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The Catholic Advocate



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The community newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark

February 14, 2018

Mass honors Four Chaplains on 75th anniversary

By Jonathan Azzara

Public Relations Specialist

St. Stephen Parish in Kean observed the 75th anniversary of the Four Chaplains of the U.S.A.T. (United States Army Transport) Dorchester with a noon Mass on Feb. 4. The Four Chaplains are remembered for their sacrifice and ultimate act of bravery for their service during World War II.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Military Archdiocese of the United States, served as the main celebrant and homilist. Many other clergy members concelebrated the Mass, including the pastor of St. Stephen's, Father Joseph A. Mancini.

During the homily, Archbishop

Broglio reflected on the men, who represented multiple faiths: Lt. Father John P. Washington, a Catholic priest; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

"The Four Chaplains teach us how to walk in the light of Christ—and in the best traditions of fidelity to the prophetic spirit, in the law, and the prophets. The lesson of the Four Chaplains is the link between gracious gift and the ultimate sacrifice of service. Here, everyone can imitate their example of selfless service and abundant love," Archbishop Broglio said.

Seventy-five years ago during the height of World War II, the Four

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Advocate photo-Jonathan Azzara

Cardinal Tobin celebrates consecrated life

By Melissa McNally

Editor

"I pray that the refining fire of the Holy Spirit purifies the temple of our hearts," Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., said during an evening prayer service on Feb. 2 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark to celebrate the World Day for Consecrated Life.

Also known as Candlemas Day and held in conjunction with the feast of the Presentation, Cardinal Tobin blessed candles symbolizing Christ, the "light of the world."

"For 21 years, the church has des-

ignated the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas Day, as an appropriate moment to thank God for the gift of consecrated life. Jesus is manifest as 'light of revelation for the Gentiles' and 'glory for God's people, Israel.' Consecrated men and women reflect this light as witnesses of Jesus in a world that is often shrouded in shadow," the cardinal explained. "They are the glory of God's people. We pray for the perseverance of consecrated men and women and ask God to continue enriching the church with their unique vocation."

Cardinal Tobin serves as chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Con-

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Advocate photo-Melissa McNally

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Mass honors Four Chaplains

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Chaplains were aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester in the North Atlantic. The Dorchester was part of a convoy en route to a U.S. military base in Greenland. But, during the morning of Feb. 3, 1943, the Dorchester was hit by a torpedo from a German submarine. The damage was so extensive that the Dorchester began to sink rapidly. As the sailors prepared to evacuate, they realized there was an insufficient amount of life jackets and lifeboats. Upon hearing this

news, the Four Chaplains gave up their own life jackets to save others, and went down with the ship during the early morning hours.

Father John Washington, a New-ark native, was ordained a priest on June 15, 1935. In 1938, he was assigned to St. Stephen's. Not long after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he received his final post as an Army chaplain, going on active duty May 9, 1942.

For more information about the Four Chaplains, visit www.ststephenkearny.com.



Father Joseph A. Mancini



Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio



Advocate photos-Jonathan Azzara

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Cardinal Tobin celebrates consecrated life

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secrated Life and Vocations.

"Today, we are called to be missionary disciples," he said to attendees during the service. "We must carry our light to the darkest corners of our archdiocese and our world. No one is excluded from receiving this light."

According to the cardinal, "darkness" includes injustice, abuse, racism and oppression. "God leaves us free to open the portals of our hearts or keep them closed," he added.

During the prayer service, those in consecrated life were asked to stand and recommit to their vocation. Cardinal Tobin explained that reaffirming a life of service to the church "will give light to your eyes and strength in your steps toward your encounter with God."

The prayer service also honored jubilarians who are celebrating anniversaries this year. The day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1997.



Advocate photos-Melissa McNally

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Lent is time to become aware of false prophets, cold hearts

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Catholics should use the season of Lent to look for signs and symptoms of being under the spell of false prophets and of living with cold, selfish and hateful hearts, Pope Francis said.

Together with “the often bitter medicine of the truth,” the church, as mother and teacher, offers people “the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting,” the pope said in his message for Lent.

Titled, “Because of the increase of evil-doing, the love of many will grow cold” (Mt 24:12), the papal message echoes Jesus’ caution against the external enemies of false prophets and deceit, and the internal dangers of selfishness, greed and a lack of love.

Today’s false prophets, the pope wrote, “can appear as ‘snake charmers,’ who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go.”

So many of God’s children are: “mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness”; enchanted by money’s

illusion, “which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests”; and convinced they are autonomous and “sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness!”

“False prophets can also be ‘charlatans,’ who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless,” the pope wrote. People can be trapped by the allure of drugs, “disposable relationships,” easy, but dishonest gains as well as “virtual,” but ultimately meaningless relationships, he wrote.

“These swindlers, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love,” the message said.

The pope asked people to examine their heart to see “if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets” and to learn to look at things more closely, “beneath the surface,” and recognize that what comes from God is life-giving and leaves “a good and lasting mark on our hearts.”

Christians also need to look for any signs that their love for God and



CNS Photo

others has started to dim or grow cold. Greed for money is a major red flag, he wrote, because it is the “root of all evil” and soon leads to a rejection of God and his peace.

Pope Francis said the remedy for these ills could be strengthened during Lent with prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

Praying more enables “our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers.”

“Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister.”

And “fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and

becomes an important opportunity for growth,” he said, while also letting people feel what it must be like for those who struggle to survive.

It also “expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor,” he wrote, and “revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.”

The pope also reminded people to take part in the “24 Hours for the Lord” initiative March 9-10, in which many dioceses will have at least one church open for 24 hours, offering Eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation.

Major flu outbreak prompts dioceses to implement prevention protocols

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The nationwide flu outbreak has prompted dioceses to suspend some traditional rituals to help prevent the spread of the virus.

From encouraging a simple nod or a smile during the sign of peace to draining holy water fonts, the actions come as the flu sweeps through virtually every corner of the country in the worst outbreak of the disease in nearly a decade.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported most people are being infected with the influenza B, or H3N2, virus. Tens of thousands of people have been hospitalized since the flu season began on Oct. 1.

Bishop Edward C. Malesic of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, advised parishioners not to shake hands during the sign of peace and stopped the use of consecrated wine during Communion.

Across the state in Allentown, the diocese implemented similar

restrictions. Diocesan spokesman Matt Kerr told local media the practice occurs most years during the flu season.

In the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, Chancellor Patricia Fierro sent a memo to all parishes asking clergy and others to practice proper hygiene during the flu season. The diocese also asked sick parishioners to refrain from drinking from the cup during holy Communion.

Beyond looking out for the welfare of church members, Catholic agencies are addressing how the flu epidemic is affecting other groups.

The homeless are particularly vulnerable to the flu. Organizations that work to protect this population are taking extra efforts to shield them from a potential outbreak, said Augustine Frazier, a senior program manager for the homeless at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. Protections include special attention to cleaning the sleeping quarters, air vents

and bathroom facilities at homeless shelters run by Catholic Charities, Frazier told *Catholic News Service*. Catholic Charities also provides frequent medical clinics for the homeless at their facilities where flu shots are always offered, he added.

In addition to being more exposed to the elements during winter, the homeless frequently have compromised immune systems, often miss taking their medications, don’t have adequate warm clothing and often sleep in shelters with hundreds of other people who may be sick, said Dr. Catherine Crosland. She is director of homeless outreach development for Unity Health Care Inc., a Washington-based organization that was providing a medical clinic at Catholic Charities’ Adam’s Place homeless shelter and day resource center. Crosland gave the flu shot to dozens of homeless men and women during the Feb. 1 clinic day.

“Especially in the homeless population (it’s beneficial) that the more people who get vaccinated the less likely we are to have an outbreak and that is part of something called herd immunity,” she said. “It’s not necessarily the one by one case, but in a group of 100 people, if half of the folks are vaccinated, you have less likelihood of there being an outbreak.”

To date, Dr. Daniel B. Jernigan, director of the Influenza Division in the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at CDC, said the agency had not yet compiled the total number of flu deaths, but noted that 53 children had died.

Based on statistics compiled from previous influenza outbreaks, the agency expects about 710,000 hospitalizations by the end of flu season in mid-May, according to a transcript from a conversation about the flu epidemic on the CDC website that Jernigan joined.

Students discover 'greater joy' in Belize

CALDWELL—For Caldwell University senior Daniela Sirio, the most important thing about her recent mission trip to Belize is what she and the other students do with the experience now that they are back home. “In trying to talk to friends and family about it, I try to pick out specific pictures, ones that tell the stories of the local people, the children and the lifestyle in the impoverished communities where people have little materially but are rich in joy.”

The Lyndhurst resident and six other students, along with their chaperones, spent Jan. 7-15 on the annual volunteer trip to the Central American country. They rebuilt a playground, painted a fence and played with the children in the village of Crique Sacro. “It made me appreciate more of what I have, the simple things, like family,” said sophomore Amber Raines.

When the Caldwell team finished the work on the playground, they said it was a gift to see the exuberance on the children’s faces as they whisked down the slide. “It was as if there was no greater joy in their lives at that moment,” said Colleen O’Brien, director of campus ministry at Caldwell, who led the group.

The members of the Caldwell group stayed at a guesthouse in Punta Gorda associated with the Jesuit-run St. Peter Claver Parish, and each day they drove along bumpy

dirt roads for two hours to get to their work locations. Many of the people they served in the village had never left their community. “They were very appreciative of the work we did and showed us a lot of kindness and compassion,” Raines said. Seeing the poverty and their way of life was “culture shock” for her. “People don’t understand until they are there.”

In the evenings, the volunteers ate meals together and shared experiences. The students were mostly off the technology grid, “constantly talking to each other,” said Sirio.



Madison Perry, Kristal Cannici, Theoniki Makras and Daniela Sirio with local school children.

O’Brien led them in nightly reflections, something she had done on campus in the weeks prior to the trip. “It helped how Colleen led us through the whole experience,”



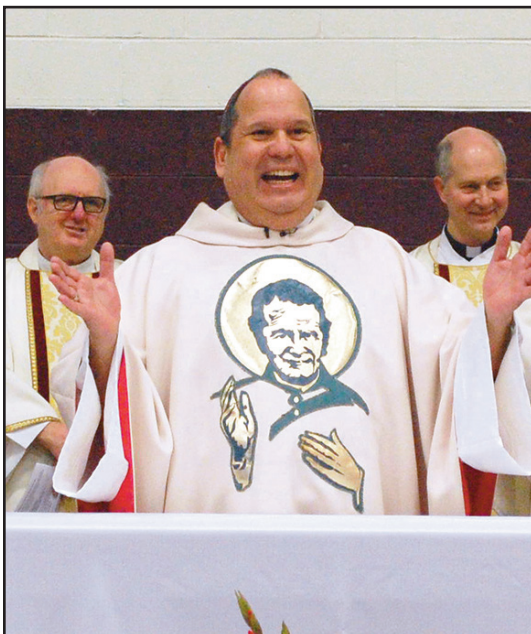
Submitted photos
Caldwell University student Shelagh Kerrisk with school children in Crique Sacro, Belize, where the university students and staff took part in a winter break mission trip.

Sirio said, adding she particularly enjoyed the project O’Brien assigned sending affirmation

letters to their travel companions.

At the end of the week, they were treated to a festive home-cooked meal made by the local parents.

Students also made side trips visiting the Guatemala border, a national park and Mayan ruins, and taking a boat to the cays off the coast of Punta Gorda. Adding to the excitement was the “nail-biting” tsunami warning they received one night, said O’Brien. “We had to evacuate for a bit; thankfully it was just a warning.”



Submitted photos

Don Bosco Preparatory High School in Ramsey honored the feast day of St. John Bosco on Jan. 31 with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Manuel A. Cruz. Students came to school dressed in formal attire as a way to pay respect to their patron saint. The feast day is part of Spirit Week at the high school.

Official Appointments

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

PASTORS

Reverend Minhyun Cho, pastor of St. Michael Parish, Palisades Park, has been granted an extension, ending July 1, 2024.

Reverend Joseph A. Meagher, pastor of St. Antoninus Parish, Newark, has been granted an extension, ending July 1, 2024.

Reverend Ireneusz Pierzchala, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Rochelle Park, has been appointed pastor of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden, effective Oct. 1, 2017.

Reverend Jerzy R. Zaslon, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Jersey City, has been granted an extension, ending July 1, 2024.

ADMINISTRATOR

Reverend Pedro Repollet, parochial vicar of St. John the Baptist Parish, Jersey City, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City,



has been appointed administrator at both parishes, effective Feb. 1, 2018.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Andrew Ikedichi Njoku has been appointed part-time parochial vicar of St. Patrick and Assumption/All Saints Parish, Jersey City, effective Feb. 1, 2018.

CHAPLAIN

Reverend Monsignor Michael A. Andreano, pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul Parish, Hoboken, has been appointed chaplain of the Hoboken Police Department, effective immediately.

RETIREMENT

Reverend Ken Evans has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1.

Reverend Dennis J. Kaelin has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1.

Archdiocese celebrates Black History Month

Throughout the month of February, contributions of black artists, historians, theologians, journalists and civil rights activists are celebrated in honor of Black History Month. On a local level, the Archdiocese of Newark is highlighting the important role the church played in the African-American experience. At the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., celebrated Mass in honor of Black History Month on Feb. 11.

The "Being Black in America" symposium will be presented at Holy Spirit/Our Lady Help of Christians in East Orange on Feb. 18. The event will highlight influential African-Americans throughout history. Also on Feb. 18, during the 10 a.m. Mass at Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Newark, the parish will welcome African-American religious Sister Patricia Ralph, S.S.J., Father Jamie Moses and Brother Patrick Winbush, O.S.B., to discuss their vocations.

Focusing on the contributions African-Americans have made in music, St. Peter Claver Parish in Montclair will host an "All That Jazz" evening on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 6-9 p.m. in Dr. Martin Luther King Hall. Members of the Alleycat Quartet will perform selections from noted black jazz artists.

Father Emeka Okwuosa, S.D.V., coordinator of the African-American, African and Caribbean Apostolate, will lead a Lenten revival Feb. 19-21 at Christ the King Parish in Jersey City. Prior to the series, "Marching in America," which features spiritual readings and songs in celebration of Black History Month, will be held Feb. 18 at the church.

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ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK 2018 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both fast and abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

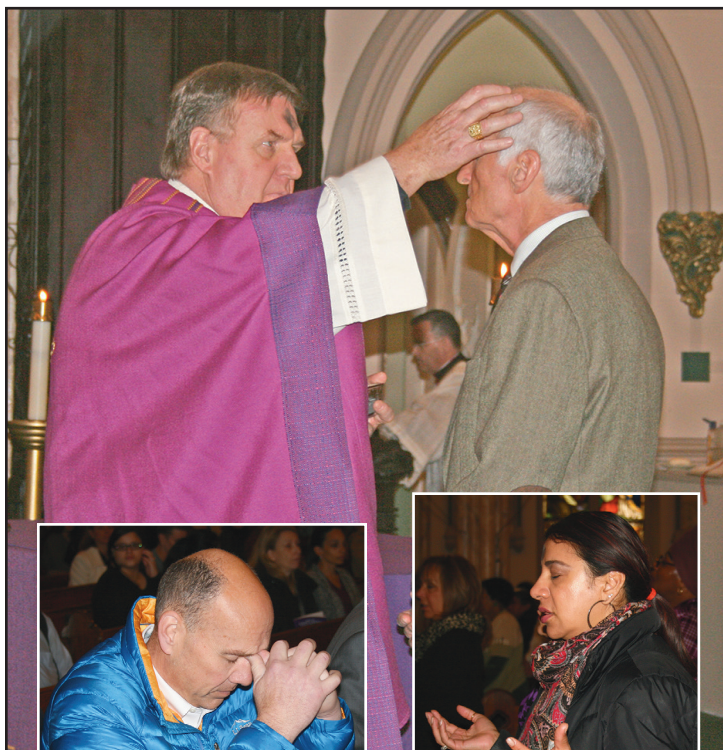
On a day of fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

2. The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence "substantially," or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
4. The time for fulfilling the paschal precept (Easter duty*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 18, 2018, to the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 27, 2018.

* Canon 920, §1 All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the most holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.



Advocate photos-Melissa McNally

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New initiatives in catechesis for the 21st century

By Ron Pihokker and Joanne DePasquale-Parent

Since the publication of the first National Catechetical Directory in 1976 and in the subsequent major documents of the church on catechesis both at the worldwide level and here in the United States, catechists have been called to focus on the formation of adults as primary.

Yet, in practice, we have spent most of our efforts and resources in catechizing children and have, with some notable exceptions, neglected the faith formation of adults—at least in a systematic and deliberate way.

In Cardinal Joseph Tobin's recent series of deanery town hall meetings held throughout the archdiocese, he noted one of the recurring themes that has surfaced among parishioners is the need for adult faith formation opportunities. In attempting to respond to this need, the archdiocesan Catechetical Office began a new initiative.

"It's time to reimagine faith formation for a 21st century world,"

advised John Roberto, president of Lifelong Faith Associates.

Roberto engaged more than 200 pastors and parish leaders from more than 75 parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark at Innovation Labs for Family Faith Formation in December and Adult Faith Formation in January. Innovation Labs are interactive, collaborative learning and design experiences to create new projects in faith formation. The goal of an Innovation Lab is to design and implement new initiatives that have the potential of being trans-

formative for parish communities. Each lab includes short presentations, a facil-

itated design experience for parish teams and connection to curated digital resources for faith formation of all ages.

A two-hour pastor's orientation session was offered for those who could not commit to a daylong event but still wanted to learn about recent trends in faith formation and effective outreach. Both the orientation sessions and the full-day Innovation

superintendent of schools
EDUCATION OUTREACH



Ronald L. Pihokker

Labs were well attended and well received. A survey of participants revealed the vast majority left these events feeling enthused, encouraged, challenged and enriched. Ninety-two percent of the participants from the adult faith formation lab and 82 percent from the family faith formation lab felt it was very relevant and helpful for their ministry.

Over the next several months, Roberto and the Catechetical Office will continue to work with parish teams to develop strategies in providing resources through webinars and workshops. The possibilities are exciting. It is gratifying to witness what



Joanne DePasquale-Parent

we envisioned begin to take shape.

It is the Catechetical Office's goal to continue to provide valuable opportunities for parish leaders to discover how to effectively reach people of all ages in their faith formation efforts. Through reimagining faith formation for a 21st century world, we have taken our first steps toward new programs that engage people of all ages and generations.

Ronald L. Pihokker is director of the archdiocesan Catechetical Office.

Joanne DePasquale-Parent is associate director of Adult and Family Catechesis for Essex and Hudson regions.

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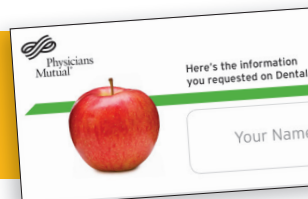
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From New Jersey to Japan, high school students share common link

DEMAREST—Students from two schools on opposite sides of the world are in the midst of a cultural exchange that grew from a common connection—both learning institutions were founded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

English teacher Dean Williams from Notre Dame Jogakuin in Kyoto, Japan, contacted the staff at the Academy of the Holy Angels with the goal of establishing a pathway for his students to develop their English skills. Jennifer Cucchisi, an international studies teacher at Holy Angels, readily accepted the invitation.

Williams explained that his school, which was established in 1952, serves junior and senior high students.

"We are situated at the far eastern edge of Kyoto, on the flanks of the mountains. The world-famous Philosopher's Path, Nanzenji Temple and the Silver Temple are a stone's throw away. The school boasts its own Japanese teahouse and garden, as well as the original nunnery, which is now a museum," Williams wrote in an email to Holy Angels.

When the exchange began, both

classes opted to use both modern and traditional methods of communication, beginning with photos that depicted the Japanese students holding handwritten letters. The girls from Kyoto revealed their interests in flower arranging and tea ceremony traditions. Given the time difference between Kyoto and Demarest, Skype was not a viable option.

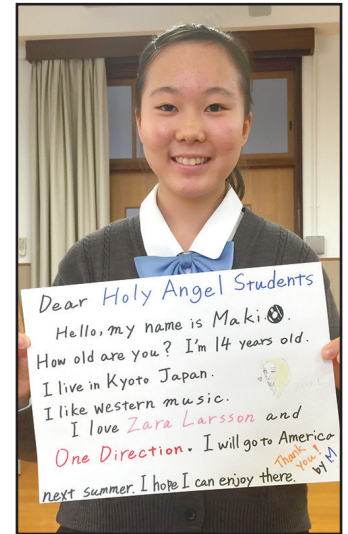
"We communicate through videos and Google Slides," Academy of the Holy Angels senior Danielle Sanchez explained. "On Google Slides, we answered questions regarding our domestic and foreign opportunities and problems. In response, the girls from Japan asked questions regarding what we wrote."

Google Slides allows the students to work on the slide shows together without having to worry about the time difference. After the initial introductions, the students were paired up so they could communicate as "pen pals." Some of the exchanges extend beyond general topics.

"I recently responded to a girl who asked how I would solve the issue of immigration if I had the legal power," Sanchez said. "I never

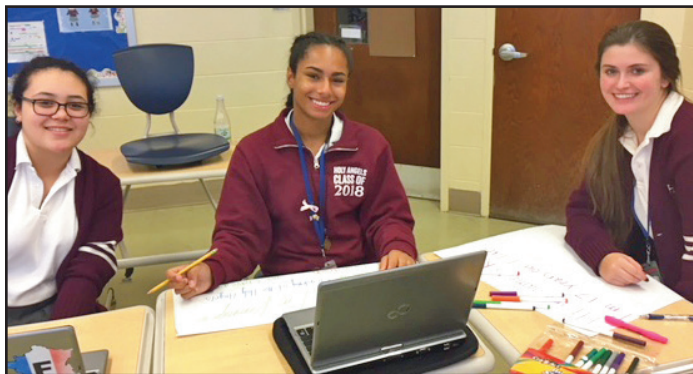
realized how difficult that question would be to answer, and it really made me think about how I view the situation, and what I believe should be done. This experience allows me to teach others as well as learn about my own country and myself. I also learn about the culture in Japan. I can't wait to see what else we are able to do regarding our relationship with the school in Japan, and I'm even more excited to see what else we will be able to learn."

Sanchez added that the students from both high schools are "connected through our faith, and it shows how far connections can go." The experience has opened her eyes to how other cultures perceive America. "I never realized how many questions people from foreign countries have about America simply because I live here, so I assume everyone knows what's going on," Sanchez said. "Being able to learn about Japanese culture from Japanese girls is extremely beneficial because it is coming from people who are experiencing what we are study-



ing. It adds more to the information we are learning in class, especially since we are doing a project regarding different aspects of Japan."

"I think that any time that we are able to exchange cultures and ideas with students in other countries, it enriches us all," Cucchisi added. "I love hearing from the students there, and it is also a great experience to be able to collaborate with a School Sisters of Notre Dame teacher on the other side of the world."



Submitted photos

Catholic Charities gala

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark will honor Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., at the "All Are Welcome" gala May 3 at Nanina's in the Park in Belleville.

Community service awards will also be presented to Goya Foods; St. Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills; St. Cassian Parish, Upper Montclair; St. Anastasia Parish, Teaneck; St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Montclair; Sacred Heart Parish, Bloomfield; St. Joseph Parish, Maplewood; and Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange.

For more information on table reservations, sponsorship opportunities or tickets, email pruccione@ccannj.org or call (973) 639-6531.



Submitted photo

Four-time Olympian Joetta Clark Diggs, right, accepts Felician University's 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award from President Dr. Anne Prisco. "In honoring Joetta Clark Diggs, we recognize and cherish the strength and power of women leaders throughout our nation and the world," Prisco said. "By uniquely fusing the synergistic elements of athletics and education, Joetta has positively impacted the lives of some 50,000 young people."

95-year-old priest honored for years of service

By Paul Hummel

Special to The Catholic Advocate

FAIRVIEW—While many 95-year-olds may prefer to stay in bed at the crack of dawn, a local priest, just a few years shy of being a centenarian, still gets up early every weekday morning to celebrate Mass. Father Frank Gaetano, S.A.C., also regularly hears confessions on Saturday afternoons and celebrates Sunday Mass.

In recognition for his dedication and long service to Our Lady of Grace, the parish held a Mass of Thanksgiving on Feb. 3 to honor Father Gaetano's 70 years as a priest in the Pallottine Order.

The Provincial of the Pallottine Order, Father Frank Donio, and Our Lady of Grace Pastor Father Peter Sticco celebrated the Mass with the jubilarian. Also in attendance were the Pallottine Sisters and members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate.

On Feb. 2, 1948, at the age of 25, Father Gaetano was ordained at All Saints Parish in Brooklyn and was later assigned there. He then re-



Photo courtesy of Paul Hummel

Father Frank Gaetano, left, and Father Peter Sticco.

located to the now-defunct St. Philip Neri Church in Newark. He later taught history at Bishop Eustace Preparatory School in Pennsauken, was a novice master and then rector at the Pallottine Novitiate in North Haven, Long Island, before arriving at Our Lady of Grace in 1975 as parochial vicar.

During his years in Fairview, Father Gaetano served as pastor of the church, bursar and provincial consultant of the Pallottine Province. He cur-

rently serves as parochial vicar and was also the chaplain of the Fairview Fire Department for 38 years.

"Father Frank" starts his day around 4 a.m., praying for various intentions for two hours. He then celebrates the Eucharist at 8 a.m. on weekdays and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday and later says evening intercessory prayers from 8-10 p.m. before he retires for the night.

"Father Frank is a priest who is very unique," Father Sticco said.

"He is very, very humble and very holy. He is a priest who is very deep in his faith and is one who loves his priestly vocation and reaches out to other people in a very special way."

Parishioner Patt Mazzeo, who is in the choir, echoed Father Sticco's sentiments.

"He is a dear, sweet man who is humble, self-effacing and ready to always listen to others," she said. "He is the easiest priest to go to confession. He understands human frailty in the confessional."

When asked about his dedication to the priesthood, Father Gaetano said he has no plans to retire.

"We don't have many priests in our province so I figured let me do something worthwhile and continue to work because when you retire there's not much to do," he said. "We try to imitate the good Lord in our dealing with people. He was understanding, he was all-loving and helped people in various ways. You make yourself available to the needs of others. You give yourself to the good Lord and help people because they are his creatures."



The Catholic
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for Vocations.
Sunday, April 22, 2018

ISSUE DATE:
Wednesday, April 11

DEADLINES:
Space reserved by: Monday, April 2nd
Copy due: Wednesday, April 4th

Pages in the April issue of *The Catholic Advocate* newspaper will feature articles highlighting the 55th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Focusing on prayer and the spirituality of a lifetime commitment to a holy life in God's service and those interested in Religious life.

This section will be mailed to our 26,000+ subscribers and available online (www.rcan.org) throughout Essex, Bergen, Union and Hudson counties..

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Saint Dominic students visit lab

JERSEY CITY—Students in Saint Dominic Academy's chemistry classes got a hands-on, real-world lab experience. Students visited the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission on Feb. 1.

According to the company, "the primary objective of the event was to showcase various careers within the sciences, raise awareness of the

important role labs play in society, and specifically educate the students regarding lab procedures and responsibilities."

After each student received safety glasses and a lab coat, a chemist or lab technician led them to the various work stations. They not only observed several wastewater analyses, but also had the opportunity to perform the tests themselves. Students also learned about safety procedures in the laboratory and about the state and federal regulations that

are followed by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.

Valentina Simon, a Chemistry Honors student, said the visit was an eye-opening experience. "I did not realize how expansive and how many jobs the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission offered. I spoke to professionals that came from many different majors that stretched all across the science field. It really proved that being any type of science major can apply to so many job opportunities," she said.

Simon also expressed how impressed she was by the number of

women in leadership positions at the company. "It is not a male dominated industry, which is a huge progression for women in the science," she explained.

"(The lab visit) was very enlightening," added AP Chemistry student Jenna Manzo. "It was a unique opportunity to gain hands-on lab experience and knowledge in various fields such as chemistry, microbiology and environmental engineering. It was refreshing to see the amazing scientific diversity within the lab that goes into wastewater treatment."



Submitted photo
Sophomore Erin Murphy at the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission lab.

Journalist to be honored by Chesterton Institute

SOUTH ORANGE—The G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture at Seton Hall University announced journalist William McGurn will be presented with an award at a special event this spring "in recognition of his distinguished career as a journalist in the Chestertonian tradition."

McGurn is a member of the editorial board and writes the "Main Street" column for *The Wall Street Journal*. Previously, he was editorial page editor for *The New York Post*;

vice president for News Corporation; and chief speechwriter for President George W. Bush from 2005-2008. He has also written for *The Washington Post*, *The Spectator of London* and *National Catholic Register*.

The Chesterton Review, which published a special journalism issue for its Fall/Winter 2017 volume, is a journal that was founded to promote an interest in all aspects of G.K. Chesterton's life, work, art and ideas, including his Christian apologetics.

"Chesterton was proud to describe himself as a journalist, and 'journalism' is the most accurate description of his writing," said Editor Father Ian Boyd, C.S.B. "It is appropriate, therefore, to devote a special issue of the *Review* to the subject of Chesterton's journalism, and specifically to the journalism he cast in the form of parables."

For more information about *The Chesterton Review* call (973) 275-2431 or email chestertoninstitute@shu.edu.



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Obituaries

Sister Mary Downey, O.S.B.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 3 at St. Walburga Monastery in Elizabeth for Sister Mary Downey, O.S.B., who died Jan. 30.



Born in Kearny, Sister Mary entered the Benedictine Sisters on Sept. 8, 1961, and her First Monastic Profession was on June 15, 1963. She received a bachelor's degree from Jersey City State College and a master's in education from Seton Hall University.

Sister Mary taught at Bender Memorial Academy in Elizabeth. She was principal at Immaculate Conception in Hackensack, St. Genevieve's and Benedictine Preschool, both in Elizabeth.

Sister Mary Alberta Keuhlen, S.C.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 6 in the Villa at Florham Park for Sister Mary Alberta Keuhlen, S.C., 90, who died Feb. 1.



Born in Hillside, Sister Mary Alberta entered the Sisters of Charity on March 25, 1947 and was a member for 70 years.

Sister Mary Alberta was a teacher at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tenafly; Marylawn of the Oranges,

South Orange; St. Philip School, Saddle Brook; and St. Catharine School, Glen Rock. She taught mathematics at St. Aloysius, St. Mary High School and the Academy of St. Aloysius, all in Jersey City. She also served as principal of St. Mary High School.

After she transitioned from education, Sister Mary Alberta became assistant director at Xavier Center in Convent Station and was a library assistant at the College of Saint Elizabeth.

Father John J. Gibbons

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 9 at Church of the Ascension in Bradley Beach for Father John J. Gibbons, 85, who died Feb. 3.



Father Gibbons attended Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary. He was ordained on May 31, 1958. His assignments included: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Maplewood, parochial vicar; Divine Mercy, Rahway, parochial vicar; St. Andrew, Bayonne, parochial vicar; St. Catherine of Siena, Cedar Grove, parochial vicar; Queen of Peace, North Arlington, parochial vicar; Holy Rosary/St. Michael, Elizabeth, pastor; Nativity, Midland Park, parochial vicar; St. John the Baptist, Fairview, pastor; and St. Michael/St. Joseph, Bayonne, pastor.

Mother Seton launches S.T.A.R

CLARK—Beginning in September, Mother Seton Regional High School will offer an expanded college preparatory program for newly admitted freshmen—Success Through Academic Readiness (S.T.A.R.). The program will offer selected ninth graders an opportunity to pursue a rigorous academic curriculum with the added benefit of increased classroom support and individualized instruction.

"We recognize that students learn in a variety of ways," said Director of Guidance Corinne Wnek. "We also understand that students are at different points of readiness for their transition to high school. Teachers within the S.T.A.R. program are trained to work with students academically, socially and emotionally, so that our students have a positive freshman experience."

"We want all students to be successful here at Mother Seton right from the start," agreed Principal Sister Jacquelyn Balasia, S.C. "The new S.T.A.R. program is designed to help students strengthen academic skills in the ninth grade so they will be ready to pursue their high school career at Mother Seton confidently and successfully."

For more information, call the guidance department at Mother Seton at (732) 382-1952.

Local health care providers receive award

Leaders at Hackensack University Medical Center and the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth in Covert Station are among the recipients of the 2018 Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards. MDA Advantage Insurance Company, a provider of medical professional liability insurance, announced the winners Feb. 1.

"Being able to recognize all the progress that has been made in health care since the awards were first bestowed in 1939 is an honor and a privilege for all of us involved," said Patricia A. Costante, chairman and CEO of MDA Advantage. "My hope is that by highlighting these advances, we are able to inspire the health care providers and leaders of tomorrow."

Among the honorees is Andre Goy, M.D., M.S., chairman and director of the John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center, and medical director of Hackensack Meridian

Health Oncology Services. He received the Outstanding Healthcare Executive Award for his leadership in oncology and his accomplishments in lymphoma research that have led to therapies and new strategies to improve patient outcomes.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth received the Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award. The Sisters will be collectively recognized as the first and longest continuous sponsors of health care in New Jersey, including St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson and Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth.

This year's awards will be presented May 2 at Park Château Estate and Gardens in East Brunswick. All profits from the event will be dedicated to support medical and health care student scholarships. For more information, call (609) 803-2350 or visit www.ejiawards.org.

V Encuentro closing Mass

NEWARK—A Mass to mark the close of *V Encuentro* will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart March 2 at 8 p.m.

In 2013, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs convened pastoral leaders of the Hispanic/Latino community to engage in *V Encuentro*. A four-year effort, the process emphasized the importance of involving young second and third generation Hispanics/Latinos in the church.

Fifty archdiocesan parishes

participated in *V Encuentro*. A time of ecclesial reflection, the process encouraged participation, pastoral ministry and a constant spirit of prayer. Missionary discipleship emerged as a central theme of a *V Encuentro*. Organizers emphasized the necessity for a continual pastoral conversation that allows the church, consistent with its missionary nature, to respond with more fidelity and enthusiasm to the Hispanic/Latino presence in parishes. *V Encuentro* aimed to empower Latinos to live their vocation more fully as joyful missionaries to the church.



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This individual must be an active Roman Catholic; have a graduate degree in Family and Marriage Counseling or related field; have a minimum of 32 credits in Theology and Religious Education that will include: Theology of Marriage, Sacraments, Scripture, Spirituality. Demonstrated skills in group dynamics and in the formation of support groups in various areas of family are also required.

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The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the archdiocese immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

February 18

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, career ministry workshop, 1 p.m., call Carol Shea at (201) 252-8807 or Tom Lewis at (201) 445-1864.

February 19

Interfaith Brotherhood/Sisterhood Committee of Bergen County, "Pursuing Peace in Challenging Times," at Bergen Community College in Paramus, 4-8 p.m., with keynote speaker Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen, email bergenbrotherhoodsisterhood@gmail.com.

February 20

Lumen Center, Caldwell, "Pray Always," 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$35-\$45, call (973) 403-3331 ext. 25 or email lumencenter@caldwellop.org.

February 22

The Community of God's Love, Rutherford, weekly Lenten discussions based on the book "God for Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Lent and Easter," facilitated by spiritual director Ellen Roller, 7:30 p.m. through March 22, (201) 935-0344 or email secretary@thecgl.org.

February 24

Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, "Faith Consistent Investing: Building the Kingdom of God in the New Millennium," presented by Father Séamus Finn, O.M.I., 4 p.m., followed by a Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m., call (908) 647-0208 or email religious@stshrine.org.

February 28

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Roseland, Lenten adult spirituality forum Faith Quest, "Why all this suffering, Oh Lord?" with Ginger Grancagnolo, 9 p.m., other sessions on March 7, 14, and 21, \$3 per session or \$10 for the four-

week series, call (973) 226-7288 or visit www.olbs.org.

March 9

Immaculate Conception Parish, Mahwah, "Divine Mercy 101," presented by Father Chris Alar, 6 p.m., R.S.V.P. by March 1, (201) 327-1276.

Other

The Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, Holy Hour for Peace at Holy Family Chapel, 6:15-7:15 p.m., third Tuesday of every month, contact Sister Maryanne Tracey at mtracey@scnj.org.

Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade announces student contest

NEWARK—The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Inc. recently announced the 8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Contests for Student Artists and Scholars.

"The Parade Committee is committed to ensuring the students of the Catholic schools of the archdiocese learn about the life of St. Patrick and the impact of the Irish on our state and our church," said Michael D. Byrne, general chairman of the Committee. "The Committee believes it is important to study the example of St. Patrick and to encourage our children to emulate his life."

The contest's theme is "Faith in Technology"—a fitting subject, since the 2018 grand marshal and deputy grand marshal are Irish-Americans whose careers were in the technology sector. Grand Marshal Joseph M. Taylor is the retired

chairman and CEO of Panasonic Corporation of North America, a technology partner and integrator to businesses, government agencies and consumers across the region. Deputy Grand Marshal Josie Logue Tully is retired from ITT Corporation in Clifton.

Students in elementary schools are invited to participate in an art contest while high school students can participate in an essay contest on the life of St. Patrick.

Students are awarded cash prizes, the opportunity to lead their schools' contingent in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and publication of their work in the Parade Committee's annual souvenir journal.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade will celebrate its 83rd year on the streets of Newark on March 16—making it the oldest in the state.



Submitted photo

Mary McElroy, center, director of NJ Network of Catholic School Families and Government Funded Programs, presented Paramus Catholic High School seniors Alexa Gallo, left, and Mackenzie Mortensen, right, with certificates at the New Jersey State House in Trenton. The students won the Catholic Schools Week video and poster competition sponsored by NJ Network of Catholic School Families.

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