

*I bring you good tidings of great joy,  
which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10*



The Catholic  
**Advocate**

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# The starry glory that brings Christmas

By Father Alexander M. Santora

Every Christmas since I was a student at Holy Rosary School in Jersey City, I start to hum the Italian Christmas carol taught to us by the Religious Teachers Filippini, *Tu scendi dalle stelle*. I know the first stanza by heart and knew the English meaning of some of the words. But it wasn't until now that I read all the lyrics and learned the composer is St. Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Redemptorists, who wrote it in 1732. Its words capture the sacrifice of Jesus and how His life inspires us to be better and do more for each other.

*O my dearest Child most holy,  
Shudd'ring, trembling in the cold!  
Great God, Thou lovest me!  
What suff'ring Thou didst bear,  
That I near Thee might be!*

The Christmas message emanates from the infancy of Jesus, who embodies our human flesh, and takes on our humanity, but in a way that is contrary to everything the world wants us to be: rich, successful, powerful. Our economy and commercialism persuade us to buy expensive gifts and show our love by what we have, rather than who we are. When we sideline the secular sides of this holiday, we begin to understand that the complete season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany sets us on another journey more fulfilling than cards, trees and gifts.

None of these is bad in themselves but simply cloud the patient waiting of Advent so we prepare ourselves for the second



coming—one day we will all be in God's hands. And so we live the Christmas charisms of joy, hope and love by making it real for those around us, but especially those who lack even basic caring and community. Giving Trees and Toys for Tots and so many other Christmas gestures spread such goodness around the world. If only for one month a year, we learn to be less selfish and more selfless.

And then we close out the season with the Epiphany: the manifestation of Jesus as Lord. He unites us to our God and illustrates the divine impulse in every baby from the moment of conception. Isn't this one of the strengths of our Catholic faith: every living being, all of creation, global awareness—all are inspired by God.

## Living Our Faith

No wonder the carols of this season move us to celebrate the goodness of humanity rather than become jaded by the depravity of some. If Jesus could have so little in this life, then why do we want the opposite?

*Dearest, fairest, sweetest Infant,  
Dire this state of poverty.  
The more I care for Thee,  
Since Thou, O Love Divine,  
Will'st now so poor to be.*

So when we contemplate the refugees dying to escape to a better life, immigrants enduring separation and incarceration, inmates yearning to go straight and addicts desiring to be clean, we see the infant Jesus giving all hope. And we can be His hands, hearts and voice to a harsh world that often just does not care.

Yet, we still sing: *Tu scendi dalle stelle*—You come down from the stars.

*Father Alexander M. Santora is the pastor of Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph Parish in Hoboken and dean of Central Hudson (Deanery 9).*

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# Benedictine Sisters celebrate 150 years

The Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth at St. Walburga Monastery recently concluded a yearlong celebration marking their 150th anniversary. The milestone commemorates not only the founding of the community, but also 150 years in Elizabeth and the Archdiocese of Newark.

Festivities on Nov. 19 included a Mass and dinner for the sisters and their families. Abbot Elias Lorenzo, O.S.B., president of the American-Cassinese Congregation, served as the celebrant. Monks from the Benedictine Abbey of Newark were also present, along with Father Hila-

ry O'Leary, O.S.B., from St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown and the mayor of Elizabeth, J. Christian Bollwage.

The Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth began when Father Henry Lemke, a pioneer German missionary priest, requested sisters from a Benedictine foundation in Newark to teach in his school with a German population in Elizabeth. By the fall of 1868, the Elizabeth group became an independent Benedictine Motherhouse with Mother Walburga Hock as the first prioress. The current prioress is Elizabeth native Sister Mary Feehan, O.S.B.



Submitted photos

Abbot Elias Lorenzo, O.S.B., and monks from Newark and Morristown celebrated Mass along with Prioress Sister Mary Feehan, O.S.B., pictured holding the Gospel book.



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## With a mother's heart, Mary raises up the abandoned, pope says at Mass

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Just as she did hundreds of years ago from a small hill in Tepeyac, Mexico, Mary accompanies the down-trodden and the lowly like a mother caring for her children.

Mary “is a woman who walks with the gentleness and tenderness of a mother, she makes her home in family life, she unties one knot after another of the many wrongs we manage to generate, and she teaches us to remain standing in the midst of storms,” the pope said in his homily during a Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica on Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Processing into the basilica dressed in white, the symbol of pu-

rity, Pope Francis made his way to a replica of St. Juan Diego’s tilma, which bears the image of Mary, who appeared to the indigenous saint in 1531. The pope stood before the image, bowing reverently and incensing it three times.

In his homily, the pope reflected on the reading from St. Luke’s Gospel in which Mary hastily visits her cousin Elizabeth and, subsequently, proclaims “the greatness of the Lord.”

Through her Magnificat, the pope said, Mary teaches all Christian men and women not only the importance of praising God in the midst of joy, but also how to accompany and walk with others.

From houses and hospital rooms to prison cells and rehabilitation clinics, he added, Mary contin-



CNS Photos

ues to utter those words she said to St. Juan Diego, “Am I not here who am your mother?”

“In Mary’s school, we learn to be on the way to get to where we need to be: on our feet and standing before so many lives that have lost or have been robbed of hope,” the pope said.

Mary, he continued, also teaches her children that problems are not solved with immediate responses and magical solutions, nor through “fantastic promises of

pseudo-progress that, little by little, only succeeds in usurping cultural and family identities.”

Instead, Christians learn from her the true joy that comes from loving God and neighbor unconditionally and to guard “the sense of God and His transcendence, the sacredness of life” and respect for creation, the pope said.

Mary, he added, taught humility by lifting up lowly people, like St. Juan Diego, by giving them a voice and “making them the protagonists of this, our history.”

Pope Francis said that “through Mary, the Lord refutes the temptation of giving way to the strength of intimidation and power” and instead gives dignity to those who have been cast aside.

“The Lord does not seek selfish applause or worldly admiration. His glory is in making His children the protagonists of creation,” the pope said. “With the heart of a mother, (Mary) seeks to raise up and dignify all those who, for different reasons and circumstances, were immersed in abandonment and obscurity.”

## National Migration Week to begin Jan. 6

WASHINGTON, D.C.—National Migration Week will be observed in dioceses across the country Jan. 6-12. For nearly a half century, the Church in the United States has celebrated the event, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

During the week, Catholics are called to participate through prayer and action to try to ease the struggles of immigrants, migrants and vulnerable populations, and to reflect on the Church’s obligation to welcome the stranger. The theme for National Migration Week 2019, “Building Communities of Welcome,” emphasizes Catholic responsibility to engage and welcome newcomers on their arrival, and help to ease their transition into a new life in the United States. Welcoming communities are established through the hard work and conviction of people on the ground through direct service, shared experience and faith, advocacy and institution building.

For more information on how to get involved, visit  
[www.justiceforimmigrants.org/take-action/national-migration-week](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/take-action/national-migration-week).





Submitted photos

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., celebrated the feast of St. Elizabeth with a special Mass at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Wyckoff. He blessed a newly installed statue of the saint during the Nov. 17 celebration. The statue, which greets visitors in the entrance to the church, is made of white marble, stands 7 feet tall and weighs 3,000 pounds. It was donated anonymously by a parish family. Following the Mass, Cardinal Tobin and Father Stephen Fichter, the pastor, honored the first recipients of the Elizabeth's Eight award for outstanding dedication and devotion to the parish. They received a crystal award containing a 3D etched rose in the center, which is the symbol of the saint.



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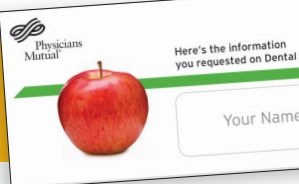
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Submitted photos  
The Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry kicked off the holiday season with their annual tree lighting celebration. The Nov. 27 event was held at the St. John Paul II Retreat Center in Kearny. It featured a Nativity with live animals, music from Paramus Catholic High School choir and marching band, as well as inflatables for the kids, outdoor movies, food, hot chocolate and, of course, Santa Claus.

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Photos courtesy of Ken Smith  
With some 2,000 candles held by the audience and choir, the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark was all aglow during the 48th annual Carol Sing. Held Dec. 12 and Dec. 13, Music Director John Miller led the performance, which featured Christmas music from the Cathedral Choir accompanied by organ, brass and percussion.



# Rebuilt Union City parish rededicated

Some 21 months after a devastating and fatal fire in Union City on March 4, 2017, the Catholic community of Ss. Joseph and Michael Parish in Union City celebrated its first Mass in a completely rebuilt church building.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., consecrated the altar and rededicated the church on Dec. 15 during an inaugural Mass. This Mass served as a fulfillment of a promise the cardinal made to parishioners soon after their church building was damaged severely from the fast-moving fire that started in an apartment building and claimed the life of 2-year-old Eddie Gonzalez Jr.

The fire was believed to have started inside the three-story building at 1404 Summit Ave. in the early morning hours. The fire quickly spread to nearby buildings, leaving 15 apartments damaged or destroyed.

The church 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 in freezing conditions.

The church rectory, located across the street on Central Avenue, was relatively unscathed.

In a letter written in English and Spanish and distributed to parishioners soon after the fire, the cardinal stated: "I know that the Union City community continues to feel pain from the events of March 4. I met many of you the night of the tragedy and we shared our fears, asking Christ the Redeemer for guidance and support. Today, I am happy to report that we will rebuild Ss. Joseph and Michael."

The rebuilding project cost more than \$6 million and took some 18 months to complete. Many skilled craftspeople and construction workers, architects, engineers, liturgical experts and staff from the Archdiocese of Newark restored the interior and exterior of the church, and replaced the liturgical vessels, vestments, statuary and other items



Photo courtesy of Steve Belloise  
Ice from fire hoses clung to power lines at the scene of the multi-alarm fire that ravaged Ss. Joseph and Michael Parish in Union City last year.

that were lost in the fire.

While the focus has been to carefully restore the venerable worship space, the project also in-

corporated a number of modern-day adjustments for the church's future. Insurance coverage will provide the majority of funding for the project.

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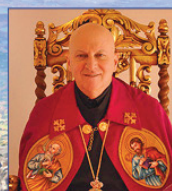
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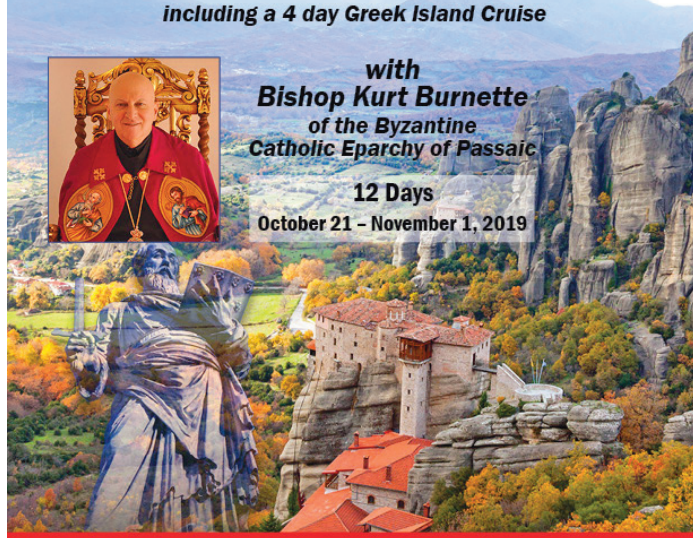
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# Scripture and the Church's next steps emphasized at prayer service

By Melissa McNally  
Editor

As Christians around the world began preparing for the season of Advent, faithful from the Archdiocese of Newark gathered at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart Nov. 30 for a second prayer service led by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., to acknowledge the sins of clergy sexual abuse.

During the service, titled "Longing for Light ... We Wait in Darkness," Cardinal Tobin urged the Church to seek forgiveness, strength and direction using Scripture. He also highlighted steps the archdiocese will take to address clergy abuse. Cardinal Tobin announced the archdiocese has begun the formation of a pastoral council to create leading roles for laity in the local Church. "We see the crisis must open us to new ways of being Church and provide fresh ways for all the baptized to share in responsibility for the body of Christ," Cardinal Tobin explained. "We will ensure that every parish possesses the necessary training resources to promote an effective partnership between clergy, religious and all the faithful."

The service also included a reflection from abuse survivor Mark Joseph Williams from Church of the Little Flower in Berkeley Heights. "We are all hurting—good priests, good nuns, good people alike. But no one suffers more than the abused; their despair, my despair, is the human abyss of the paschal mystery. There is no greater pain than the feeling of shame. I know. As a victim of clerical sexual abuse, my tears waited nearly a half century to stream from my eyes," he said.

Williams explained that, as a vulnerable child, with a father who died young and a mother who "drank and fell into rage," he was groomed and taken advantage of by his parish priest. "Trauma is the devil, it simply stays in the core of your being," he explained. "Many go to their grave never revealing what they endured. Some take their own life, like a fellow victim friend of mine. For me, the pangs of addiction, subsequent lies, the depth of depression, bankruptcy, loss of job and home, suicidal ideations were all harsh realities."

He described how his faith helped him heal throughout the years. "The saving grace in all of this for me was grace itself. God's living grace, through His incarnate Son, somehow reached me. The Holy Spirit has been, and remains, my ultimate spiritual director," Williams stated. "Many good priests, flawed and holy, human like all of us, are part of my story. Religious women, family and friends, bonded together by loving Christ in their own lives, never failed to love me. None knew my secret. The same secret the hierarchy of the Church has kept for too long."

Williams believes removing abusive priests and bishops from active ministry is the only way the Church can move forward. He said abuse victims need to be included in the healing process of the Church. Through God's mercy, he recalled, new beginnings are possible. "We must speak out. We must hold those to account who have damaged



Advocate photos-Kelly Marsicano  
Abuse survivor Mark Joseph Williams shared his story at the Nov. 30 prayer service.

trust. Our faith has been tested vitally, but we can act, challenge and fight," Williams noted.

He said the prayer service gave him hope, and thanked Cardinal Tobin for an evening that signified the "joy of the Gospel." According to Williams, allowing survivors to tell their stories is invaluable: "Those entrusted to assist, especially the ordained here tonight, within this archdiocese and beyond, must do so with mercy and unwavering compassion. All need to listen and embrace the abused. So many feel exiled and apart. They are longing for the light and we must reach them somehow. The joy of the love is for all, especially the abused. The glory of God is ours when we wait in darkness together. With courage, we will find the light together."

When Williams finished speaking, representatives from local parishes processed in with new, specially-dedicated Books of the Gospel as a symbol of solidarity.

Cardinal Tobin said in his reflection that the Gospel is one way the Church can find the light. "Despite a violent execution, the power of darkness did not extinguish the light of the cross, for the light continues to shine in the darkness—the

darkness has not overcome it. The light of the revelation of the true God through the Word continues," the cardinal said.

The Word of God must be at the center of our lives, Cardinal Tobin explained as he thanked the Knights of Columbus and benefactors for the books that were donated. "Each parish will use this book to echo our commitment to justice and healing for the survivors of abuse," he said. "But the acceptance by your parish of this holy book is also a commitment to place the Word of God, once more, at the very heart of the Church, at the heart of this archdiocese, the heart of every community and every family, so that its power to renew and refresh each generation of this Church may flourish."

Cardinal Tobin noted that the Gospel should form a "personal communal prayer" for the faithful. "I pray that these copies of the Word of God will soon be at every parish as we pray for the survivors and the necessary reform of the Church," he said. "Each time you hear the Word, may we, together, give thanks to the one who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light."

During the service, Cardinal Tobin pledged to reach out to the victims and their families, the survivors who have suffered alone and in silence. "We cannot move forward with healing until we have recognized the injury and cleaned the wounds. We accept the obligation to reckon with the sins of our bishops and priests," he said. "We will work to restore justice for survivors of abuse. If the road ahead is to do more than address the past, we must include protections for the future."

Gladys Amoakoh, a parishioner at St. Mary, the Newark Abbey Church, and a member of the archdiocese's Ghanaian Catholic Women's Association, called the service "powerful." During September's prayer service, she recalled being overwhelmed by the survivor's statement. "I was so emotional that I had to leave the service," Amoakoh said. Although the reflections of clergy abuse survivors are difficult to hear, she believes it is vital for the faith community to hear their stories. "We must support the victims and let them know that they are still a part of the Church," she explained. "We must embrace and pray with them."

The service's impact resonated beyond the Archdiocese of Newark. Mary Wei from the Chinese Catholic community in the Diocese of Metuchen said the "very solemn" gathering offered "tremendous hope" to both survivors of abuse and the Church. "When Cardinal Tobin said that the power of darkness cannot overcome the light of Christ, it filled my heart," Wei said.

Roberta Nobleman, a New York resident and member of the Episcopal Church, attended the prayer service with a friend from the archdiocese. Also a survivor of child sexual abuse, she was "deeply moved" by Williams' reflection. "His story was my story, too. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that brought me here," she said. "We must not keep silent; we have to speak it. There are a lot more of these stories than need to be told. We are all in this together."







# Fall meeting of U.S. bishops delays voting on proposals

By Sue Parker  
Faith Catholic

*Every year, the United States bishops meet in Baltimore, the first diocese in the country, to discuss issues in the American Church today. At the meeting this year on Nov. 12-14, the bishops were prepared to discuss and take action on some important issues.*

## The clergy sex abuse crisis

Plans for taking action to address the crisis of sexual abuse by clergy were abruptly halted when a request from the Congregation for Bishops postponed the assembly's vote on proposals.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) President Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston announced at the opening assembly that the U.S. bishops were asked to delay voting on the proposals until bishops from around the world meet with Pope Francis in February to discuss the crisis.

The U.S. bishops had planned to vote on adopting three proposals for action related to abuse: a new Standards of Episcopal Conduct for bishops, protocols for removing bishops because of abuse and the establishment of a new commission to process allegations of abuse against bishops.

Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago called on the bishops to discuss and refine the proposals despite postponing the vote on them. He urged the U.S. bishops to meet again in March to discuss the February meeting and to vote on protocols.

Presidents of the 114 Conferences of Bishops and the 21 Eastern-rite Patriarchal Synods, Councils of Churches and Assemblies of Ordinaries are expected to attend the gathering at the Vatican Feb. 21-24 to discuss "prevention of abuse of minors and vulnerable adults."

The bishops are scheduled to gather again for their annual June meeting. Plans for convening in March have yet to be announced.

## Excerpts from Cardinal DiNardo's statement

At the closing of the conference, Cardinal DiNardo expressed disappointment in delaying a vote, but said he was hopeful the delay "will improve our responses to the crisis we face." He addressed the need for action in his closing remarks.

"Brothers, you and the speakers we have heard from have given me direction and consensus. I will take it as a springboard for action.

When the summer's news first broke, we committed to three goals: to do what we could to get to the bottom of the Archbishop McCarrick situation; to make reporting of abuse and misconduct by bishops easier; and to develop a means of holding ourselves accountable that was genuinely independent, duly authorized and had substantial lay involvement.

Now, we are on course to accomplish these goals. That is the direction that you and the survivors of abuse across our country have given me for the February meeting in Rome. More than that, in the days prior to the meeting of episcopal conference presidents, the task force I established this week will convert that direction into specific action steps. Some of those actions include:

- A process for investigating complaints against bishops reported through a third-party compliance hotline. We will complete a proposal for a single national lay commission and a proposal for a national network relying upon the established diocesan review boards, with their lay expertise, to be overseen by the metropolitan or senior suffragan.
- Finalizing the *Standards of Accountability for Bishops*.
- Finalizing the *Protocol for Removed Bishops*.

- Studying national guidelines for the publication of lists of names of those clerics facing substantiated claims of abuse.
- Supporting the fair and timely completion of the various investigations into the situation surrounding Archbishop McCarrick and publication of their results. We are grateful for the Holy See's Statement of Oct. 6 in this regard.

We leave this place committed to taking the strongest possible actions at the earliest possible moment. We will do so in communion with the Universal Church. Moving forward in concert with the Church around the world will make the Church in the United States stronger, and will make the global Church stronger."

To read Cardinal DiNardo's full statement, visit [www.usccb.org/news/2018/18-187.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/news/2018/18-187.cfm).

## USCCB National Review Board report

During the meeting, the USCCB's National Review Board Chairman Francesco Cesareo presented a special report to the bishops, outlining key reforms and urging action. The report calls for including bishops in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People; publishing complete lists of credibly accused clergy in all dioceses; improving the auditing process; and enhancing accountability for bishops regarding cases of abuse.

The report praised efforts that have addressed the problem of abuse by clergy but chastised the bishops for a lack of transparency. "Today, the faithful and the clergy do not trust many of you. They are angry and frustrated, no longer satisfied with words and even with prayer. They seek action that signals a cultural change from the leadership of the Church. Their distrust will remain until you truly embrace the principles of openness and transparency listed in the Charter. You must come to terms with the past. There cannot be reconciliation without full acknowledgement of the truth."

The report also highlighted the problem of responsibility: "While most of you have responded appropriately to allegations of abuse, according to a recent report by the *Boston Globe* and *Philadelphia Inquirer*, more than 130 bishops, or nearly one-third of those still living, have been accused during their careers of failing to respond to sexual misconduct in their dioceses. Others have been accused of committing abuse. Few have faced real consequences. This must change."

## Compliance with the Charter

Locally, USCCB auditors have found the Archdiocese of Newark in compliance with the Charter for the 16th year in a row. The archdiocese has passed each audit since they began in 2003. The audit looks to make sure dioceses are performing background checks, offering education programs on sexual abuse, reporting abuse, doing outreach to victims and taking priests out of ministry when there's a valid accusation.



CNS photo  
Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., spoke at the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore Nov. 13.



## New Jersey dioceses to establish victim compensation and counseling program

The Archdiocese of Newark and the Dioceses of Camden, Trenton, Paterson and Metuchen have committed to the establishment of a Victim Compensation and Counseling Program, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., recently announced. The program will provide the resources to compensate victims of child sexual abuse by clergy and diocesan employees whose financial claims are legally barred by New Jersey's statute of

limitations. This will give victims a formal voice and allow them to be heard by an independent panel.

The program will also assure that victims who have not received any financial compensation will be paid, regardless of whether their claims meet the time requirements of the statute of limitations. The initiative will expand on the current arrangement through which the Catholic Church in New Jersey already has provided some \$50

million in financial settlements to victims of abuse. The vast majority of these claims had been barred by the statute of limitations.

Representatives of the New Jersey Catholic Conference collaborated with experts Kenneth Feinberg and Camille Biros on Dec. 11 to plan the implementation of the Victim Compensation Program.

Feinberg served as the special master of the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund, and fulfilled

a similar role with Biros for the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn. They are in the process of developing such programs for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Pittsburgh, among others.

The results of the meeting with Feinberg and Biros were presented to the New Jersey bishops, and a plan for implementation of the program was finalized Dec. 14.

Prior to adopting the plan to implement the victims' compensation fund, the bishops sought comments and observations from independent individuals and institutions, including members of the legislature, so that the program would have input from all stakeholders.

The program will also be a resource to provide permanent funding for necessary counseling to those who have been victimized.

Cardinal Tobin also announced that the Catholic dioceses in New Jersey will undertake a complete review of their files so that, early next year, the names of all priests and deacons who have been credibly accused of the sexual abuse of minors will be made public. The dioceses will undertake this action in coordination with the attorney general of New Jersey's ongoing task force examining the issue of clergy sexual abuse.



## RENEW International to launch 'Healing Our Church'

RENEW International, an organization that creates Catholic small-group resources, announced the impending publication of "Healing Our Church," a pastoral response to the sexual abuse crisis in the Church. This six-session book is part of a larger process created for dioceses that wish to address the sexual abuse issue by engaging the laity in their parishes. It may also be used by individual parishes.

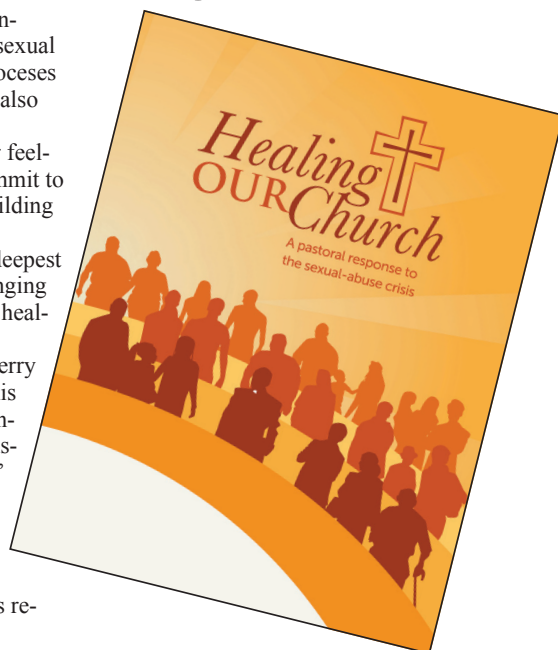
The resource will aid in healing the Church by encouraging participants to share their feelings about the crisis, embrace their role as members of Christ's body and discern and commit to actions they can take. The six sessions are: Facing the Truth, Healing Our Wounds, Rebuilding Our Church, Why do I Remain Catholic?, We Believe, and We Are the Church.

One vital aspect woven through the resource is the voices of the victims. One of the deepest wounds for many victims is the feeling that they have not been heard by the Church. Bringing their voices to the forefront and acknowledging their suffering is a key component to the healing process for all involved.

"This is a critical time for our Church," said RENEW International President Sister Terry Rickard, O.P. "So many of the faithful are hurting and feel betrayed. It is our hope that this resource will help begin the healing process and empower the laity to take on their responsibility, with the clergy, for the reform of our Church. Many are rightfully calling for transparency and accountability, which can only happen when the laity take on a greater role."

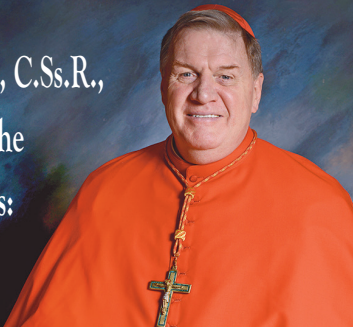
The resource is part of a larger process that will be guided by the RENEW pastoral services team. Facilitated listening sessions, training sessions and a day of healing and reconciliation for the clergy are offered to support the process and those who implement it. RENEW will work with dioceses to choose which elements will work best for them.

The book will be available beginning March 1, 2019. For more information about this resource, visit <https://pages.renewintl.org/healing-our-church>.





Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.,  
is scheduled to appear at the  
following upcoming events:



**Tuesday, Jan. 1**

2 p.m.  
Annual Haitian Mass  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred  
Heart, Newark

**Sunday, Jan. 20**

3 p.m.  
Prayer Service for Week of  
Christian Unity  
Our Lady the Most Blessed  
Sacrament, Roseland

**Sunday, Jan. 27**

Noon  
Catholic Schools Week Mass  
Transfiguration Academy, Ber-  
genfield

**Tuesday, Jan. 29**

10 a.m.  
Catholic Schools Week Mass  
St. Augustine School, Union City

**Thursday, Jan. 31**

9:30 a.m.  
Catholic Schools Week Mass  
Don Bosco Preparatory High  
School, Ramsey



Submitted photo

Valentina Balestrieri, a seventh-grade student at Memorial Middle School in Cedar Grove, is collecting new or gently used coats, hats, gloves and scarves for men, women and children. To date, she has collected 50 items for Mercy House in Newark. A ministry of the archdiocese's Respect Life Office, the house provides a welcoming space for individuals and families in need, as well as provides emotional support and healing for those dealing with addiction, abusive relationships, an unplanned pregnancy or abortion. Donations can be dropped off at 117 Cedar St., Cedar Grove. For more information, contact Lisa Balestrieri at 201-247-4326.

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Submitted photo

Members of Teamsters Union Local 863 joined together on Dec. 12 to deliver a truckload of food to St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark and St. Peter Parish in Belleville. "It is wonderful to see organized labor sharing their generosity with those in need," said Father Timothy Graff, director of the Office of Social Concerns.



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## Around the Archdiocese

### December 21

**Holy Trinity Parish**, Westfield, Blue Christmas Service, for those dealing with the loss of a loved one, 7:30 p.m., call 908-232-8137 or visit [www.htrcc.org](http://www.htrcc.org).

### December 24

**Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth**, Convent Station, Christmas carols at 7 p.m. followed by Mass at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family Chapel, Christmas Mass at 9:15 a.m., 973-290-5313.

### January 3

**Office for Evangelization**, Archdiocese of Newark, Mass for our Country, first Thursday of each month, at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, 7:30 p.m., 973-497-4137 or email [evangelization@rcan.org](mailto:evangelization@rcan.org).

### January 5

**The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth**, Convent Station,

feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Seton Associate commitment ceremony, Mass at 11 a.m., followed by light lunch, 973-290-5470.

### January 6

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish**, Nutley, carol sing Christmas concert, 3 p.m., contact Andres Cardona at 347-678-6702 or [acardona.music@hotmail.com](mailto:acardona.music@hotmail.com).

### Other

**Garwood Knights of Columbus Council #5437** is conducting a toy drive through December. Donations of brand-new, unwrapped toys on behalf of St. Joseph's Social Services Center in Elizabeth can be dropped off from 4-6 p.m. weekdays, Sundays after 1 p.m. at the Council Hall, 37 South Ave. Call the Knights at 908-789-9809 after 4 p.m. or Keith Gallagher at 908-789-0931.

**The Rosary Confraternity of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

## Official Appointments



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

### PASTORS

**Reverend Monsignor Robert E. Emery, V.E.**, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in South Orange, has been appointed pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Caldwell, effective Feb. 15, 2019.

**Reverend Albert Nzeh**, administrator of Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Newark, has been appointed pastor there, effective immediately.

**Reverend Tadeusz Trela**, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Irvington, has been granted an extension to his pastorate, ending Feb. 1, 2025.

### PAROCHIAL VICAR

**Reverend Juan C. Restrepo** has been appointed parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish in Elizabeth, effective Feb. 1, 2019.

### RETIREMENT

**Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Desmond** has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 15, 2019.



**Parish**, Wallington, is preparing a custom cookbook featuring favorite dessert recipes from Rosarians, parishioners, family and friends. Submit recipes with name and phone number to:

Rosary Confraternity Cookbook, 127 Paterson Ave., Wallington, NJ, 07057. Deadline is Friday, Feb. 1. Contact MaryJane at 201-939-8576 or Chris at 973-546-9043.

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# Respect Life to launch postcard campaign

The Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Newark plans to conduct a postcard campaign to launch the weekend of Jan. 26-27 as part of the 20/20 Project, an initiative to protect viable babies in the womb from abortion.

The postcard campaign is designed to educate churchgoers about late-term abortions in the state and urges them to contact their legislators to support the "Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" (A-1686/S-537). The bill would protect babies in the womb at 20 weeks (5 months) post-fertilization and beyond. Babies at 20 weeks have a good chance of surviving and thriving if given the proper medical care.

Respect Life Offices of the Dioceses of Paterson and Metuchen launched similar postcard campaigns this past October. As a result, an estimated 28,000 postcards and 2,000 signatures on petitions have been sent to New Jersey legislators so far. The Archdiocese of Newark aims to get 100,000 postcards sent to legislators serving Union, Essex, Bergen and Hudson counties. For more in-



Submitted photos  
Above: Volunteers pledged their support during the 20/20 Project postcard campaign meeting Dec. 6 at the Archdiocesan Center. Right: LIFENET's Mike Moore and Nicole Samuel pitching in to help organize the campaign.

formation about the campaign, contact Cheryl Riley at 973-497-4530 or [cheryl.riley@rcan.org](mailto:cheryl.riley@rcan.org).



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◀ **Joan Lunden**, journalist, best-selling author, former host of *Good Morning America* and senior living advocate.



## Catholic elementary schools partner as 'brothers and sisters in service'

In an effort to develop a program in character education, the Academy of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Franklin Lakes has partnered with Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy in Elizabeth to encourage community engagement.

Dr. Thomas Altonjy, principal of Most Blessed Sacrament, is engaging his school in developing the "With One Voice" program. Altonjy secured the assistance of Dr. Cathy Lundquist, a 40-year veteran educator with a background in self-esteem and character education in schools.

While this venture will be supervised by a committee of faculty and parents, the initiative is student-driven. The entire student body, from kindergarten to eighth grade,

composed a mission statement and brainstormed words and phrases that illustrate character education.

Part of developing the program includes service to the community. Most Blessed Sacrament chose to work with Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy, one of the schools in the archdiocese's Catholic Urban Schools Partnership (CUSP). Dedicated to improving the educational experiences at nine inner-city Catholic grammar schools, CUSP supports improvement in academics, enrollment management and marketing, finance, technology, professional development and after-school programs.

Father John R. Job, pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish,



**Dr. Thomas Altonjy**



**Patricia Cymbaluk**

suggested Our Lady of Guadalupe after visiting his first-grade teacher who still teaches at the school.

Lundquist and Father Job met with Our Lady of Guadalupe Principal Patricia Cymbaluk to discuss linking the two schools through character education and to plan for future outreach opportunities. Both

principals will announce the partnership during student assemblies at their respective sites via Skype on Feb. 1, the last day of Catholic Schools Week.

As the months unfold, the two school communities aim to grow as "brothers and sisters in service," according to Father Job.

## Artists at Holy Angels send tidings of comfort and joy

DEMAREST—Two groups of artists from the Academy of the Holy Angels have been very busy this holiday season. Art for the Community recently sent a collection of handmade holiday decorations to the Franciscan Sisters in Tenafly, while Fashion Angels created their very own ugly Christmas sweaters.

Art teacher Kathryn Biskup, who is the moderator for both activity groups, delivered the colorful Christmas decorations. "The artwork that went to the Franciscan Sisters in Tenafly included three decorated ceramic trees, a 'joy' sign, a card and a stack of angel bookmarks—stained glass prints colored in by the girls," Biskup noted.

Participants in Art for the Community meet during the school's activity period. The students produce artistic creations to share with the greater community, including the sisters, local nursing homes and hospitals.

Members of Fashion Angels delve into various aspects of the fashion world and express themselves through diverse projects. Members recently designed a dress collection created from ordinary paper products, including paper plates and newsprint.





# Go and make disciples

By Jose Planas

A long time ago, when I accepted the position in the Catechetical Office, the words of Jesus that we find in Matthew 28:19 were my motivation to say yes: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” These words confirm my commitment to serve all Spanish-speaking people who are eager to grow and serve the Church. My affirmation to serve is further reinforced when I read the next verse of the same chapter of Matthew 28 where Jesus said, “And remember I am with you always to the end of the age.” In my mind, I think if He is with me, I have nothing to fear.

It is my belief that for these simple reasons, programs and services have flourished in parishes where there is a Spanish-language Mass. Over the many years of my service, there has been an overwhelming response to the requests for the Catechetical Office to educate catechists in the Spanish community. This includes great numbers in attendance at study dates, retreats and formation days requested in the various parish communities.

## superintendent of schools EDUCATION OUTREACH

I am proud to say that we also added the first Catholic Bible conference to our list of programs this year. This activity, which took place on April 14, provided an opportunity to get to know Scripture better in

order to gain a deeper relationship with Jesus. The Hispanic presence at the event was simply fantastic. I am drawn by a word used by Pope Francis, *primerear*, which means to “go first” to a person who doesn’t know Jesus. I must reach out to those parishes that have not yet answered the call to provide the proper formation for its catechists, and I trust that, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit and my insistence, we will receive the answer.

We should never forget that at every moment and in every place God draws close to man. He calls man to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him with all His strength. It is with this call that the Catechetical Office becomes the answer for all of the Hispanic people within our Church who grow each day and are prepared to deliver the Gospel to all at this moment, and that they affirm their belief that Christ will remain



with us in our joys, as well as in our most difficult moments.

I am humbled and thankful to God and those in the Spanish community who have an undying love for the Church and desire to continue to serve the Church the best way they can.

*Jose Planas is associate director for Catechesis with Hispanics.*



Submitted photo

Jake Grullon, an eighth-grade student at Good Shepherd Academy in Nutley, recently passed the scholarship exam to attend the highly competitive Regis High School in Manhattan. Following the exam, approximately 230 semi-finalists are chosen for interviews in January. Only about 145 students are selected each year. Since 1914, Regis has been serving Catholic young men from the New York metropolitan area and providing them with a tuition-free Jesuit education.



Photo courtesy of Joy Yagid Photography

The Scholarship Fund For Inner-City Children celebrated its annual Christmas Breakfast with donors and Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., at Academy of Our Lady of Grace in Fairview on Dec. 13. The event featured Christmas carols performed by the school choir and a student panel discussion with the cardinal. There was also a presentation by a mother and daughter who spoke about the importance of a Catholic education and shared their gratitude to Scholarship Fund donors. Afterwards, guests were given a tour of the school to see students and teachers in action and see for themselves the impact of their generosity. To learn more about the Scholarship Fund, visit [www.sficnj.org](http://www.sficnj.org).



# STUDENT Exploration & EVOLUTION

## Junior Leah Castañeda

said the teachers, mentors and students at PC have helped her to look at the world in many different ways, helping her to explore career options and evolve as a person.

AP English with Mr. Joseph Schmidig and AP History with Mr. Brian Greppo are among the many subjects she looks forward to.

"I never had classes that went so in depth," she said. "Their lectures and leadership in class makes you want to stand and make your voice heard. With our homework, we are challenged to explore beyond the chapters of our book."

Last year, Leah thought her career goal was to be in banking and finance. She had hoped to join a club and find out more. But PC did not have an Investment Club-so she started one.

Leah said her point is that as in life, nothing is handed to you at PC. "Everyone here wants to help," she said. "But they point you in a direction, provide the blocks to begin and encourage you to find your own way, to make your own path. I like that. So do my fellow students."

Leah runs cross country and long distance track as a Paladin. Being a member of those teams ignited another career interest: orthopedics. "I want to help people with sports related injuries."

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### Father Javier Losarcos

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 13 at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Newark for Father Javier Losarcos, 90, who died Nov. 8.



Born in Navarra, Spain, he immigrated to the United States at the age of 19. He was ordained a priest on June 3, 1951, in Kansas City, Kan., and was incardinated in May 1980.

Father Losarcos was parochial vicar at St. Columba, Newark; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Newark; St. Cecilia, Kearny; St. Francis, Ridgefield Park; and St. Peter, Belleville. He served as pastor at St. Aloysius and St. Benedict, both in Newark.

During his retirement, Father Losarcos celebrated the Spanish Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Newark. He was also active with the Cursillo Movement. He retired in July of 2004.

### Father Daniel J. O'Brien, S.J.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 14 at Murray-Weigel Hall Chapel in the Bronx for Father Daniel J. O'Brien, S.J., 90, who died Nov. 9.



Born and raised in Hoboken, Father O'Brien attended Xavier High School and, upon graduation in 1945, he studied at St. Peter's University in Jersey City for a year before entering the Society of Jesus on Sept. 7, 1946. He was ordained on June 20, 1959, and pronounced his final vows in 1964.

Father O'Brien was an educator throughout his life, including serving at Fordham University, and was minister of the Jesuit community.

### Father John J. Lester

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 24 at St. Bartholomew Parish in Scotch Plains for Father John J. Lester, 85, who died Nov. 20.



Born and raised in Jersey City, Father Lester graduated from St. Peter's University and attended Im-

maculate Conception Seminary at Darlington in Mahwah, where he earned a master's in theology.

He was assigned to St. Bartholomew the Apostle Parish in 1962 after his ordination, where he served for more than 45 years. Father Lester retired from active ministry in 2006, and was in residence there until 2014 when he moved to Fanwood.

In his early years at St. Bartholomew, Father Lester also taught religion at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains and was involved with the youth groups at his parish.

### Father Tom Ertle, O.P.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 28 at the St. Dominic Chapel at Providence College in Rhode Island for Father Tom Ertle, O.P., 91, who died Nov. 23.



Born in Jersey City, he studied at Providence College, St. Rose Priory in Springfield, Ky., St. Joseph's Priory in Somerset, Ohio, and the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1956.

Father Ertle served at St. Antoninus Parish in Newark from 1957 to 1964 and again in 1970 to 1974. He served as prior of the Dominican community in Providence from 1981 to 1984, and as vicar provincial then prior provincial of his Dominican Province in New York City.

### Father Michael J. Moran

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 30 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bayonne for Father Michael J. Moran, 86, who died Nov. 25.



Father Moran received his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University and his master in divinity from Immaculate Conception Seminary. He was ordained a priest on May 31, 1958.

His first assignment was to St. Mary Parish in Plainfield, where he was also the Muhlenberg Medical Center chaplain, served on the board of directors for the hospital and taught at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains.

### Diocese of Paterson mourns the loss of former bishop

Bishop Emeritus Frank J. Rodimer, who led the Diocese of Paterson for 26 years, died Dec. 6. He was 91. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 14 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson.

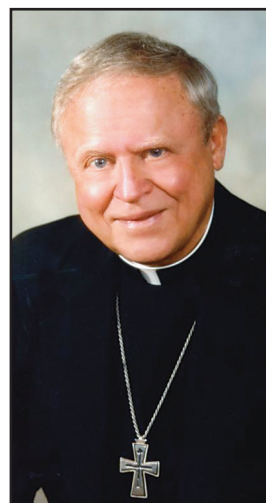
Rodimer spent his 60-year career in the diocese. He succeeded Lawrence B. Casey, becoming the sixth bishop of Paterson on Feb. 28, 1978. The Rockaway native retired in 2004 and moved to St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Totowa earlier this year, where he resided until his death.

"Despite the ailments that challenged him, he continued to pray for the people he once led as shepherd," Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., wrote in a letter to priests.

Bishop Rodimer was ordained May 19, 1951, after attending Seton Hall Prep, St. Charles College in Maryland and St. Mary's (Baltimore) and Immaculate Conception (Seton Hall University) seminaries.

He received the degree of licentiate in sacred theology in 1951 from Catholic University in Washington D.C., where he also earned a doctorate in canon law in 1954.

During his tenure, Bishop Rodimer established 12 new parishes, ordained 91 priests and 179 permanent deacons and confirmed more than 100,000 Catholics. He also served on the National Council of Catholic Bishops Committee on the Liturgy and raised millions of dollars through his "Share the Vision" campaign for capitol repairs to church buildings in urban areas of the diocese.



Father Moran served as pastor of Nativity Parish, Midland Park, and was parochial vicar and temporary administrator at St. John Parish, Hillsdale. He was also chaplain of both the Hillsdale Fire and Police Departments.

After his retirement, he continued to minister at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Washington Township; St. Pius, Old Tappan; St. Elizabeth, Wyckoff; and The Cupola and Harmony Village in Paramus.

### Sister Joan Wickers, S.C.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 30 in the Villa at Florham Park for Sister Joan Wickers, S.C., 83, who died Nov. 27.



Born in New Brunswick, Sister Joan entered the Sisters of Charity on Sept. 6, 1953, and was a member for 65 years.

She graduated from the College of Saint Elizabeth and earned a master's in special education from William Paterson University and in religious studies from Fordham University.

Sister Joan served as a teacher at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in East Orange and was a teacher and principal at St. Joseph School in West Milford. She was director of activities at St. Anne Villa in Convent Station and served in other dioceses throughout the state. She moved to St. Anne Villa in 2015, where she resided until her death.

### Father D. James French, S.J.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 6 at Murray-Weigel Hall Chapel in the Bronx for Father D. James French, S.J., 78, who died Dec. 2.



Born in Buffalo, N.Y., he entered the Society of Jesus in 1962 and was ordained May 25, 1974.

Father French was a teacher throughout New York. In 1993, he was appointed rector of the Jesuit Community at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City. For the next six years, in addition to being rector, he taught music, Latin and religion in the high school, and also did pastoral ministry at St. Peter's Parish.



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## NOVENA

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so that I can attain my goals. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and that in all instances of my life, You are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again, that I never want to be separated from You, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with You in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Amen. Published in gratitude of grace attained and for many requests granted. (Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days.)  
G.S.P.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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Submitted photos

Students at Paramus Catholic High School are embracing the spirit of the Christmas season by finding creative ways to give back. During "Summer in November," this year's dress-down fundraising Christmas project, students, teachers and staff donned Santa hats with Hawaiian shirts. Others wore elf costumes with flip-flops. Through selling dress-down bracelets for \$5 each, Campus Ministry raised more than \$5,000 to sponsor 12 families from Mercy House in Newark and one family from a local parish. Members from the school's 3D Design club also worked during a two-week period to create custom Christmas ornaments in a fundraiser to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Sample ornaments were displayed as the club members took orders during lunch periods. Students will be filling more than 300 orders.

Merry Christmas  
May all your news in the coming year  
be good news  
From all of us at Advocate Publishing Corp.







Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark Proudly Sponsors its Annual

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