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# The Catholic Advocate



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The community newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark

September 12, 2018

## Cardinal Tobin calls for Day of Prayer for sins of sexual abuse

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., has designated Friday, Sept. 14, as a Day of Prayer, Fasting and Abstinence throughout the archdiocese in recognition of the sins and crimes of sexual abuse against children and adults by members of the Catholic Church.

He also will lead the people of the local Church of Newark in an evening service of Prayer, Recognition and Hope in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Friday beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Under the theme "Behold the Wood of the Cross," the cardinal, joined by hundreds of clergy, religious and lay faithful of the archdiocese, will gather in prayer for the victims of clergy abuse, for their families, for the accused and for the Church.

"On this day, we will show our sorrow for what has happened and our solidarity with the victims, as well as our unshakeable intention never to return our Church to 'business as usual,'" Cardinal Tobin said. "I expect all the priests to join me in the cathedral that evening to beg God's forgiveness and the forgiveness of those who have been abused. I invite all to come and cry out with us: 'Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.'"

Cardinal Tobin will preach at this service. In addition, a victim of clergy abuse will offer a reflection on his experiences and his hopes.

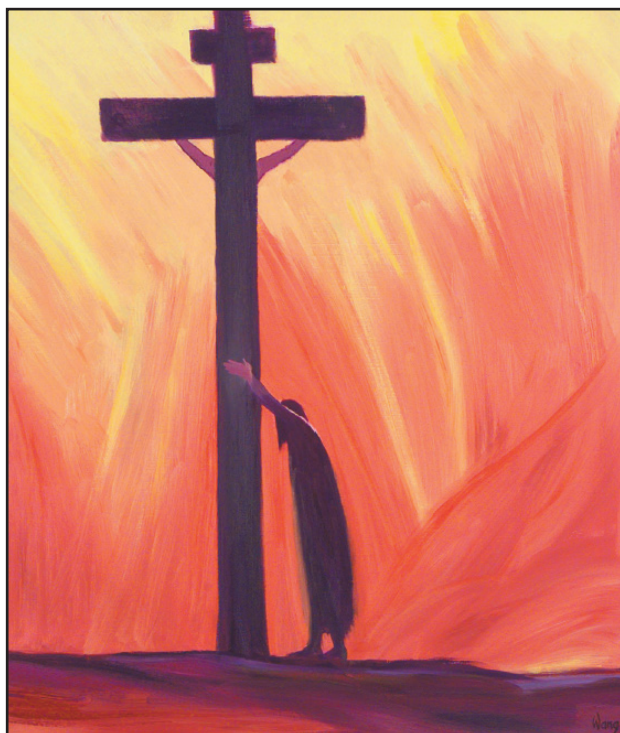


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## Clergy Sex Abuse Scandal: Pennsylvania and McCarrick

The news of the Church sex abuse scandals have shaken many of the faithful and have resulted in an increased scrutiny of how allegations of abuse are handled. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Vatican and the Archdiocese of Newark have responded, as have many bishops throughout the U.S.

### Archbishop Theodore McCarrick

On June 20, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of the Archdiocese of New

York announced that then-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick had been removed from ministry at the direction of the Vatican after an investigation by the Archdiocese of New York found credible a charge that he sexually abused a teenager.

On the same day, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., stated:

"I recognize that the people of our archdiocese meet the announcement by the Archdiocese of New York of a credible and substantiated claim of abuse of a minor by

Cardinal McCarrick with a range of emotions. I am thinking particularly of those who have experienced the trauma of sexual abuse by clergy—whose lives have been impacted tragically by abuse. To those survivors, their families and loved ones, I offer my sincere apologies and my commitment of prayer and action to support you in your healing.

"The Archdiocese of Newark has never received an accusation that Cardinal McCarrick abused a minor. In the past, there have been allegations that he engaged in sexu-

al behavior with adults. This archdiocese and the Diocese of Metuchen received three allegations of sexual misconduct with adults decades ago; two of these allegations resulted in settlement between the years of 2004 and 2006. Information about those allegations was provided to both local civil authorities."

Cardinal Tobin also told the people of the archdiocese:

"No doubt many of you developed strong relationships with him

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# New chancellor named for the Archdiocese of Newark

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., has appointed Sister Donna Ciangio, O.P., of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell as chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark, effective Sept. 1.

She succeeds Msgr. Michael Andreano, K.C.H.S., who served as chancellor since 2012 and who earlier this year accepted new responsibilities as pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Hoboken.

In commenting on the appointment, Cardinal Tobin stated: "Sister Donna's extensive experience in the areas of parish vitality and pastoral direction, congregational and leadership development, faith formation, parish pastoral council development, and consulting with parishes and dioceses will serve the people of the archdiocese well in the coming years."

"I am looking forward to this opportunity to work with Cardinal Tobin and the faithful of the archdiocese as we begin to implement a vision of the Church of Newark for the future," added Sister Donna.

For the past eight years, Sister Donna has been the director of adult faith formation at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Short Hills. And for more than a decade she has served as principal and founder of Church Leadership Consultation, an organization specializing in mission advancement, training and pastoral planning. In this role, she has worked nationally and internationally with dioceses and parishes to facilitate, among other things, a diocesan synod, parish missions, parish pastoral councils and adult faith formation initiatives. From 1994 until 2007, she served as director of pastoral services for the New York-based National Pastoral Life Center.

From 1982 until 1993, she served as associate director of U.S. operations and director of international operations, respectively, for RENEW International. The parish renewal organization originated in the Archdiocese of Newark and has revitalized parish life in more than 150 dioceses in the United States and has served people in 24 countries, across six continents.



**Sister Donna Ciangio, O.P.**

Sister Donna is involved in many professional organizations and community activities. She serves on the Caldwell University board of trustees and the board of directors of the

Center for Ministry Development. She is the chairperson of the North American Forum for Small Christian Communities (NAFSCC), through which she works with small faith sharing groups around the states and Canada, and is also a consultant for RCL Benziger Publishing Company. She also has served on the Waterfront Planning Task Force for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Her articles have appeared in *Today's Parish*, *Liguorian*, *Church* magazine, and in publications from Crossroads, Paulist Press, and St. Anthony Messenger Press. She published a faith sharing book "Open Our Hearts: A Small Group Guide for an Active Lent" with Father Thomas Iwanowski. Her most recent Lent book is entitled "Conversations that Matter."

Sister Donna earned bachelor's degrees in fine arts and religious studies from Caldwell University. She received her master's in fine arts from New York University and her Doctor of Ministry, with distinction, from Drew University. She also holds teacher certification in New Jersey and New York.

Among her many awards is the Msgr. Thomas A. Kleissler award from RENEW International.

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## New School of Evangelization launches Oct. 10

The Archdiocese of Newark Office for Evangelization will launch a new School of Evangelization series beginning Oct. 10 at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bloomfield.

The seven-session series will meet on select Wednesdays through June 12, 2019. These foundational sessions will help equip and inspire Catholics to fully embrace and understand the New Evangelization and learn how to effectively engage family, friends and fellow parishioners in the journey of living the Catholic faith.

The series will cover topics including conversion, the Church,

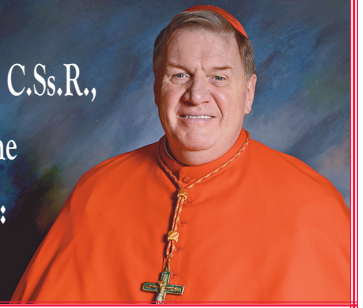
community and service. The sessions aim to inform and challenge participants to look at evangelization with a new perspective. In addition to understanding how evangelization can become a way of personal and parish life, attendees are encouraged to discover the power of the Church and community in living out their faith.

Participants will learn how to lead others to a deeper encounter with Christ by identifying the various thresholds of conversion and helping them advance through those stages. The series will also offer tips on how to form disciples, train leaders and build a parish of missionary disciples.

Each session will begin with refreshments and fellowship at 6:30 p.m. followed by the course from 7-9 p.m. Each session costs \$10, however a \$50 full-course discount is offered for online registrations at [www.rcan.org/evangelization](http://www.rcan.org/evangelization).

For more information, call 973-497-4137 or email [evangelization@rcan.org](mailto:evangelization@rcan.org).

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



### Friday, Sept. 14

7:30 p.m.

Behold the Wood of the Cross:  
A Service of Prayer, Recognition and Hope  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

### Friday, Sept. 28

1:30 p.m.

Annual Catholic Schools Mass  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

6:30 p.m.

Reception for the Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children  
Cardinal's residence

### Sunday, Sept. 30

3 p.m.

Filipino Apostolate Mass  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

### Sunday, Oct. 7

Noon

50th Anniversary Mass of the Permanent Diaconate  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

### Sunday, Oct. 20

8:45 a.m.

Catechetical Convocation  
Paramus Catholic High School

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# Facing facts, coming to terms with one's past bring peace, pope says

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—People need to make peace with their lives and anything they are running from, rather than lose themselves to escapism and playful distraction, Pope Francis said.

There is an “industry of distraction” in full force today, which paints the ideal world as being “a big playground where everybody has fun” and the ideal individual as one who “makes money in order to have fun, find satisfaction” in the many “vast and diverse avenues of pleasure,” he said Sept. 5 during his weekly general audience.

Such an attitude leads to “dissatisfaction with an existence anesthetized by fun, which isn’t rest, but alienation and escaping from reality,” he added. “People have never been able to rest like they can today and yet people have never felt as much emptiness as they do today.”

The pope continued his series of



CNS photo

audience talks about the Ten Commandments, focusing on keeping the Lord’s day holy.

It seems like an easy commandment to fulfill, he said, but it isn’t because people need to recognize there is a false kind of rest marked by avoidance and distraction, and authentic rest, which is being at

peace with and giving thanks for the gift of life.

After God made the heavens and the earth, he rested, making the seventh day holy. This day reflects “God’s joy for all He created. It is a day of contemplation and blessing” and giving praise—not running away, the pope said.

“It is a time for looking at reality and saying, ‘How beautiful life is,’” he said. “To the idea of rest as escaping reality, the commandment responds with rest as blessing reality.”

In fact, the Eucharist, which lies at the heart of Sunday, means “thanksgiving,” he said; it is a day to thank the Lord for His mercy, His gifts and for the gift of life.

Sunday, he added, is a day to come to terms with one’s life, to find peace—realizing life is not easy, “but it is precious.”

So many people have so many options available for having fun, but they are not at peace with their lives, he said.

“Distancing themselves from the bitter wounds of their heart, people need to make peace with the thing they are running from. It is necessary to reconcile with one’s past, with the facts one is not facing, with the difficult parts of one’s own existence,” he said, asking everyone to reflect on whether they have come to terms with their own life.

Finding peace is a choice, he said. It is not changing one’s past, but is becoming reconciled with what has happened, “to accept and give value” to one’s life.

## Pope urges diplomatic solution as war looms in northern Syria

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis appealed for peace and dialogue as the Syrian government and its allies prepare to launch strikes against the last major rebel stronghold in Idlib province in the country’s northwest.

Speaking to hundreds of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for his Sunday Angelus address Sept. 2, the pope warned that “the winds of war continue to blow” in the already war-weary country.

An attack against the Syrian province’s nearly 3 million people, he said, would cause “a humanitarian catastrophe.”

“I renew my heartfelt appeal to the international community and to all the actors involved to make use of the instruments of diplomacy,

dialogue and negotiations, in compliance with international humanitarian law and to safeguard the lives of civilians,” the pope said.

Several world leaders had expressed concern over the looming attack and the possible use of chemical weapons by Syrian forces.

Syrian army warplanes allegedly flew over and bombed the eastern town of Douma, 15 miles north of Damascus, in a suspected chemical-weapon attack April 7. Despite the accounts of witnesses, the Syrian government denied involvement in the attack.

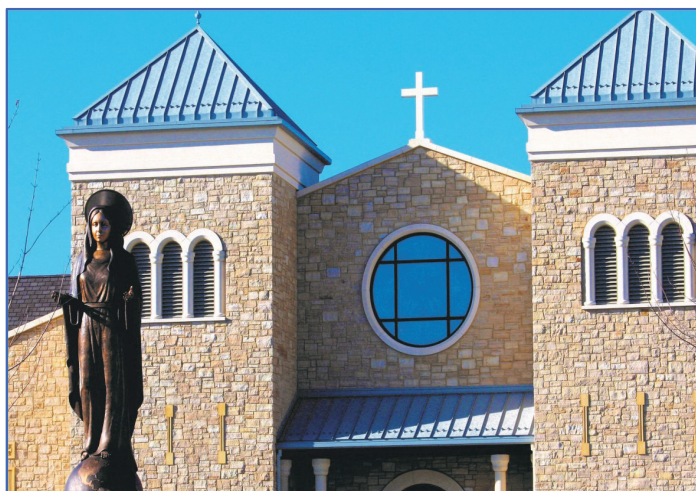
The pope’s appeal echoed the sentiments of the United Nations and the United States, who have expressed similar concerns and fears that Syria, led by President Bashar al-Assad, would use chemical weapons against innocent civilians.



CNS photo

Clergymen look on as Sister Mary Prema Pierick, superior general of the Missionaries of Charity, right, lights a candle at the tomb of St. Teresa of Kolkata on the anniversary of her death, Sept. 5 in Kolkata, India. The Nobel Peace Prize-winning nun and founder of the Missionaries of Charity died in 1997 and was canonized by Pope Francis in 2016.





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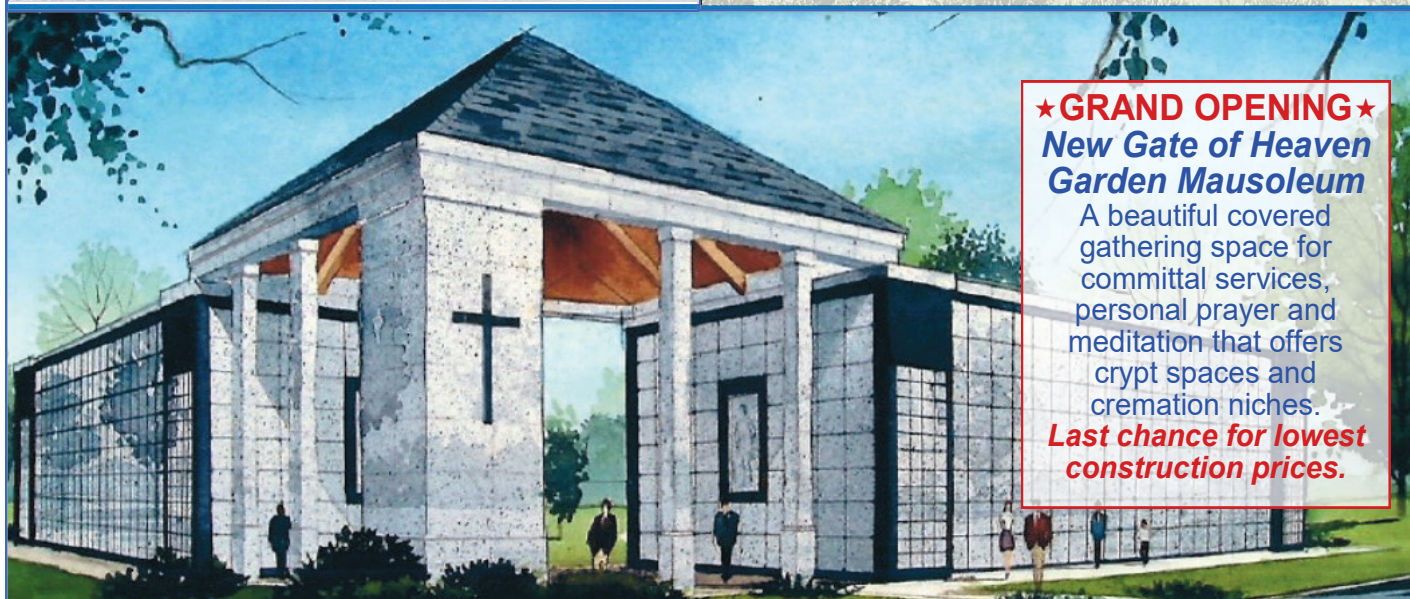
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## Official Appointments

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



### ARCHDIOCESAN AGENCY/MINISTRY

**Reverend Carmine Rizzi** has been appointed to defender of the bond for the Metropolitan Tribunal for the Archdiocese of Newark, effective Sept. 4.

### PAROCHIAL VICAR

**Reverend Charles Hanley, O.F.M.**, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Ann Parish, Hoboken, effective immediately.

### CHAPLAINS

**Reverend Francisco M. Mendonca**, parochial vicar of St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, has been appointed chaplain of the Livingston Fire Department, effective immediately.

**Reverend Stanley S. Kostrzomb**, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Lyndhurst, has been appointed chaplain of the Sacred Heart, St. Michael the Archangel and Mount Carmel Knights of Columbus Council #2396, effective immediately.

### IN RESIDENCE

**Reverend Zachary Swantek**, chaplain of the IHS Campus of Seton Hall University, Nutley, has been appointed to residency at St. Mary Rectory, Nutley, effective immediately.

## September 14

**Our Lady of Peace Parish**, New Providence, "The Triumph: A Parish Mission," with featured speaker Father David Gunter, M.I.C., 7:30 p.m., also on Sept. 15 beginning at 8:30 a.m., 908-464-7600 or email [thetriumph914@gmail.com](mailto:thetriumph914@gmail.com).

## September 17

**St. Joseph by the Sea**, South Mantoloking, "Grief Recovery: The Four Tasks of Mourning," with presenter Janice Santanello, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$50, 732-892-8494 or visit [www.sjbsea.org](http://www.sjbsea.org) for brochure.

**Divine Mercy Parish**, Rahway, "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist," three-session study, also on Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, 7:15 p.m., \$5, contact Ray or Susie Atienza at 908-463-0449 or email [dmpbiblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:dmpbiblestudy@gmail.com).

## September 20

**Caldwell University**, "How to Save the World: A Global League of Democracies," presented by Fordham philosophy professor John Davenport, 4:30 p.m., 973-618-3931.

## September 21

**Ss. Peter and Paul Parish**, Hoboken, Oktoberfest, featuring food, raffle and live music, 6-10 p.m., also 12-10 p.m. on Sept. 22, call 201-659-2276 or email [oktoberfest@sphoboken.com](mailto:oktoberfest@sphoboken.com).

**Community of God's Love**, Rutherford, "Catholicism: The Pivotal Players," DVD Series by Bishop Robert Barron, feature on St. Thomas Aquinas, light supper at 7 p.m. and screening at 8 p.m., dessert and discussion to follow, call 201-935-0344 or email [secretary@thecgl.org](mailto:secretary@thecgl.org).

## September 22

**Mary's Meals USA**, mission appeal at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary and St. Michael Parish, Elizabeth, also on Sept. 23, call 203-962-3776 or email [diane.driscoll@marysmeals.org](mailto:diane.driscoll@marysmeals.org).

**Immaculate Conception Parish**, Somerville, "Hope: An Anchor for the Soul," Catholic women's conference sponsored by Women in the New Evangelization (WINE), 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., \$65, call 347-676-1923 or visit [www.wineconference.org](http://www.wineconference.org).



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## September 23

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel**, Ridgewood, career ministry workshop, first of four-part series, 1 p.m., call Carol Shea at 201-252-8807 or Tom Lewis at 201-445-1864.

**Queen of Peace Parish**, North Arlington, concert featuring classical favorites, Broadway hits and sacred selections, 2:30 p.m., 201-997-0700.

## September 27

**St. Teresa of Avila Parish**, Summit, "Come and See Catholic Bible Study: The Gospel of Luke," Thursdays through May 16, 2019, 9:15-11:30 a.m., \$35, call Bonnie Brophy at 908-277-6578 or email [b.c.brophy@comcast.net](mailto:b.c.brophy@comcast.net).

## September 28

**Archdiocese of Newark**, Schools Office, Annual School Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 1:30 p.m., RSVP to Sister Marie Gagliano at [sr.marie.gagliano@rcan.org](mailto:sr.marie.gagliano@rcan.org) or call 973-497-4263.

## September 30

**Cathedral Basilica of Sacred Heart**, Newark, 11th Annual Eucharistic celebration honoring San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod, 3 p.m., contact Father Ernie Tibay at [bobbyboy@optonline.net](mailto:bobbyboy@optonline.net).

**Central Chapter Columbiettes**, 60th anniversary celebration luncheon at the Wallington Exchange, 1-4 p.m., \$40, call Barbara Ann at 973-916-1957 or Marion at 973-790-3847.

## October 3

**St. Teresa of Avila Parish**, Summit, Mass for Life at 6 p.m. followed by Dinner for Life at Grand Summit Hotel, 7 p.m., featuring guest speaker Dr. Anne Nolte and honoree Father Lawrence J. Fama, 908-277-3700.

## October 4

**Caldwell University**, "Who Is This Dude Called Benedict?," presented by journalist and author Judith Valente, 4:30 p.m., 973-618-3931.

## Surviving Divorce retreat to be held Oct. 27

The Archdiocese of Newark's Office of Family Life is sponsoring a three-day retreat for the separated and divorced. Each session runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Roseland on Oct. 27, Nov. 17 and Dec. 1. The cost of all three days of the retreat is \$20 and includes the cost of a personal guide book, refreshments and light lunch. Each day features DVD sessions that cover such topics as denial, grief and forgiveness. The itinerary includes video presentations and small group discussions. Participants will hear personal testimonies of Catholic men and women who have experienced the breakdown of their families who witness to the healing power of Christ in their lives. To register, visit [www.smores.com/4b0g3](http://www.smores.com/4b0g3) and enter in your name and email. For more information, call Lauren Egan at 973-497-4327 or email [lauren.egan@rcan.org](mailto:lauren.egan@rcan.org).

## October 6

**Madonna Parish**, Fort Lee, Madonna 5K and Knights of Columbus Beer & Wine Festival, 10 a.m., benefits the parish and Tackle Kids Cancer, visit [runsignup.com/race/nj/fortlee/madonna5k](http://runsignup.com/race/nj/fortlee/madonna5k), use code: **TheCatholicAdvocate** to save \$10 per registration.

## October 16

**St. John Paul II Youth Retreat Center**, Kearny, priest appreciation gathering, featuring guest speaker Msgr. Thomas Nydegger, luncheon 12:30-2 p.m., dinner 5:30-7 p.m., 201-998-0088 ext. 4150 or email [richard.donovan@rcan.org](mailto:richard.donovan@rcan.org).

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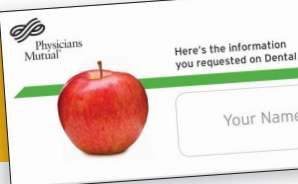
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## What the Catholic Church in New Jersey does to protect children

The Catholic Church in New Jersey has committed substantial resources to prevent any abuse of any child at any time by any person. Each diocese has comprehensive policies in place, both to respond to complaints and to prevent the sexual abuse of minors. These safety policies and practices are regularly verified by an external audit of each diocese.

### Prevention of Abuse

- **Safe Environment:** All New Jersey dioceses have fully implemented comprehensive “safe environment” education programs and have, together, over the past 15 years, trained more than 2.3 million adults, children, employees, clergy and volunteers. In the Archdiocese of Newark, some 25,000 priests, deacons, religious, seminarians, and lay educators, employees and volunteers have received this training. More than 93,000 students in Catholic schools and religious education programs also have received age-appropriate training to recognize and report boundary violations. Adults must be recertified in awareness training every five years.
- **Background Checks:** The dioceses conduct background evaluations for all diocesan and parish personnel who have regular contact with minors. Over the past 15 years, some 380,000 criminal background checks have been completed. Some 25,000 adults in ministry with children, young people and vulnerable individuals within the archdiocese have been checked, with repeat checks also occurring every five years.

### Response to Allegations of Abuse

- **Prompt Reporting to Civil Authorities:** In 2002, New Jersey Catholic dioceses entered into a memorandum of understanding with the attorney general and the county prosecutors to facilitate the immediate

intervention of law enforcement whenever there is any allegation that a minor is being sexually abused. The dioceses also promptly report all past allegations of abuse to public authorities, whether the person bringing the complaint is now an adult, no matter how long ago the abuse is alleged to have occurred, and whether or not the accused is living or deceased. At the time of the memorandum, the Catholic dioceses provided law enforcement with information about all accusations that they have received going back decades, and since then have reported every new allegation.

- **Zero Tolerance/Permanent Removal from Ministry:** When sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer is established, diocesan policies provide that the offending priest, deacon, employee or volunteer is to be permanently removed from ministry, employment or volunteer service, and that any such offending clergy may not be transferred to another diocese.
- **Therapeutic and Pastoral Response:** Each diocese has a victim assistance coordinator, who facilitates the provision of counseling and other professional assistance to help those who have been abused. In addition, all victims have the opportunity to meet with the bishop in order to facilitate healing.
- **Settlement of Claims:** Claims of victims involving priests, deacons or others where the abuse has been established are settled by all New Jersey dioceses. Altogether, the dioceses have paid out almost \$50 million in settlements to victims, some \$12 million of which involves claims against clergy and religious in the Archdiocese of Newark.

The Catholic Church regrets that, in decades past, some in the Church failed in their responsibility to protect children. However, today, no institution, public or private, has done more to prevent abuse than the Catholic Church in New Jersey. We will remain vigilant to ensure a safe environment for every child we serve.

## Statement of the Roman Catholic Bishops of New Jersey

Aug. 15, 2018

New Jersey’s Roman Catholic Bishops acknowledge that media accounts of the details contained in Pennsylvania’s grand jury report show a heart-breaking departure from our fundamental belief in the dignity and value of every child. As a Church, our calling remains unchanged—to help children in our care encounter leaders who exemplify God’s commandment to love and protect the most vulnerable.

As bishops, we hold that every parent and every child deserve a safe environment to learn and explore their faith. Every space where teaching, worship and ministry take place must provide this safe environment. There must be no compromise on this principle. The children entrusted to our care are treasures.

We cannot undo the actions of the past, but we shall remain vigilant to ensure that not one child will ever be abused on our watch.

New Jersey’s Catholic dioceses have conducted some 380,000 criminal background checks of all diocesan and parish personnel who have regular contact with minors. In addition, all Catholic dioceses have integrated a comprehensive program of reporting abuse to civil authorities, compensating and counseling victims, and implementing rigorous protocols and training for more than 2.3 million clergy, employees, volunteers and children.

We thank law enforcement agencies, child protection advocates and victims themselves who have helped us move beyond compliance to creating the safest environments for learning and worship. We are deeply thankful for those who have joined our efforts to extend both healing and hope to every victim and their family. We renew our commitment to foster healing and seek forgiveness.



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.  
*Archbishop, Archdiocese of Newark*



Most Reverend David M. O’Connell, C.M.  
*Bishop, Diocese of Trenton*



Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan  
*Bishop, Diocese of Camden*

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli  
*Bishop, Diocese of Paterson*

Most Reverend James F. Checchio  
*Bishop, Diocese of Metuchen*





# Clergy Sex Abuse Scandal

Continued from page 1

*and appreciate the impact of his service. Those feelings are likely hard to reconcile with the news of a credible and substantiated claim of abuse of a minor. While Cardinal McCarrick maintains his innocence and the canonical process continues, we must put first the serious nature of this matter with respect and support for the process aimed at hearing victims and finding truth. We cannot undo the actions of the past, but we must continue to act with vigilance today. I renew my commitment to seek forgiveness and healing, while ensuring a safe environment for children in this archdiocese. I will continue to report immediately to civil authorities any accusation of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy and will cooperate fully in the investigation and adjudication. I continue to urge anyone who was abused by clergy to come forward, as brave survivors before you have done. To the priests, religious and all other members of this community, I join you in continued prayer that God carry us together in His love with commitment to our faith and each other."*

On July 19, the *New York Times* ran a story about a man who alleges that Cardinal McCarrick sexually abused him for nearly 20 years, starting when the victim was 11. On July 28, Pope Francis accepted Cardinal McCarrick's resignation from the College of Cardinals and suspended him from public ministry. He is now to be known as Archbishop McCarrick and is to spend his life in prayer and penance until the results of a canonical trial.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), issued a statement about this situation, stating:

*"The accusations against Archbishop Theodore McCarrick reveal a grievous moral failure within the Church. They cause bishops anger, sadness and shame; I know they do in me. They compel bishops to ask, as I do, what more could have been done to protect the people of God. Both the abuses themselves, and the fact that they have remained undisclosed for decades, have caused great harm to people's lives and rep-*

*resent grave moral failures of judgment on the part of Church leaders."* (The full text of the USCCB statement can be found at <http://usccb.org/news/2018/18-136.cfm>)

Cardinal Tobin's words echoed



**"WE CANNOT UNDO THE ACTIONS OF THE PAST, BUT WE MUST CONTINUE TO ACT WITH VIGILANCE TODAY. I RENEW MY COMMITMENT TO SEEK FORGIVENESS AND HEALING, WHILE ENSURING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN IN THIS ARCHDIOCESE."**

— CARDINAL TOBIN

the continuing pain of the bishops:

*"The somber announcement from the Vatican this morning will impact the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Newark with particular force. This latest news is a necessary step for the Church to hold itself accountable for sexual abuse and harassment perpetrated by its ministers, no matter their rank. I ask my brothers and sisters to pray for all who may have been harmed by the former cardinal, and to pray for him as well."*

## Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report

On Aug. 14, a grand jury in Pennsylvania released a report about its investigation of allegations of sexual abuse of children occurring

in all Pennsylvania dioceses except Philadelphia and Altoona-Johnstown, which had had earlier individual grand jury investigations.

The grand jury looked at cases of more than 300 priests who were credibly accused of sexually abusing minors since 1947. Disturbing

tastrophe' the Church is facing. The Executive Committee established three goals:

- Investigation of questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick in order to prevent a recurrence, and protect minors, seminarians and others who are vulnerable in the future.
- Making reporting of abuse and misconduct by bishops easier. The 2002 Statement of Episcopal Commitment does not make clear what avenue victims should follow to report abuse or other sexual misconduct by a bishop. That is being addressed.
- Better procedures to resolve complaints against bishops. For example, the canonical procedures that follow a complaint will be studied with an eye toward concrete proposals to make them more prompt, fair and transparent, and to specify what constraints may be imposed on bishops at each stage of that process.

## Vatican Response

The Vatican released a letter from Pope Francis regarding the scandals:

*"... With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realizing the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives. We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them."*

## New Jersey Experience

Shortly after issuance of the Pennsylvania grand jury report, one member of the New Jersey Senate called for a similar grand jury proceeding in this state. In response, Deacon Patrick Brannigan, executive director of the New Jersey Catholic Conference, issued a statement that reads in part:

*"Since 2002, the Catholic Church in New Jersey has complied with a Memorandum of Understanding with the attorney general and all 21 county prosecutors under which every complaint is forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency."*

*(For a summary of steps the dioceses in New Jersey have instituted in the past 16 years, see page 8.)*

information was disclosed about the abuse, as well as the actions of some bishops to transfer abusive priests to other parishes after accusations.

Cardinal DiNardo said he was "saddened" by the report and offered a response, stating:

*"The USCCB Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People and the office of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection will continue to offer avenues to healing for those who have been abused. We are committed to work in determined ways so that such abuse cannot happen."*

On Aug. 18, Cardinal DiNardo announced the USCCB's plan to involve laity to address the 'moral ca-

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO ENSURE SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

The Office of Child and Youth Protection in the Archdiocese of Newark shares in the mission of the archdiocese to be a living sign of Jesus Christ's presence by assisting youth in building a relationship with God by providing a safe environment in parishes and schools. Toward this goal, the office implements and ensures compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

The office also shares in the archdiocesan mission of coming to offer God's merciful and loving providence to all. We are called to search out the needs, not only of the Catholic community, but of the total community; and then to respond accordingly with an open mind and generous heart. Toward this second mission, the Office of Child and Youth Protection provides outreach to victims/survivors and their families, and demonstrates a sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being.

The Archdiocese of Newark maintains a number of programs to train adults and youth in safe environment protocols, as well as programs to screen the backgrounds of adult employees and volunteers—both clergy and lay.

A description of these programs for both adults and children, the texts of the ministerial and professional conduct policies in force in the archdiocese, and other helpful resources are available on the archdiocese's website at: [www.rcan.org/safe-environment](http://www.rcan.org/safe-environment).

We encourage you to visit this site to become familiar with the many protocols in place to address and ensure safe environments for the youth with whom we minister in the Archdiocese of Newark.

*(Editor's Note: In next month's issue of The Catholic Advocate, we will provide more information on the training programs and procedures in place for adults, children and young people.)*

# Cardinal Wuerl addresses church's 'pain, confusion and disillusionment'



CNS Photo

By Mark Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Addressing the clergy abuse crisis in the Church will require “wider lay engagement, more realized accountability and evident transparency,” said Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl at the end of a Sept. 2 Mass.

In remarks after Communion, at the installation Mass for a new pastor at Annunciation Parish in Washington, Cardinal Wuerl said the Church must follow a pathway to holiness and bring “Christ’s renewing light” to the darkness of the abuse crisis and the pain it has caused.

The way forward must involve “a renewed commitment on the part of each priest to do what, in fact, the vast majority of priests do so well every day. You and I must continue to support them as they carry out their ministry that is such a significant part of the healing.”

The cardinal also stressed the importance of Church accountability and engaging the laity in the wake of the resignation of retired Washington Archbishop Theodore McCarrick and the Pennsylvania grand jury report documenting clergy sexual abuse against minors over the past seven decades in six dioceses, including Pittsburgh, led by then-Bishop Wuerl from 1988 until his appointment as archbishop of Washington in 2006.

Since the release of this report, Cardinal Wuerl has faced strong criticism and calls for his resignation for his record in confronting clergy sexual abuse in the Pittsburgh Diocese.

Following canon law, the cardinal submitted his resignation to Pope Francis in 2015 when he turned 75. The pope has not accepted it.

In an Aug. 27 letter to staff of the Archdiocese of Washington, Msgr. Charles Antonicelli, vicar general and moderator of the curia, said that in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, then-Bishop Wuerl reached out to abuse survivors, removed all priests with

credible claims of abuse against them and was a leader in child protection.

At the end of the Sept. 2 Mass, Cardinal Wuerl said the prayers of Catholics are for the whole Church wounded by the shame of the actions that caused the abuse crisis. “You, too, bear a deep wound, because you love the Church—that’s why you’re here, and you do not know what is coming next.”

He acknowledged the “pain, confusion and disillusionment” that Catholics feel, and he said he wished he could wipe it all away.

“As we move forward, I hope to lead by action, not just by words,” he said, and then quoted part of what he had written in an Aug. 30 letter to priests in the archdiocese: “I ask you for prayers for me, for forgiveness for my errors in judgment, for my inadequacies, as well as for the grace to find, with you, ways of healing, ways of offering fruitful guidance in this darkness.”

Near the end of his remarks, a man shouted: “Shame on you!” and stormed out of the church.

This was right after the cardinal had asked the congregation to “hold close in our prayers and loyalty to our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Increasingly, it is clear that he is the object of considerable animosity.”

After the man’s outburst, Cardinal Wuerl said he wished he could redo decisions that he had made in his three decades as a bishop “and each time get it right.” He encouraged people to join him in seeking God’s grace and mercy as the Church moves forward. He asked for their prayers for him, and for all those who were abused and all those suffering in the aftermath of abuse.

“We do all of this first in prayer, mindful that the source of our contrition, of our healing, and of our pathway into the future is the victory Christ won for us on the cross,” he said.

The cardinal received applause at the end of his remarks.



# Despite abuse and cover up, I still want to be a Catholic priest

*The following commentary was written by Deacon Andrew J. De Silva, a seminarian who is slated to be ordained a priest in May 2019 for the Archdiocese of Newark. As a transitional deacon, he is assigned to St. Aloysius Parish in Jersey City and is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves Chaplain Corps.*

**By Deacon Andrew J. De Silva**

**W**hen I was in college and then as a young adult, I wanted to be married and have a family, but in my mid-20s I heard God's call to something else. A call to something radical, sacrificial, and even "noble sounding," and it was accompanied with a promise of His divine help to live it out. This divine call joined an innate desire I always had to combine fulfillment and joy with a life of service. I was called to be a Catholic priest.

This summer, with less than a year until ordination, like so many Catholics I was horrified at the evil revealed inside the very heart of the Church. I am angry and scandalized by the unspeakable abuses by priests and the titanic cover up by the bishops. While the report does appear to show that the national Church reforms enacted since 2002 have been successful in radically reducing the amount of abuse, another scandal of this summer prevents me from relegating this evil to the past.

The face of the Catholic response to the 2002 clergy child abuse scandal, former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, allegedly abused children and seminarians and continued to rise through the ranks of the Church hierarchy despite attempts of priests and lay people to blow the whistle.

In spite of all this, I still feel called by God. Am I naive?

Every time that I have been involved in an organization that does not strive actively for

transparency and accountability by its leader or leaders, I have encountered abuse of power. The Church can change its culture. I have been an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves for five years and have seen the Army grow through a serious attempt to change its old boy culture to one where sexual harassment and abuse is no longer tolerated. Outside groups have assisted the Army to change its culture and currently every unit has someone to whom soldiers are encouraged to report transgressions outside the chain of command. While it would be naive and wrong to say the problem is fixed, I have been heartened that there has been a marked change in the Army's institutional culture.

**"YES, I WANT TO BE A CATHOLIC PRIEST, BECAUSE OF ALL THE INCREDIBLE MEN WHO ARE GOOD AND HOLY PRIESTS AND HAVE HELPED AND SUPPORTED ME IN MY OWN LIFE."**

— DEACON ANDREW J. DE SILVA

Despite any organizational similarities between the Army and the Church, we know the Church has a divine founder and when those in the Church forget this, they fall. So, when I reflect on these priests and bishops who have so failed the people they were supposed to lead I am angry at them, not God. God calls priests to join in His Son's mission to all people—a call which is only possible through intense unity with Him, a unity of prayer; a unity of life.

God has always chosen human intermediaries to act between Himself and humankind.



In the Old Testament, these include prophets, kings, judges. Since the Incarnation, there have been countless good and holy men and women acting as mediators but a particular part of God's plan is his priests.

As Catholic Christians, we believe that God speaks to us through His Word. So I understand my own call through Jesus calling Peter and Andrew to be

"fishers of men." (Mt 4:19) I hear Jesus speak to me when He offers those "whom He desires" (Mk 3:13) a share in His own priesthood. I listen with incredulity when, in John 13, Jesus offers Peter a "share" in Himself, washing the feet of His soon-to-be priests. Jesus was a priest and victim at the Cross when He offered Himself for my salvation (and everyone else) and has been calling men for 2,000 years to "share" in this work.

This is how I hear God's call: to live a life sharing in the mission of Jesus. Jesus' mis-

sion is to "re-establish all things together in Him, both on earth and in heaven." (Eph 1:10) This "bringing together" of all in Jesus is the call of a priest: to be with people at every important moment of their lives, pray with and for them, support them, love them, serve them. To feed them for the journey and then walk with them and, like Jesus, to offer himself as a sacrifice for them. To be a priest separate from Jesus is to be a dried up stream, a bag of hot air in the best circumstance and diabolical in the worst.

Yes, I want to be a Catholic priest, because of all the incredible men who are good and holy priests and have helped and supported me in my own life. Because of the much-needed ministry I have been privileged to provide already as a religious brother, doing Army chaplain ministry and as a seminarian. Because God has chosen to make Himself present in the Eucharist in the hands of a priest. Because we, as Catholics, believe that the priest, despite his own frailty, has the awesome power to forgive sins. But mostly, because God has called me in this incredible way and I wish to answer that call.

There are institutional problems that can and must be fixed. We must do everything in our power to ensure that those human leaders of the Church live their call. We must pray, fast and sacrifice for victims and our Church. But let us also remember and appreciate that Jesus is actively calling certain ones of us to be His priests—and thank Him for it.

I know that when I am ordained a priest in May, much of the institutional goodwill for the Catholic priest will not exist as it used to. I cannot change this. I can, however, take up the challenge to have greater faith in the God who calls me. With His immeasurable help overcoming my own weakness, I can resolve to be evermore united to His Son the priest, and yes, the victim.

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

G.S.P.

**NOVENA TO ST. JUDE**

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Amen. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. Published in gratitude. Thank you, St. Jude.

E.N.

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## Local realtor honored for community service

ROSELAND—Annette Evans, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, is a finalist in the National Association of Realtors 2018 Good Neighbor Awards. This award honors realtors who have made a positive impact on their communities through extraordinary volunteer service. Evans is being recognized for her work in serving people with disabilities.

On Oct. 2, five winners will

be named from among the 10 finalists. Winners will receive a \$10,000 grant and national media exposure for their efforts, including a feature in the November/December issue of *Realtor Magazine*. The winners will also receive travel expenses to the 2018 Realtors Conference & Expo in Boston, where they will accept an award in front of thousands of their peers. The remaining five finalists will also be named

“honorable mention” and receive a \$2,500 grant in recognition of their work.

Evans, a realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New Jersey Properties in Livingston, has spent 30 years as a volunteer board member at JESPY House, a nonprofit organization advancing independence for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In that time, she has taken on multiple roles,

including helping raise hundreds of thousands of dollars, and, most

Continued on page 14

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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**.

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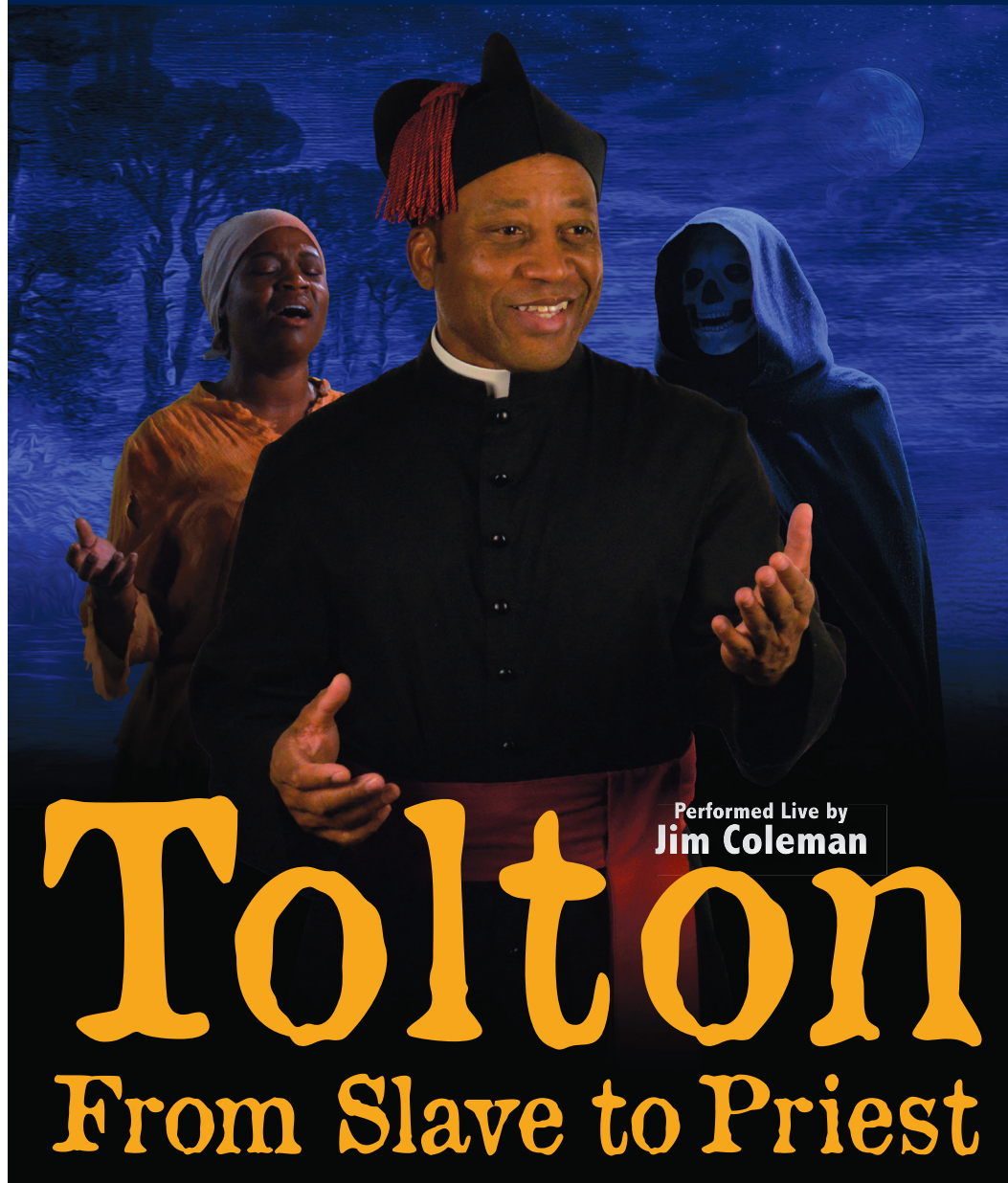
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## Local realtor honored

Continued from page 13



Annette Evans

recently, working as a parent advocate, helping parents prepare for their adult children to age in place at JESPY House.

An online Good Neighbor profile describes Evan's work: "She doesn't just sit at a board meeting," explained Michael Levinson, who serves on JESPY's parent committee with Evans. "She is at every fundraising event, every seminar, every talk and discussion. She calls, emails and writes to get more participation from parents so that JESPY raises money that it really, really needs."

Separate from JESPY House, Evans also staffs a parent help-line called Mom2Mom, which provides peer support for families with children with special needs struggling to find resources and hope.

"I do believe there's much happiness in giving," Evans said. "Some people get so busy with their lives, they don't make time to volunteer, to help someone. I believe when I help other people, I get more back than I give. I truly, truly feel that."

This marks the 19th year the Good Neighbor Awards program has recognized realtor volunteers. The public is invited to vote for their favorites of the 10 finalists by visiting [www.nar.realtor/gna](http://www.nar.realtor/gna).

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# CATHOLIC EDUCATION

# Back to School

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# Archdiocese welcomes new administrators

*Students aren't the only ones being welcomed to the new school year. Eight new principals and presidents are taking the helm at schools throughout the Archdiocese of Newark, and they are looking forward to making their mark.*

## MARIE CHIRICO ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL, ELIZABETH

Chirico has more than 20 years of experience in education, both in the private and public sector. A graduate of Kean University in Union and The College of New Jersey in Ewing, she earned a master's degree from National Louis University in Chicago.

"What motivated me to become a teacher was to change the things that I did not like as a student and to make an impact on students' lives," Chirico said. She became an administrator to "make learning a positive environment and to maximize students' learning experiences."

She looks forward to her new role as president at St. Mary of the Assumption High School and hopes to positively impact students, families and school systems "ranging in backgrounds and demographics."

In this academic year, Chirico would like to focus on campus ministry and partner with different organizations to enrich the curriculum. "(My goal) is to bring in partnerships with Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Union County College and in the arts with McCarter Theatre Center and the New Jersey Symphony. I would like to brand our school while upholding our traditions."



## ADELE ELLIS HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL, WESTFIELD

An educator for 25 years, Ellis began her career as a science teacher for middle school students and moved into various administrative roles as a principal, assistant superintendent of technology and director of various departments. She earned a master's and doctorate from Seton Hall University in educational policy, leadership and management.

Becoming an educator is a second career for Ellis, who was actually studying for a medical career while raising two sons. "I became involved as a class parent and realized my calling was to be more involved with children," she explained. "I had some wonderful, caring teachers in my high school and college days and many of them influenced my desire to help other students reach his or her own potential."

Ellis has a "collaborative" leadership style that she hopes to extend throughout the school. "My goal for the 2018-19 school year is to work as a collaborative community to provide a nurturing environment for all. Holy Trinity is already an excellent academic school and I would like to add opportunities for students to shine with various other talents as well."

A self-proclaimed "tech guru," Ellis believes the main challenge teachers face in Catholic education is the abundance of social media influences. "I don't think enough time and emphasis is placed on distinguishing what is appropriate for specific age levels," she explained.

She would like for Holy Trinity School to be known as a community that "recognizes the unique qualities possessed by every person" where students can build confidence in a "safe and loving environment."



## PETER G. KANE MARIST HIGH SCHOOL, BAYONNE

"My experience has taught me that people, respect, communication, honesty and integrity are common threads regardless of the task," said Kane, the new president of Marist High School. "Interpersonal relationships are the most basic foundation of a fruitful life." Since one of the school's mantras is "It's all about relationships," it would appear Kane has found a great fit.

A graduate of the Stern School of Business at New York University, Kane most recently served as senior director at the New Jersey Housing & Mort-



gage Finance Agency. He has in-depth exposure to government funding and insight into private/public partnerships. He has strengths and experience in project management, IT, strategic planning and the oversight of operating/capital budgets.

Kane and his family are active members of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Summit. He is also active on many boards, serving as the governor's appointee/commissioner of the City of Summit Housing Authority, as well as treasurer for the board of the nonprofit Soup Kitchen 411.

"My 30-plus years of private sector, financial and technology-related management intelligence belies a nonprofit heart and soul," Kane said.

## PATRICK MARTIN ACADEMY OF OUR LADY, GLEN ROCK

For almost 40 years, Martin has dedicated his life to educating young people. After earning a bachelor's from Fordham University and a master's and doctorate from the Teachers College, Columbia University, he began teaching at Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem.

Martin taught in New York City private schools and was an administrator at Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C. For the past 25 years, he served as a principal and superintendent in several New Jersey public school districts, including Wayne, Ringwood and East Newark.

"I enjoy working with children because I see that doing so gives one the ability to positively affect the future," Martin said.

For this school year, Martin aims to work with the eighth grade class to become a leadership group in the school that sets the tone for the rest of the student body. He would like Academy of Our Lady to be known not only for the academic achievements of its students, but as a "faith-based environment that encourages young people to understand and love themselves."

According to Martin, having "outstanding" teachers makes his new job as principal much easier. "A large part of my job is to keep (teachers) free from difficulties and hassles so they can do what they do best. I will 'run interference' in any way I have to so that they might have the freedom to truly instruct our children," Martin explained.



## CYNTHIA SCHIRM CHRIST THE TEACHER SCHOOL, FORT LEE

Schirm knew she wanted to be a teacher since she was a young girl. "I feel as a principal I am now the teacher for the teachers; my job is to help them be the best teachers they can be."

She studied early childhood education from Felician University in Lodi and earned post graduate degrees from Montclair State University. Schirm began her career as a math teacher at Kearny High School.

She was named vice principal of Bloomfield High School where she stayed for 10 years and was in charge of all testing and curriculum. Schirm also served as the district ESL director in Bloomfield. For the past two years, she was principal of St. Andrew's School in Clifton before it closed its doors in June.

"I am eager to work with the dynamic staff and parents who have been at Christ the Teacher School," Schirm explained. "Our goal will be, with spiritual guidance, to guide our students to achieve their goals. We will work to incorporate technology and critical thinking skills to start."

According to Schirm, Henry David Thoreau's quote, "If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams ... he will meet with a success unexpected in common hour" serves as an inspiration for this academic year. "Incorporating the dreams that each parent has for their child (is a goal for this school year)," she said.





superintendent of schools  
**EDUCATION OUTREACH**

# The 'alive and engaging' faith of Catholic schools

By Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.

In 1972, the U.S. bishops issued the pastoral letter "To Teach as Jesus Did" on total Catholic education. It spoke of education in the faith as a lifelong process of "integrated ministry embracing three interlocking dimensions: the message revealed by God (*didache*) which the Church proclaims; fellowship in the life of the Holy Spirit (*koinonia*); service to the Christian community and the entire human community (*diakonia*)."

The vision of this document continues to ring true today.

In the week following Labor Day, 67 Catholic elementary schools and 27 Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Newark welcomed 30,000 students for a new year. It is a truism to say that Catholic schools offer the fullest and best opportunity for young people to learn about and live out their

faith. The curriculum provides for an integration of faith across every subject. Every day they are reminded by the symbols of our faith displayed throughout the school. Students have opportunities for daily prayer and for service within the context of a faith community that is connected to their homes and to their parishes.

But most of all, students witness the faith of their principals and teachers who lead by example. At the heart of a Catholic school is its identity—its rootedness in the Gospel and in the tradition of the Catholic Church. Principals are the spiritual leaders of our schools and have a serious responsibility to guide and demonstrate by word and action what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Principals ensure that his or her faculty and staff have opportunities for their

own faith formation and that they are well-prepared to be teachers of religion whether at the elementary or secondary school level.

In turn, the principal and faculty establish effective communication means with the families of the children they serve so that they will be well-informed about what is happening in the school with respect to the religious education program. Our elementary schools have religion coordinators who work with the principal to oversee and support the religious education efforts in the schools. At the secondary level, there are department chairs and campus ministers who provide leadership and oversight for the religious studies/theology programs and the liturgical life and outreach that students are engaged in throughout the year.

Our goal is a faith that is alive and engaging, that is invitational and challenging for all who are



Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.

part of the ministry that is Catholic school education.

Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C., is the associate director for catechesis in Catholic schools.

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## St. Dominic Academy senior named Scholastic All-American

JERSEY CITY—St. Dominic Academy senior Danielle Prekop has been named to the USA Swimming Scholastic All-American Team for 2017-2018. To receive this honor, a swimmer must achieve a USA Swimming Winter Junior qualifying time in an individual event. Prekop achieved the 200 breast stroke with a time of 2:19.79. Additionally, the student must finish the academic year with a GPA of at least 3.5 and must take honors or AP classes.

Prekop is a member of the high school's Aqua Devils and currently holds four individual Hudson County records. Additionally, she swims for the Scarlet Aquatic Club in Jersey City, a member team of USA Swimming. In the 2017 winter season, Prekop was ranked by USA Swimming as first in New Jersey and 17th in the United States in the 200-meter individual medley and first in the state in the 400-meter individual medley. She is currently ranked in the top five in the state in four events and in the top 10 in three others. She competes in sectional meets across the country as well as state championships where she has won or finaled in multiple events. Last summer, Prekop earned two silver medals for Team USA at the World Maccabiah Games in Israel. She practices on average nine times per week, with each practice lasting 2-3 hours.

Along with taking a comprehensive schedule of honors classes, Prekop has served as a member of student council, student ambassadors and drama club. She also volunteers with the Special Olympics of New Jersey, the Boys and Girls Club of Hudson County and Big Brothers and Big Sisters in both Union and Hudson counties.

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**Thursday, September 27**  
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## BERGEN COUNTY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE 2018-2019

Academy of the Holy Angels holyangels.org	14 October 10 April
Immaculate Conception High School ichslodi.org	23 September 18 October
Saint Joseph Regional High School saintjosephregional.org	30 September 1 November
Bergen Catholic High School bergencatholic.org	16 September 1 November
Paramus Catholic Regional High School paramus-catholic.org	23 September 17 October 16 January 8 May
Don Bosco Preparatory High School donboscoprep.org	27 September 28 October 2 May
Saint Mary High School stmaryhs.org	23 September 23 October 30 April
Immaculate Heart Academy ihanj.com	14 October 25 October 1 May

## HUDSON COUNTY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE 2018-2019

Marist High School marist.org	30 September 16 October
Hudson Catholic Regional High School hudsoncatholic.org	14 October 13 January 7 April
Saint Dominic Academy stdominicacad.com	10 October 28 October 1 May
Saint Peter's Preparatory School spprep.org	14 October 5 May



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### UNION COUNTY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE 2018-2019

Mother Seton Regional High School <a href="http://motherseton.org">motherseton.org</a>	23 September 4 December 9 April
Benedictine Academy <a href="http://benedictineacad.org">benedictineacad.org</a>	14 October 3 November 6 December 4 April
Saint Mary of the Assumption High School <a href="http://stmaryhsnj.org">stmaryhsnj.org</a>	13 October 24 October 25 October 30 October 4 April
Roselle Catholic Regional High School <a href="http://rosellecatholic.org">rosellecatholic.org</a>	21 October 27 January
Union Catholic Regional High School <a href="http://unioncatholic.org">unioncatholic.org</a>	3 October 10 April
Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child <a href="http://oakknoll.org">oakknoll.org</a>	13 October 3 November 12 December
Oratory Preparatory School <a href="http://oratoryprep.org">oratoryprep.org</a>	30 September 25 October
Koinonia Academy <a href="http://koinoniaacademy.org">koinoniaacademy.org</a>	Contact School for Dates

### ESSEX COUNTY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE 2018-2019

Mount Saint Dominic Academy <a href="http://msdacademy.org">msdacademy.org</a>	3 October 28 October 10 April
Immaculate Conception High School <a href="http://ichspride.org">ichspride.org</a>	2 October 21 October
Cristo Ray Newark High School <a href="http://cristoraynewark.org">cristoraynewark.org</a>	13 October 3 November 15 December 9 January 6 February
Saint Benedict's Preparatory School <a href="http://sbp.org">sbp.org</a>	13 October 10 November 8 December
Saint Vincent Academy <a href="http://svanj.org">svanj.org</a>	3 October 21 October 4 November 8 January
Seton Hall Preparatory School <a href="http://shp.org">shp.org</a>	28 October Contact school regarding admission testing dates
Lacordaire Academy <a href="http://lacordaire.net">lacordaire.net</a>	30 September 16 October 14 November 29 January

# Jesus and the smartphone

by Father Thomas Iwanowski

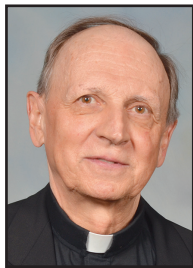
I heard about a teacher at a Catholic school here in the Archdiocese of Newark who gave her students this assignment in religion class. She said, “If you could ask Jesus any one question, what would that question be?”

She told her students to write their question on an index card. Then she told her students to turn the index card over and write down the answer that they thought Jesus would give to the question they had written.

The teacher said that one index card particularly caught her attention. The question the student had written was, “Jesus, what do you think about my generation, which is called the technology generation?”

The answer the student wrote on the other side of the card was, “I think Jesus would say that our generation is really selfish because all we think about is ourselves. Also, we tend to stay away from our religion because of technology.”

I was surprised by the stu-



dent’s answer. I would have thought the student would have written that Jesus would praise the ability and skill of the younger generation when

it comes to using technology. He would have said that technology helps young people to learn about the world and to stay in touch with people everywhere at any time.

I thought the student might also have written that Jesus would say that technology gives us so many new ways to spread the Gospel that were never available before in human history. Today’s generation has the internet, mobile devices, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, email, texts, blogs and much more.

Yet, the student saw today’s use of technology as something detrimental rather than helpful when it came to human relations and our relationship with God.

I think the answer the student wrote contains a great amount of wisdom for all of us who are immersed in a sea of technology. In fact, you could say that we are drowning in a digital sea because we have not yet learned how to “swim” in the digital waters that are flooding our world.

In many ways, technology has made us more selfish—selfish in the sense of being self-centered and self-absorbed. Some people spend hours posting on Facebook, sending out their thoughts on Twitter, writing blogs, uploading videos to YouTube and making themselves known on other forms of social media.

Some of those immersed in digital postings think that the world must be anxious to know their every thought and every event in their life. The more hits to their digital material, the more affirmed and important those people think they are. People who consider themselves important are difficult to deal with.

I’m important! Why should I wait in line? Why should I silence my cell phone? Why should

I be quiet if I want to speak? Why should I watch my language if I’m angry? Why should I have to obey your rules? Why should I worry about your feelings? Why should I let you have your way? Why can’t I dress as I want?

Yet such a heightened sense of importance is contrary to the Gospel. There, Jesus said, “The last will be first and the first will be last.” (Mt 20:16) “Those who exalt themselves will be humbled.” (Mt 23:12)

Self-importance is contrary to the example of Jesus who “though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.” (Phil 2:6-7) The digital world can easily make us think the world revolves around us because we can literally make it do so. But the real world does not!

The student’s comment that technology tends to keep us away from religion contains a good deal of truth. The next time you are at Mass, look at how many people have their smartphones out before the start of the liturgy. Before the advent of technology, time in

Continued on page 29



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# Caldwell University hosts high school/college summer institute

CALDWELL—The treetop course at the Turtle Back Zoo was a highlight of Tameeah Browne's week at the Spirituality and Leadership Institute hosted by Caldwell University. Beyond the fact that the course was fun, the physical challenges were a metaphor for the "leap of faith" that one should take in "approaching any obstacle," said Browne.

A senior at Immaculate Conception High School in Montclair, Browne was one of the students who took part in the weeklong institute aimed at teaching young people spiritual disciplines and leadership. Through a series of workshops and activities, the students were inspired to think about ways to engage in public justice, seek the common good and contemplate where God is leading them in their lives.

Meleny Gonzalez from Lacordaire Academy in Upper Montclair said she was pleased with the talk by Dr. Kyle Bennett on communication. "We are quick to judge" but

do not always take the time to listen to others, said Gonzalez. Bennett, director of the institute and an associate professor of philosophy, spoke to the students about the importance of understanding how their communications—from listening and gesturing to engaging digitally and interpersonally—can affect others. Jillian Vorisek, a Paramus Catholic High School student, said the talk made students think more about the ways they should speak to and treat others—"not just in person but also online."

The students were introduced to the Catholic-Dominican tradition, which underpins Caldwell University. Dr. Christopher Cimorelli, assistant professor of theology, presented on "Contemplation, Identity and Leadership" from a Christian perspective and how it can help people discover their identities in relationship to God and their work as servant leaders in the world.

Carmen Aguirre, a junior at

Mount St. Dominic Academy in Caldwell, said it was eye-opening to hear from a representative of First Friends, an organization that provides volunteer visitation, resettlement assistance and advocacy to detained immigrants and asylum seekers. (See the Aug. 15, 2018, online issue of *The Catholic Advocate*.) It is important to "learn how to be a good neighbor to everyone," said Aguirre.

Sister Gerardine Mueller, O.P., an artist and professor emerita, also gave a presentation where she described the stained-glass windows with Dominican saints that she created in the chapel in St. Catherine's Convent on Caldwell's campus.

The leaders and teachers said they learned from the experience, too. Abby Cimorelli, a staff member in Caldwell's campus ministry office, was inspired by the students and "how they made connections that I may not have thought of."

Dr. Bennett was struck by the sensitivity of the students and how



Submitted photo  
Caldwell University Spirituality and Leadership Institute students at Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange.

they were attuned to nuanced and subtle ways people can hurt and wound each other. "In a culture that is trying to desensitize us to this, I hope that awareness and sensitivity are never stifled; that we keep cultivating how to use our mouths, eyes and ears," he noted.

The institute is made possible through a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc.



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# Holy Angels aids Puerto Rico's recovery



DEMAREST—Although the fundraisers had ended and a \$7,042 Hurricane Maria relief check was sent months ago, the Academy of the Holy Angels never put the people of Puerto Rico out of their minds. After school ended for the year, a group of students and chaperones took a service trip to the island, where they demolished storm-ravaged buildings and helped restore a farm where many crops had been destroyed.

The high school's Spanish teacher, Carmen Quiñones, coordinated the weeklong service trip through the campus ministry department, and established ties with Developing Solidarities, a Puerto Rico-based for-profit organization. Luis Saez Nuñez, the organization's director, recommended work sites and accompanied the group on each mission. Quiñones and Social Studies Department Chair Gail Fair served as chaperones and hands-on volunteers.

"I decided to work with Developing Solidarities because they seemed to provide the most organized and varied program, provided transportation to all sites and included excursions that highlighted the island's unique culture and natural beauty," Quiñones said.

"The most impactful aspect of the trip was the face-to-face contact we had with the people of Puerto Rico," student Catherine Bagin said of the experience. "We were able to meet the men

and women whose houses we were knocking down, which made the whole process much more personal. It was also very touching to be thanked by random citizens on the streets."

Bagin said her favorite memory was made on the first workday when she and her team were asked to demolish a building that included a barbershop with a moldy wall. The team's removal of the damaged sections of the building would clear the path for reconstruction on the existing foundation.

For Bagin, the trip drove home the meaning of "every little bit helps." While she once equated help with money, Bagin said her work in Puerto Rico helped her realize that "being there in person, buying from local stores and showing you care are all just as important."

Fair also viewed the trip as a means of doing more than writing a check.

"I have felt the urgency for the needs of these American citizens since the first news and photos of the ravaged island emerged on the networks," Fair said of her first trip to Puerto Rico. "I knew that I wanted to be of help in some way beyond the fundraisers Holy Angels did all year."

She noted that the team finished its work each day with a "true sense of human dignity and self-worth" to which all are entitled.

Volunteer Mackenzie Hughes said this ser-



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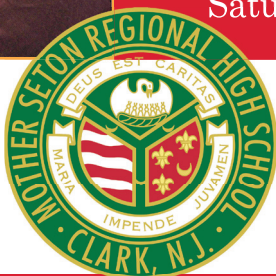
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vice trip left her with a deeper appreciation for the resources and opportunities available in the continental United States.

"The small things we did while in Puerto Rico made such a big difference in the lives of those we met, and it made me realize how lucky I am to be blessed with the life I have," Hughes said. "I also learned about the value of teamwork and a common goal. As a group, we were able to accomplish so much in our short time because we were all motivated to help. This made the work we were doing rewarding rather than a chore."

While they were helping restore a farm, the girls spent some time bonding with a dog and her three puppies. Student volunteer Sydney Lov-erich has been working with an organization that finds homes for dogs that were abandoned after the hurricane, and more of her friends have now been inspired to support this cause.

According to the team, one of the most touching moments of the trip came when they were demolishing a house that belonged to a cancer survivor. As they worked on the site, the homeowner's sister stopped by to search for her sister's wig, which she found.

"She was so thankful for what we had done and she began to cry when describing the difference we had made for her sister," Hughes said.

Although the Holy Angles team served on the island for a short time, the connection between the two will continue. Holy Angels plans to work with Centro Paso, an organization that



Submitted photos

assists families by providing food, clothing and supplies.

The students who participated in the service trip are already planning events for the new school year, including a clothing drive and toy drive.



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**Open House September 22/October 27**

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## Bloomberg Financial Markets Lab to open at Mount Saint Mary Academy

WATCHUNG—Mount Saint Mary Academy will establish a Bloomberg Financial Markets Lab on campus this fall.

According to Karen Calta, assistant director for academics and faculty, Mount Saint Mary Academy will be the fifth school in the New York metropolitan area and the first all-girls school in New Jersey to offer the lab from Bloomberg, a leading global provider of data, information and technology.

"This opportunity puts Mount Saint Mary Academy at the forefront of economic and financial education on the high school level," said Calta. "The lab is integrated into the existing curriculum through economics, financial literacy and data analysis, and provides our students with the opportunity to engage in online and off-line use of the trading platform."

Beginning this month, four Bloomberg terminals will be installed in a classroom inside the

academy's main building. These terminals are integrated software platforms that provide financial, trading and pricing data, news, messaging and more to leading business and financial professionals around the world.

The Bloomberg Financial Markets Lab will enable educational support to students throughout the year. Mount students will also be eligible to earn Bloomberg Certification by taking the Bloomberg Market Concepts course and may be able to apply for internships at companies that use the terminals.

Bloomberg Certification, which involves approximately 10 hours of training, ensures that students learn how to use the terminals and demonstrates how they can explore information about any corporation, enable networking and financial professionals, and examine economic data to perform data analysis.

Kathleen Brennan, academy



Submitted photo

director of mathematics who spearheads the school's economics and financial literacy program, stated, "The skills that will be learned by using the Bloomberg terminals are critical regardless of whether our

students opt for careers in finance. It is an essential part of the Mount's mission to make sure that our graduates know how to manage their money and take control of their financial futures."

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## New administrators

Continued from page 16

### REBEKAH SCICOLONE ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL, UNION

A former kindergarten teacher at St. Michael's, Scicolone begins her new role as principal this fall. An educator for 12 years, she believes it is a "very fulfilling vocation." She earned a bachelor's in early childhood and elementary education from Kean University and a master's in educational leadership from Seton Hall University.

"I enjoy watching children learn and develop a sense of who they are and grow in their relationship with God," she explained.

As a former teacher at the school, she views St. Michael's as a "hidden gem," and she hopes it will be more known for its welcoming atmosphere.

"Parents are making a sacrifice to bring their students here. It is so important for them to fully understand why our school stands apart as well as making time for bringing faith into our school," Scicolone said.

She hopes to help the school grow in a more positive direction and plans to create more extra-curricular activities for the kids. Scicolone intends to work with teachers and encourage their own leadership capabilities.

"I am very big on constant communication and I am always looking to build others up to take on roles. I believe people need to have a sense of ownership when it comes to their professional lives," she explained. "I also believe the only way someone can truly succeed is if they have the right resources and people around them. I am always looking for qualities and strengths in others to help take on different leadership roles."

### ELIZABETH VENTOLA ST. LEO'S SCHOOL, ELMWOOD PARK

Ventola holds two master's degrees from Montclair State University in administration and supervision and in fine arts. A self-described "hands-on leader," she believes that leading



the school requires shared belief and commitment.

"As Catholic school leaders, we face challenges from information technology, economic gaps and social cohesion and strengthening Catholic identity and spirituality," Ventola said.

Prior to Ventola's position at St. Leo's, she was a teacher in Livingston, a district supervisor for the Randolph Township Schools and director for the West Essex Regional Schools. She also served as principal of Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Whippany.

### ALLAN F. WRIGHT KOINONIA ACADEMY, PLAINFIELD

For 24 years, Wright taught in the Catholic Studies Department at Seton Hall University and served as an adjunct professor at Immaculate Conception Seminary, where he earned his master's degree. He also taught at Assumption College for Sisters in Mendham and the Missionaries of Charity (Contemplative) in Plainfield for the past 13 years.

"My desire to share the faith and my love of Jesus Christ is still my motivation to be in the field of education," Wright explained. "This enthusiasm has continued, but I have been influenced by many educators and colleagues along the way who have displayed wisdom and prudence in how they go about their work, including Sister Percylee Hart, R.S.M." (Sister Percylee is the principal at Union Catholic Regional High School in Scotch Plains.)

Wright is the author of 12 books and he is usually on the road speaking and educating others. As a Catholic educator, he believes it can be difficult to engage young people with their faith. "The biggest challenges are a culture that is often opposed to God and Christianity. The hectic pace of people, especially on the East Coast, where every second seems to be programmed and families don't get to spend time with each other (is also a challenge)," he explained.

Wright aims to provide both theological knowledge and spiritual experiences so students can continue growing in their relationships with Jesus Christ and with one another. "One of my goals is to create an educational environment that supports Christian values that are taught at home by parents and assist parents in the spiritual formation of their children," he said.



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# Jesus and the smartphone

Continued from page 22

church was a time for prayer, a time to speak to God. But rather than praying or just feeling the presence of God, people are checking email, texting, surfing the web or playing games on their devices. Such things, unfortunately, also go on during the Mass itself. Children given a smartphone to use during Mass do not grow their understanding of the Church as being a place for prayer and a place where attention is given to God.

Smartphones and other digital devices are good things when used at the right time but not when they distract us from God and from one another. If we cannot fast from our digital device when we are in church, we have a problem. We also have a clear indication that the devil has discovered an effective way to draw our attention from God and from the nourishment we need for our spirit. To paraphrase the words of Jesus, "Man does not live on 'digital bread' alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." We need to listen and be

attentive to hear that life-giving Word.

I sometimes imagine that when a person who reads and sends text messages while in church dies and stands before God, that God will let the person stand before Him forever. God will simply ignore that person as God texts away on His divine digital device.

Furthermore, technology can also keep us from interacting with God as God makes Himself known to us in one another. Jesus tells us that love of God demands love of neighbor. Such love is not just a matter of warm feelings but is a decision to let another person into our world, into our life, into our heart. That demands we give that person our time and attention.

For example, love of neighbor means volunteering to coach a team, visiting someone who is ill, getting involved in parish and civic life, spending time in a soup kitchen, teaching religion to children, etc. But how can we do such things if more and more of our time and attention go to a digital world, to video games and to the ever-present

video screen?

When He walked this earth, Jesus was attentive to His Father in heaven and attentive to every person before Him. He recognized and respected their presence. He took time to listen to their story. He felt their joys and sorrows. He did all He could to ease their suffering. He did not allow Himself to be distracted from the person and needs before Him.

Yet distractions fill our world. And we bring those distractions with us as we carry our smartphone or other digital device. That student was right. Technology, if we are not careful, can keep us from religion. It can keep us from God and it can keep us from seeing the person standing before us.

*Father Thomas Iwanowski is parochial vicar at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Jersey City.*



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# Hudson Catholic student offered scholarship to Villanova

JERSEY CITY—Jonathan Marte, a junior at Hudson Catholic Regional High School, has been selected as an O'Toole Family Presidential Scholarship recipient. The scholarship committee selected Marte from several hundred applicants to receive the prestigious honor, which includes full tuition and room and board at Villanova University. The O'Toole Family Presidential Scholarship fund was created to ensure that a Villanova education is economically accessible for students who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership ability and a potential for future development.

Marte described the application process as rigorous, but said he enjoyed the challenge. "The most difficult part was the essay because it asked a very simple question that required a lot of thinking and creativity so that the reader got to know me in a few short paragraphs," he said.

Applicants also had to submit letters of recommendation and were interviewed twice. When asked what inspired him to apply and what motivates him, Marte described the positive impact his older sister has had on his life. "She had half the things I do growing up, but she made something of herself, so I strive to be as exceptional as her."

Over the summer, Marte participated in several programs at Villanova University to further prepare him for college. He also plans to take several college courses at St. Peter's University through the Accelerated College Experience program, and he will work to maintain his 95 GPA in honors and AP courses at Hudson Catholic this school year.

Marte's uncle Juan Franco said he is not surprised by his nephew's busy schedule. "We always knew that Jonathan would do great things. When he focuses on something, he never stops working for it. We are just very proud of him," he noted.



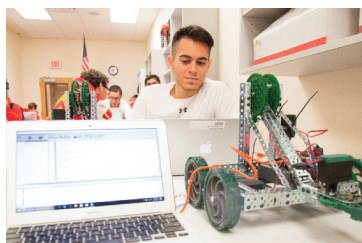
Submitted photo  
Jonathan Marte (center) with his family and President/Principal of Hudson Catholic Richard Garibell (right).



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# Mount Carmel Guild Academy: Equipping students for success

By Kayla Gelman, James Badavas and Vernon Peterson

**T**he Mount Carmel Guild Academy staff has been enthusiastically preparing for the return of its students for another school year. The academy is a private, nonsectarian, special education school located in West Orange that offers comprehensive programming for children in grades pre-K through 12.

Founded in 1967 by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, the academy's 210-day program focuses on children with behavioral challenges that inhibit their ability to successfully interact with other students and fully take advantage of the educational opportunities presented to them. These students need a specialized environment—one that is supportive, structured and nurturing. Many come to the academy as “out of district placements,” meaning their local school districts do not have the necessary resources to adequately meet the needs of the students.

“The goal of schooling is to equip students with the skills necessary for academic success, self-management and independence, and that is exactly where we excel,” said James Badavas, principal of the academy. The school provides a caring, supportive learning environment for students with severe behavioral and learning disabilities. A certified teacher leads each class with the assistance of an instructional aide. The program strives to help students grow the social, academic and emotional coping skills needed to move back into district schools with a minimum of support services. For older students, the academy emphasizes vocational preparation and exposes them to a variety of elective programs that will give them valuable job skills. Supporting a strong academic program, students in high school grades have the opportunity to explore potential careers in computers, fine arts, culinary arts and building trades.

In 2006, Mount Carmel extended its program for children with autism spectrum disorder from the preschool population to include elementary school-age children.

Autism, characterized by atypical receptive behaviors and deficits in social and communication skills, is the most common of the pervasive developmental disorders and affects an estimated 1.5 million Americans. The academy established several classes to serve the unique learning needs of children functioning along on the autism spectrum. The program concept is responsive to the needs of the community and was shaped with ideas from parents, an autism advisory council and educators.

The autism program offers a rich and stimulating environment that nurtures the talents and encourages the development of the total person. The curriculum incorporates aca-

demics, social skills training and behavior modification. It also includes science, art, music and movement, physical education and technology. Each student works one-to-one with an adult, participating in instruction, working on readiness skills, receptive and expressive language, pre-academic skills and skills of independent living.

With a staff of six school social workers, students are provided with a strong therapeutic environment, utilizing both individual and group interaction in an effort to promote the development of positive and effective coping skills. Outside of the counseling component, Mount Carmel Guild Academy also offers ancillary services, such as speech and language therapy, occupational

therapy and physical therapy.

The academy features a sensory integration room, updated computers and multi-media rooms networked for all classrooms to be internet-ready. The campus hosts an art studio, music classes, gymnasium, life skills room and an outdoor playground in a rich, stimulating environment that cultivates and fosters the development of each child.

Beyond academics, the academy values time for fun outside the classroom. Throughout the school year, students are provided with opportunities to participate in activities in the greater community—with trips to the bowling alley, ice skating rink, roller skating rink, the Newark Museum, the Yogi Berra Museum at Montclair State University, NJPAC, and the PNC Bank Arts Center to encourage physical activity as well as broaden the student's cultural and recreational experiences.

Mount Carmel Guild Academy is extremely proud of the great accomplishments from all of its scholars. Students have gone on to colleges such as Rutgers University, Essex County Community College, Bergen Community College and Albright College. Other students have successfully gone onto vocational training programs sponsored by the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. It is our hope that this school year will be a happy and successful one!

For more information, please contact Principal James Badavas at 973-325-4400.

*Kayla Gelman, James Badavas and Vernon Peterson are staff members of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark.*



Submitted photos



## Union Catholic student attends space camp



Submitted photo

SCOTCH PLAINS—Union Catholic's Nicholas Schuster had an unforgettable summer experience.

The rising senior at Union Catholic attended the Advanced Space Academy Summer Camp from July 15-20 in Huntsville, Alabama, on a full scholarship from the Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children. Schuster was one of just six high school students from the archdiocese to receive this unique scholarship opportunity.

"There were a lot of interesting things that I learned while I was there, but the atmosphere of the group around me would probably be the best of it," said Schuster, who lives in Roselle Park. "Each day would be full to the brim with different activities and lectures about various aspects of the space program, other countries' space programs, talks from an astronaut about his crystal research on one of the shuttle missions, and many other trust-building experiences. I was most impressed by the dedication of everyone who was working there and creating such a welcoming envi-

ronment for people from around the world to blend into."

What was an average day at Space Camp like?

"A crew trainer, basically someone who would look after a certain group, would turn on the lights and give you a limited time before breakfast," said Schuster. "After all of the people had finished eating, or the time for the meal ran out, we'd dump our leftovers into different bins to measure food waste. Then the crew trainer, the day trainer be-

fore evening and the night trainer for after evening, would take you to your scheduled activity, whether it be finalizing your rocket payload or back to another lecture. This would repeat for lunch and then dinner, with the entire day being absolutely full of something to do."

Schuster, who hopes to go into the science field and has had a strong interest in space for the last few years, is grateful he had the opportunity to learn about something he's so passionate about.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I was allowed to participate in," said Schuster.





Submitted photo

The soccer team from Don Bosco Preparatory High School in Ramsey traveled to Italy last month and received a brief history lesson from Father Franco Gallone, president/director of a fellow Salesian school in Napoli. The Ironmen visited Naples and Salerno for eight days. During their trip, they participated in an international competition, had training sessions with professional Italian players and enjoyed some sightseeing.

## Benedictine Academy to host golf outing

ELIZABETH—Benedictine Academy will host its annual golf outing at Maplewood Country Club on Sept. 27. This year's honoree is Kevin Cummings, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Investors Bank. Cummings is a champion of Catholic education and a generous supporter of the academy and its mission to support college-bound young women. The day begins with registration and brunch at 10:30 a.m., then 18 holes of golf, with a shotgun start at noon. The day wraps up with cocktails, the awards dinner and auction starting at 5 p.m.

Prizes include a package from Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos, a day of activities for the family at Alstede Farms in Chester and passes for Garden State Discovery Museum in Cherry Hill.

Raffle tickets are now available for the 50/50 drawing to be held at the awards dinner. To purchase tickets, call 908-352-0670 ext. 106.

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### Deacon Ramón Villeda Ramos

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 22 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark for Deacon Ramón Villeda Ramos, 88, who died Aug. 14.



A native of El Salvador, he married his wife, Maria Olivia, in 1963 and had four sons. Villeda came to the United States in 1973. He was asked to join the Cursillo movement, and was ordained to the permanent diaconate by Archbishop Peter L. Gerety on June 11, 1978.

As an ordained deacon, Villeda was active in St. Columba Parish in Newark, and was assigned to serve at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, also in Newark. He dedicated himself to sacramental services and inspired many to join the parish council of the Holy Name Society, the Legion of Mary and Marriage Encounter. He also served at St. Michael's Hospital, St. Michael Parish and the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, all in Newark.

††††††††

### Sister Romilda Chiga, F.S.S.E.

A Mass of Christian Burial was

celebrated Aug. 25 at Holy Family Parish in Nutley for Sister Romilda Chiga, F.S.S.E., who died Aug. 18.



Born in Zollino, Italy, Sister Romilda arrived in the United States in 1958. She was a member of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth for 60 years. She served as a teacher and director of Holy Family Day Nursery School in Nutley and taught at St. Elizabeth Child Care Center in Jersey City.

Sister Romilda was sent on numerous missions in Indonesia, India and Panama. In October 2000, Sister Romilda left for the Philippines to oversee a newly founded convent where she managed the construction of a chapel for the convent.

††††††††

### Sister Josephine Marie Szaro, C.S.S.F.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Felician Sisters' Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Lodi for Sister Josephine Marie Szaro, C.S.S.F., 78, who died Aug. 24.



Sister Josephine Marie entered the Felician Sisters July 2, 1958, and

served at the Felician Reading Center at Immaculate Conception Convent in Lodi. She was a teacher at St. Adalbert School, Elizabeth; St. Casimir School, Newark; Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Bayonne; and St. Valentine School, Bloomfield.

Sister Josephine also taught in schools throughout New Jersey and in Southampton, Pennsylvania.

††††††††

### Sister Mary Louise Moran, S.C.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 30 at Holy Family Chapel in Convent Station for Sister Mary Louise Moran, S.C., 83, who died Aug. 25.



Raised in West Orange, Sister Mary Louise was assistant superintendent of schools and government affairs coordinator for the Diocese of Trenton, and participated in the reorganization of the Trenton and Metuchen Dioceses. She was appointed superintendent of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Trenton.

In later years, Sister Mary Louise transitioned to a health care ministry in New York. She participated in many boards and committees,

including Sisters of Charity congressional and provincial assemblies.

Sister Mary Louise was devoted to researching and chronicling the life of Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich and wrote articles about her for Sisters of Charity publications.

††††††††

### Father Jeremiah McGinley, O.F.M.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Sept. 5 at St. Anthony Parish in Butler for Father Jeremiah McGinley, O.F.M., 89, who died Aug. 30.



Father McGinley was received into the Order of Friars Minor on Aug. 12, 1950, and professed his first vows a year later. On Aug. 13, 1954, Father McGinley professed his final vows as a Franciscan at Christ the King Seminary in Allegheny, New York. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 9, 1955 at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C.

Father McGinley ministered throughout New York, New Jersey and Colorado. He was assigned in 1985 to St. Anne Parish in Fair Lawn, where he served for 20 years. In 2005, he was assigned to Sacred Heart Friary in East Rutherford.

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# RESPECT *Life*

The Catholic  
Advocate

September 12, 2018

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

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## Celebrating the culture of life

By Father John Gordon

“**Y**ou who are my messenger, in you I place my absolute trust.” These words spoken by Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego are the inspiration for Respect Life Month this October. “Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent” is the theme selected by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for next month’s annual celebration of life. It would not be too much of a stretch to suggest that Our Lady speaks these words to us today.

Our Lady of Guadalupe has long been an icon for respect life, as she presents herself to us as being with child. Because Mary carries our saving Lord in her womb, she is rightly referred to as the Ark of



the New Covenant. We who live in the grace of the New Covenant do well to heed her counsel and be blessed by her encouragement and intercession.

Every life is precious to the Lord; for all life comes from Him and returns to Him. Our Lord tells us that He is life, and so we want to help all people come to know Him as the Lord of life, the Lord of each of our lives. There are many things that war against this promise of new life. St. John Paul II referred to a battle, as it were, between the culture of life and the culture of death. Jesus Himself speaks of the kingdom of the world and the kingdom of God. Some of the strongholds of

the enemy, which we would be wise to come against, with respect to the culture of life are: suicide, abuse, drugs, alcohol, self-mutilation, divorce, gay agenda, bullying and euthanasia. Abortion is the basest expression of all the various attacks on life.

Here in the archdiocese, we strive to offer Good News to all who suffer the casualties of the culture of death. Two significant programs that we offer are Rachel’s Vineyard, a retreat for post-abortive mothers and fathers; and Grief to Grace, a retreat for those who suffer from abuse. The power in these retreat opportunities lies in their ceaseless proclamation of hope found in Jesus Christ, and in bringing the

people to that encounter with Him that is life saving and life giving.

In the challenges that we are all faced with, it can be tempting to look upon some of these difficulties and cry out that it is hopeless, that there is no solution and that we just have to endure. But the Lord has promised that “I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.” (Mt 16:18) The battle has been won by the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. So with confidence, we cry out with St. Peter: “You have the words of eternal life.” (Jn 6:68) Let us press on cherishing every life.

For more information about Rachel’s Vineyard or Grief to Grace, call Cheryl Riley, director of the Respect Life Office, at 973-497-4350 or email [cheryl.riley@rcan.org](mailto:cheryl.riley@rcan.org).

*Father John Gordon is acting vicar for pastoral life and coordinator of the Office for Evangelization.*

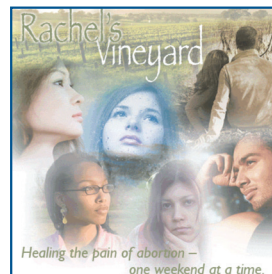
### *Living Our Faith*

**Pro-Life Presentations**  
**Purity Presentations**  
**Parents Presentations**

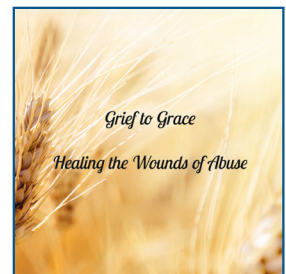
For more information: 973-497-4500  
[lifeneteducation.org](http://lifeneteducation.org)

## Healing Retreats

Sponsored by the Newark Archdiocese Respect Life Office



Are you suffering from an abortion experience? Do you have feelings of guilt and anxiety? Do you suffer from depression? There is Hope! Rachel's Vineyard Retreats: [rachelvineyard.org](http://rachelvineyard.org)



Have you endured physical, emotional, and/or spiritual abuse? Find healing through a retreat program facilitated by mental health professionals, and centered on Jesus Christ! Grief to Grace: [griefftograce.org](http://griefftograce.org)

For more information contact the Respect Life Office.

Estos ministerios también están disponibles en español.

Dostępne w języku polskim.

Cheryl A. Riley 973-497-4350 or [cheryl.riley@rcan.org](mailto:cheryl.riley@rcan.org)

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# RESPECT *Life*

The Catholic  
Advocate

September 12, 2018

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>



## Network of homes provides hope for pregnant women

By Steve Larkin  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—When Chris Bell was working in Times Square in the late 1970s, he was shocked to repeatedly see young mothers entering crisis shelters with their children, and he decided that he had to do something. With the help of Father Benedict Groeschel, a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, and his spiritual director at the time, Bell founded Good Counsel, a network of pro-life maternity homes.

With headquarters in Newark, the organization operates seven

homes—one in New Jersey, four in New York, one in Connecticut and one in Alabama. It also works with other homes across the country, and is looking to grow and expand its network.

“Good Counsel is one of the founding members of the National Maternity Housing Coalition,” Bell told Catholic News Service. “Most of the homes are small and limited in what they can do, but we can help find a place for any pregnant woman in the country.”

Bell said any pregnant women can enter the maternity homes for free, and the homes will help provide them with opportunities to go

back to school and find jobs. Good Counsel will even assist pregnant women with drug addictions or mental illnesses and help find suitable places for them.

They also can help plan adoptions. Bell said many women fear the child will be placed in the foster care system and don’t realize they can choose the couple who would adopt their child.

Bell also said many women who are told their child will have genetic defects could benefit from maternity homes. “I don’t know

why the only response so many medical people have is to tell the mother to get rid of it if it looks like the child will have genetic defects,” he said. “Especially in the United States, where we’re rich and have the technology to help them.”

Bell believes that media coverage was one reason for a lack of awareness about maternity homes. “I think the media has a strong bias against anything anti-abortion,” he said. Despite that, he intends on continuing his work.

“The question I ask: Isn’t there enough love in the world for another baby? Where there’s love, there’s life, and where there’s life, there’s hope,” he stated. “We can change things by looking at one life at a time and one family at a time.”

For more information, visit [www.goodcounselhomes.org](http://www.goodcounselhomes.org) or call 800-723-8331.



**Celebrate Mary’s Immaculate Conception and learn how to become part of our Baby Saving Team**

**COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE SEPT. 23 & 25, OCT. 28 & 30**

Get a tour of our Shelter and see our baby saving vehicle, which is responsible for the birth of over 700 Several Sources “saved” babies.

**Take a tour of our Garden of Life, which explains how in 1830**

**St. Catherine of Laboure had several apparitions of the Blessed Mother, which directly relate to God’s Divine Baby-Saving efforts to this very day!**

Learn about *Gimme Liberty*, a new movie being written, directed and produced by Ron Krauss, as a prequel to *Gimme Shelter*, a feature film about Several Sources Shelters. Since January 2014, *Gimme Shelter* has expanded our baby-saving work to MILLIONS of people around the world. This powerful film was based on the true story of homeless, desperate young pregnant women & their “saved” babies whom we brought into our Several Sources family.

*Gimme Liberty* will focus on the David & Goliath challenge between Several Sources Founder Kathy DiFiore and the State of New Jersey in the mid 1980’s when she was fined \$10,000 and faced a possible prison sentence for sheltering pregnant women as well as mothers and their babies in her own home. With the help of St. Teresa of Calcutta, the housing law in New Jersey was changed, allowing Several Sources Shelters to flourish.

If you want to help Several Sources in any way or be involved in our new baby-saving movie, come to our Open House. Get a free Gimme Shelter DVD and a signed copy of Kathy’s book, *Gimme Love...Gimme Hope...Gimme Shelter*.

**Be educated on how the film will be made and how to become a Producer or get involved in other ways. Your participation now will help young women choose life for their innocent preborn babies.**

Meet some of our young mothers and their “saved” babies. We need you to help save more babies.

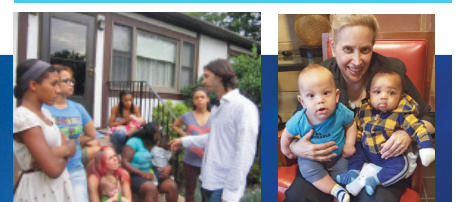


**Sun. Sept. 23, 2018 • 3-7 PM**

**Tues. Sept. 25, 2018 • 6-9PM**

**Sun. Oct. 28, 2018 • 3-7 PM**

**Tues. Oct. 30, 2018 • 6-9PM**



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Ramsey, NJ 07446  
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[www.severalsources.net](http://www.severalsources.net)  
e-mail: [info@severalsources.net](mailto:info@severalsources.net)

Call Ginny at 201-818-9033 if you will be attending, or wish to arrange a private visit.

**Several Sources Shelters**



# RESPECT *Life*

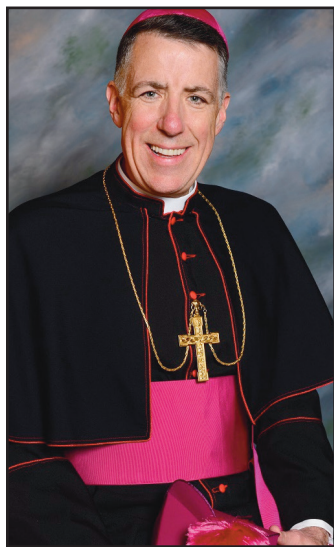
The Catholic  
Advocate

September 12, 2018

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>



## Critical Life Issues Conference



Most Rev. James F. Checchio

To commemorate Respect Life Month, the Diocese of Metuchen in collaboration with the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Newark is sponsoring a Critical Life Issues Conference on Oct. 20.

The conference, entitled “Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent,” begins at 8:30 a.m. at St. John Neumann Conference Center in Piscataway with Mass celebrated by Most Rev. James F. Checchio, bishop of Metuchen. Presentations include “*Humanae Vitae* at 50 Years—Back to the Future” presented by Patrick Coffin. The Halifax, Nova Scotia native is the creator and host of “The Patrick Coffin Show” podcast and YouTube channel with regular viewers in more than 100 countries. For almost eight years, he hosted the top-rated Catholic Answers Live

radio show. He is the author of four books on faith and culture.

Cristina D’Averso-Collins will present “The Beauty and Wisdom of God’s Design: A Millennial’s Perspective.” D’Averso-Collins serves as director of Catholic Campus Ministry at Monmouth University. She earned a master’s degree from the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at the Catholic University of America in 2013. She also holds a masters in general psychology from Divine Mercy University in Arlington, Virginia. She developed the Marriage Readiness Retreat for college students, which she has organized for the past three years through campus ministry.

Also at the conference, Dr. John Bruchalski will present “From Death to Life: A Conversion Story—Be-

coming a Missionary Disciple for Life.” In 1987, the year he graduated from medical school at the University of South Alabama, Bruchalski had a powerful conversion experience at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. In 1994, he opened the Tepeyac Family Center in Fairfax, Virginia, which specializes in complicated pregnancies. The clinic does not provide or refer patients to others for abortion or artificial contraception, and turns no women away for lack of money. The clinic delivers 40 babies a month.

The conference will also feature a screening of the documentary “Unprotected” followed by a panel discussion.

The cost of the event is \$25 and includes lunch. Please register by Oct. 12. For more information, call 732-562-1990 exts. 1629 or 1543 or email [jruiggiero@diometuchen.org](mailto:jruiggiero@diometuchen.org) or [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org).

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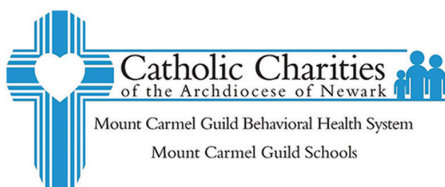
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