reverend Sean A. Manson, Pastor of Our Lady Mother of the Church Parish, Woodcliff Lake, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Very Reverend John J. Paladino, Pastor of Saint Bartholomew Parish, Scotch Plains, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Reverend Frank J. Rocchi, Pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, Irvington, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2023.

Reverend George J. Ruane, Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Edgewater, has been granted an extension to his Pastorate ending June 30, 2019.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Marek R. Bokota, Parochial Vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Mahwah, has been appointed Parochial Vicar at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Jersey City, effective Mar. 1, 2017.



CHAPLAIN

Reverend Francis Perry Azah has been appointed Chaplain of Hackensack University Medical Center, effective Jan. 16, 2017, with residence at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Ridgefield Park.

RESIDENCE

Reverend Giovanni Rizzo, Adjutant Judicial Vicar at the Archdiocese of Newark, has been assigned to residence at Holy Cross Rectory, Harrison, effective immediately.

RETIREMENTS

Reverend Peter M. Aquino has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1, 2017.

Reverend Peter Phong Cao Vo has been granted retirement, effective Mar. 1, 2017.

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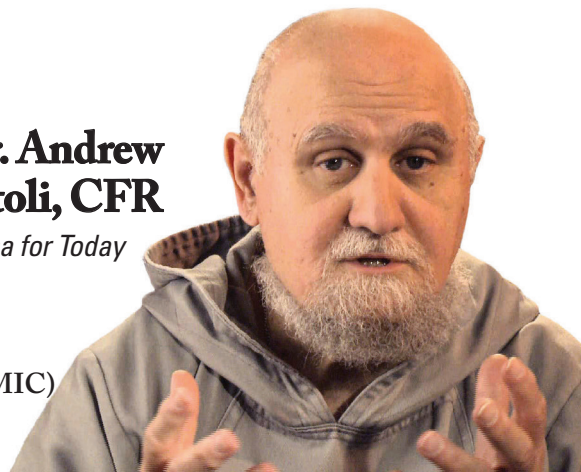
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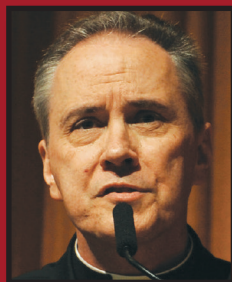
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Obituaries



Sister Marian Irene McMullen, S.C.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 13 at The Villa at Florham Park for Sister Marian Irene McMullen, S.C., 93, who died Feb. 6.

Sr. Marian Irene entered the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth on Oct. 2, 1948 and was a member for 68 years. She graduated from Emmanuel College, MA, and earned a master's degree in French from Fordham University, NY, and a master's degree in social work from Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

She served as a teacher and family therapist throughout New Jersey and Massachusetts. She was a teacher and guidance counselor at the Academy of Saint Aloysius in Jersey City, and was a family therapist at Union City Youth Service Bureau in Linden. Sr. Marian Irene also volunteered at Xavier Center in Convent Station. She retired to the Convent of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station in 2011.



Brother Charles Marcellin, F.M.S.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 22 at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Forest Hills, NY, for Brother Charles Marcellin, F.M.S., 81, who died on Feb. 19.

Brother Charles was a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 63 years. A Bronx native, he professed his first vows in 1955. He professed his final vows in 1960 and earned a master's degree in history from Saint John's University in 1964.

After completing his religious and academic studies at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, he taught throughout New York for many years. Brother Charles was assistant principal at Marist High School in Bayonne for two years and then was principal from 1977-1982.

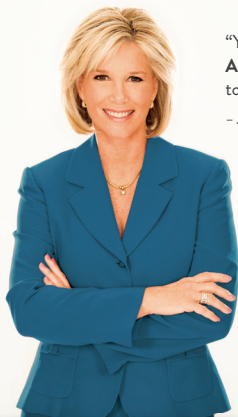


Submitted photo

To commemorate the first anniversary of his death, a plaque was dedicated to the late Father James M. Moran at Saint Joseph Regional High School in Montvale on Feb. 10. At the ceremony, left to right, were Ryan Botto, nephew of Fr. Moran and a senior at the school; Bishop John W. Flesey; Theresa DeMaria, organizer and chairperson of the event; and Fr. Moran's sister CarolAnn Botto.

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Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade March 17

NEWARK— Father Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B., headmaster of Saint Benedict's Preparatory School, will serve as the grand marshal at the 82nd annual Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17. Elizabeth "Betty" Sheehan Teevan will serve as deputy grand marshal.

Grandstand ceremonies begin at noon followed by the start of the parade at 1 p.m. The parade route begins in downtown Newark on Mulberry St. at the Prudential Center; then will make its way passed the Gateway complex to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center; passed Military Park to Central Ave.; to Saint Patrick's Pro-Cathedral, located at the corner of Washington St. and Central Ave.; and ends in front of the Newark Museum and Washington Park.

The day will begin with a 9:15 a.m. Mass celebrated by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin and the investiture of the grand marshal and deputy grand marshal. Additionally, the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade will feature a competition among the state's top high school bands in celebration of Music in Our Schools Month.

This year's parade is dedicated to Robert "Bob" H. Largey and the late Marguerite "Marge" Quinn Largey.

For more information, or a map of the official parade route, visit Facebook.com/NewarkParade or follow @NewarkParade on Twitter.

Meantime, since St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday during Lent this year, Cardinal Tobin has offered a dispensation allowing Catholics to enjoy some corned beef and cabbage.



Archdiocese of Newark
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

February, 23, 2017

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, the celebration of the Feast of St. Patrick -- March 17, 2017 -- falls on the Friday of the Second Week of Lent.

After due consideration of a number of requests, I dispense the people of the Archdiocese of Newark from the obligation to abstain from meat on Friday, March 17, 2017.

I remind Catholics who avail themselves of this dispensation that the Church highly encourages you to substitute some other act of penance, such as special prayer, acts of piety or works of charity on March 17th.

Please share this information with all in your parish and school communities.

Sincerely in Christ the Redeemer,

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
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Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., marked the beginning of Lent by celebrating Ash Wednesday Mass at Saint Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in downtown Newark on March 1. Hundreds attended the noon Mass and received ashes, signaling the start of the season of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. Saint Patrick's was the first seat of the bishops of Newark until the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart was dedicated in 1954. While the parish continues to serve a small Catholic community living in the area, the parish also serves a large number of college students and commuters in the heart of the city.



Advocate photos—Melissa McNally

March 15

St. Aloysius Parish, Caldwell, Faith Quest Lenten adult spirituality series, also on March 22, March 29 and April 5, 7:30-9 p.m., \$3 per session or \$10 for the four-week series, call (973) 226-0221 or visit www.stalscaldwell.org/faith-quest.

March 16

St. Mary Parish, Rutherford, bereavement support group, Thursday evenings through April 27, 7:30-9 p.m., (201) 438-2200.

March 18

Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, Inclusive Family Mass, for individuals and families living with developmental/ intellectual disabilities, Mass celebrated in the lower level chapel, 10:20 a.m., contact Anne Masters at (973) 639-6536 or e-mail masterranrcan@gmail.com.

March 22

St. Thomas the Apostle

Parish, Bloomfield, evening of reflection on Pope Francis's encyclical "On Care for Our Common Home," 6:30-8:30 p.m., featuring speaker Sister Mary Elizabeth Clark, S.S.J., \$5 donation, e-mail Steve St. Hilaire at svsthilaire@yahoo.com.

March 23

Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, 16th Annual Caring Basket Gala, at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany, honorees include Rev. Brian G. Plate, pastor of St. Teresa of Avila in Summit, 6:30 p.m., (973) 957-0188 ext. 101 or e-mail gala@acs350.org.

March 24

The Community of God's Love, Rutherford, screening of the film "The Way," an inspirational story centered on the Camino de Santiago, 7:30 p.m., call (201) 935-0344 or e-mail secretary@thecgl.org.

Seton Hall University, South Orange, annual Conference on

Women and Gender "Now—Then—Tomorrow," 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., featuring address by keynote speaker Premilla Nadasen at 11:30 a.m., \$20 for general admission/\$10 for alumni/\$5 for senior citizens, visit www.shu.edu/womens-conference.cfm or e-mail Vanessa May at vanessa.may@shu.edu.

March 26

St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, spring craft show and sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., \$2, call Sue Scova at (201) 391-2099 or visit www.sjrjnj.org.

March 31

The Community of God's Love, Rutherford, "Finding God in Bad News" presentation by columnist Mike Kelly, 7:30 p.m., call (201) 935-0344 or e-mail secretary@thecgl.org.

April 3

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington, Lenten mission presented by Rev. Msgr.

Paul L. Bochicchio, through April 5, 7 p.m., (973) 778-7405.

April 4

Respect Life Office, Archdiocese of Newark, pro-life youth rally at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., featuring presenter Dr. David Hajduk, \$10 per student, contact Cheryl Riley at (973) 497-4350 or e-mail rileyche@rcan.org.

April 5

St. Joseph by the Sea, South Mantoloking, retreat with prayer, music and meditation by the beach, lunch and Mass included, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$45, call (732) 892-8494 or visit www.sjbsea.org.

April 6

Caldwell University, award-winning poet Marilyn Nelson to speak at the launch of "Presence: A Journal of Catholic Poetry," 6 p.m., call Colette M. Liddy at (973) 618-3209 or e-mail cliddy@caldwell.edu.

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April 7

Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, performance of the musical "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," April 7 and April 8 at 7:30 p.m., April 9 at 2 p.m., \$15, tickets available at www.Showtix4u.com or call (201) 768-7822.

April 9

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, career ministry fall/winter workshop, 1 p.m., call Carol Shea at (201) 447-4215 or Tom Lewis at (201) 445-1864.

April 20

Seton Hall University, South Orange, "Notes of Distinction" benefit concert for the College Seminary at St. Andrew's Hall, 7 p.m., call (973) 761-9420 or e-mail collegeseminary@shu.edu.

April 25

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, Saddle River, bereavement support group, Tuesday mornings from 10-11:30 a.m.



Submitted photo

Kindergarten students at Sacred Heart School in Lyndhurst recently marked their 100th day of school by dressing up as centenarians. The milestone was celebrated with activities and lessons that gave youngsters the opportunity to practice math and sharpen their observation skills based on the number 100.

through June 13, pre-registration is required, call Annette Gallagher at (201) 612-4660.

April 26

Serra International, Cardinal's Vocation Dinner at Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, 6 p.m., \$100 per person, call Rose Marie Deehan at (973) 762-6180 or e-mail rjdeehan@gmail.com.

April 29

African American, African and Caribbean Apostolate, Archdiocese of Newark, Day of Reflection at Christ the King Parish, Newark, featuring keynote speaker Father Gregory Chisholm, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., call Father Emeka Okwuosa, S.D.V., at (973) 497-4304 or e-mail okwuosem@rcan.org.

April 30

Holy Name Medical Center, Teaneck, 20th Annual Spring Fashion Fling, at Glenpointe Marriott, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., all proceeds benefit programs and research at the Holy Name MS Center, \$100, (201) 833-3000 ext. 3899 or e-mail futterman@holyname.org.

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June 26-August 4 (no class 7/4)
Dr. Patrick Manning

Spirituality of the
Old Testament
July 5-26
Rev. James Platania

American Christianity
July 18-August 8
Msgr. Raymond Kupke

SATURDAYS

Biblical Prayer and
Spirituality
May 20-June 24 (no class 5/27)
Dr. Gregory Glazov

Biblical Theology of
Benedict XVI
June 24-August 5 (no class 7/1)
Dr. Jeffrey Morrow

Online

Christian Decision Making
May 16-June 5
Dr. Justin Anderson

The Spirituality of Disability
June 6-23
Dr. Gregory Glazov

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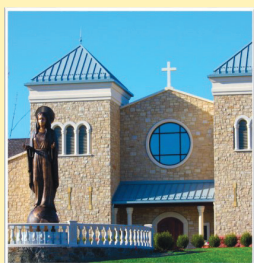
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