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# The Catholic Advocate



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## Local parish ministry helps refugees settle in the United States

By Melissa McNally  
Editor

In the current political climate, with “zero tolerance” immigration policies and legislative deadlock regarding keeping asylum seekers out of the United States, refugees are in a vulnerable situation.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., expressed “deep disappointment” with the “dehumanizing” rhetoric following President Trump’s Jan. 8 public address on immigration issues.

“These men, women and children are neither numbers, nor criminal statistics, but flesh and blood people with their own stories and histories. Most are fleeing human misery and brutal violence that threatens their lives. False and fear-filled caricatures seek to provoke a sort of amnesia that would have this great nation deny our roots in immigrants and refugees,” Cardinal Tobin stated. “Those coming to our borders seeking asylum or escaping crushing poverty are not pawns in a political debate, but rather the strangers and aliens our Scriptures constantly instruct us to welcome. As a shepherd to God’s people in northern New Jersey, I beg all our legislative leaders to come together for the common good. Work through your differences for the good of all. Lives literally depend upon it.”

Catherine Mulroe, a parishioner at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Montclair, agrees with Cardinal Tobin’s sentiments. “We have to remember, as Christians, that Jesus was a refugee,” she said. “It is ab-



Submitted photo

Sayeed Abbas celebrated his birthday with volunteers from the refugee resettlement ministry.

surd to be so fearful of the ‘other.’” Mulroe has spearheaded the refugee resettlement ministry at her parish working with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark.

In late 2016, Catholic Charities was approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to start a program to welcome dozens of refugee families from around the world starting the following year. However, due to the change of policy with the newly inaugurated president, many of the refugees expected to arrive never came.

“Each year, the president sets the threshold for the number of refugees allowed into the country. Under President Obama, those numbers were about 96,000, and in his last year, he had proposed increasing those numbers to 120,000,” explained Maria Biancheri, senior

grants specialist at Catholic Charities.

To accommodate that expected increase, the State Department needed new resettlement agencies and Catholic Charities was approved to start accepting refugees in 2017.

“However, very early on in his presidency, President Trump significantly lowered the threshold of the number of refugees he would allow into the country, as is every president’s prerogative,” Biancheri said. “In 2018, he lowered it to 45,000, but only about 25,000 actually made it here. For 2019, the threshold is 30,000.”

Before this shift, Mulroe had invited Biancheri to her parish to discuss ways to welcome refugees. Mulroe and a group of about 70 people attended the meeting. With the help of Catholic Charities, the refu-

gee resettlement ministry at St. Teresa connected with two Syrian men in need of assistance. The group started a GoFundMe page to raise money for the refugees. The ministry divided into groups to help get the men into ESL classes, find employment and more permanent housing.

The two men, Abd Aljooni and Sayeed Abbas, needed a place to stay. Mulroe offered to take them in. Less than a week after their arrival, the Trump administration banned travelers from Syria from entering the United States. “It makes you wonder about fate—they wouldn’t have been here,” Mulroe noted. After living in her home for three weeks, they were relocated to a mission house owned by the Park United Methodist Church in Bloomfield. Aljooni left for Dearborn, Michigan.

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# Msgr. Francis R. Seymour, former vice chancellor and archivist, dies at 81

A Mass of Christian Burial for the repose of the soul of Msgr. Francis R. Seymour was held Dec. 31 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Bishop Manuel A. Cruz, regional bishop of Newark, presided at the Mass, and Msgr. Franklyn M. Casale served as

the homilist. Following the funeral, Msgr. Seymour was laid to rest in the Priests' Circle of Holy Name Cemetery in Jersey City.

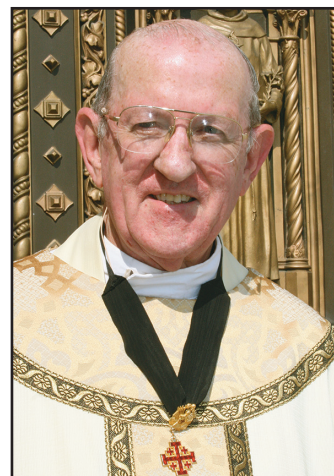
Msgr. Seymour died Dec. 27 following complications of a cardiac event and trauma from a car accident on Dec. 22. He was 81. Earlier

last year, he celebrated the 55th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Upon hearing the news of Msgr. Seymour's passing, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., said, "Today, this local Church of Newark mourns a remarkable, respected and much-loved priest whose devotion to the people of God and to his brother priests was always strong and ever-growing. Throughout his entire priestly ministry, spanning six decades, every county within the archdiocese, and indeed, hundreds of thousands of people in close to 40 parishes, experienced that love and caring, often at times of significant change or challenge."

Born Oct. 4, 1937, in Bayonne, his parents were the late George and Mary Boyle Seymour. He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea Grammar School, Bayonne; St. Peter's High School, Staten Island; Seton Hall University, South Orange, and Immaculate Conception Seminary, then located in Mahwah.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Thomas A. Boland on May 25, 1963, in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark. One month later, Father Seymour began his priestly ministry as a parochial vicar of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Newark, where he remained for six years. During this time, he also served as chaplain at Newark Beth Israel Hospital.



Msgr. Seymour during the celebration of his Golden Jubilee in June 2013.

In 1969, he was named archdiocesan archivist and an assistant in the Matrimonial Tribunal of the archdiocese, with residency at Holy Cross Rectory in Harrison. While there, he also served as moderator of the Holy Cross CYO.

Four years later, Archbishop Peter L. Gerety appointed Father Seymour a vice chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark. Then, in 1974, he was named archdiocesan director of Catholic Relief Services, responsible for coordinating all local efforts to assist the national agency in responding to both national and international calamities.

St. John Paul II elevated him to the position of Chaplain to His Holiness, with the title of Reverend Monsignor, in 1979. A year later, Archbishop Gerety appointed him rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral. In



Advocate file photos

Msgr. Seymour alongside Archbishop Peter Gerety during a Youth Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, West Orange, in November 2003.

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Advocate photos-Jonathan Azzara

1981, he moved to Allendale as pastor of Guardian Angel Parish. While there, Msgr. Seymour served as president of the town's Ministerial Association, an organization of local clergy concerned with promoting ecumenical unity and participation in local community outreach, and chaplain to the town's police and fire departments.

In 1987, he was appointed administrative assistant to the Office of the Archbishop and director of Ministry to Retired Priests, with residence at Sacred Heart Cathedral Rectory in Newark. The following year, he became associate director of the archdiocesan office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, while retaining his responsibility for the retired priests. He moved to St. Cecilia's Rectory in Kearny, where he resided for the next 30 years until his passing.

In 1990, he was appointed secretary to Archbishop Emeritus Peter Gerety. From 1994 until his passing, Msgr. Seymour served as editor of the annual Directory and Almanac of

the Archdiocese of Newark. He was a charter member of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission and served for a time as a member of the board of trustees of Seton Hall University. He also served as secretary of the archdiocesan College of Consultants and chaplain to the police and fire departments in Harrison.

During his many years of service in the Archdiocese of Newark, Msgr. Seymour served as pastor or administrator of close to 40 parishes—the only priest of the archdiocese to hold that distinction. He also worked on the arrangements and preparations for most of the major liturgical functions that took place in the Cathedral Basilica for over 50 years—from the installation of bishops and archbishops, to funerals for bishops, to the papal visit of St. John Paul II in 1995.

Msgr. Seymour also served as the commentator for WWOR-TV's live coverage of that visit. The Holy Father elevated him to the rank of Prelate of Honor in 1999. The following year, he was appointed full-time to Seton Hall University, where

he continued to serve as archdiocesan archivist until his passing.

In 2009, Archbishop John J. Myers appointed Msgr. Seymour chairman of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission. And, in 2010, Pope Benedict XVI approved his membership in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and he was invested as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre that same year.

His devotion to the Church and to the priesthood was a hallmark of his life. Speaking of his life as a priest during the Mass marking the celebration of his Golden Jubilee

in 2013, Msgr. Seymour said to the community gathered in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart: "Many of you have been thoughtful enough to thank me for one or another pastoral ministry I may have exercised on your behalf. However, it is the Lord who really deserves that gratitude. Whatever ministry I have performed in my priesthood has been given to me by Him. I could never do it simply on my own power. No priest could. It is only when we cooperate with the plans of the Lord that we will be effective priests."

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# Novena and March for Life unites thousands against abortion

WASHINGTON—More than one hundred thousand people nationwide participated in 9 Days for Life, the annual pro-life prayer and action campaign, which began on Jan. 14.

The novena was an opportunity for recollection and reparation in observation of the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal throughout the United States. Thousands of pro-life activists also headed to the nation's capital Jan. 18 for the 46th annual March for Life. The largest annual pro-life demonstration in the world, this year's theme, "Unique from Day One," focused on how scientific advancements reveal the humanity of the unborn child from the moment of conception.

Like the march, the overarching intention of the novena was to end abortion, however each day of the novena focused on a different aspect of respecting the dignity of the human person—from the beginning of life to its natural end. The daily intentions were accompanied by a

reflection, educational information and suggested actions. The novena culminated Jan. 22, the annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.

The novena, which was sponsored by the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, began in 2013 in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the *Roe*

*v. Wade* decision.

Meantime, in a recent annual poll of Americans' views on abortion, 75 percent wanted "substantial" restrictions on abortion access even as more than half of respondents describe themselves as pro-choice.

Conducted by the Marist Poll at Marist College and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the survey of 1,066 adults Jan. 8-10 revealed

that respondents would welcome limits on abortion so that it can be performed only during the first three months of pregnancy.

Even 61 percent of pro-choice respondents favored such a restriction. Unsurprisingly, 96 percent of respondents who identified as pro-life supported such a restriction.

Among Republicans, 92 percent support abortion limits, while 60 percent of Democrats and 78 percent of independents shared the same view.

"What you're getting here is the sense that the debate over abortion when you look at what people want in terms of restrictions ... is in favor of substantial restriction on abortion," said Andrew Walter, vice president for communications and strategic planning for the Knights of Columbus.

The poll also found 42 percent of respondents believe life begins at conception, 10 percent within the first three months of pregnancy, 9 percent between three and six months, 19 percent when the fetus is viable and can live outside the womb and 13 percent when the child is born; 7 percent were unsure.

The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.7 percentage points.



CNS Photo

## Pope wants abuse summit to lead to clarity, action

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—At the upcoming meeting on protecting minors, Pope Francis wants leaders of the world's bishops' conferences to clearly understand what must be done to prevent abuse, care for victims and ensure no case is white-washed or covered up.

"The pope wants it to be an assembly of pastors, not an academic conference—a meeting characterized by prayer and discernment, a catechetical and working gathering," said Alessandro Gisotti, interim director of the Vatican press office.

The Feb. 21-24 meeting on the protection of minors in the Church "has a concrete purpose: The goal is that all of the bishops clearly understand what they need to do to prevent and combat the worldwide problem of the sexual abuse of minors," Gisotti said, reading from a written statement in Italian and English.



CNS Photo

Members of the organizing committee for the Feb. 21-24 Vatican meeting on the protection of minors include, from left, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, India; Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta; and Jesuit Father Hans Zollner.

"Pope Francis knows that a global problem can only be resolved with a global response," he added.

The pope announced in September that he was calling Church leaders from around the world to the Vatican to address the crisis and focus on responsibility, accountability and transparency.

"It is fundamental for the Holy Father that when the bishops who will come to Rome have returned to their countries and their dioceses that they understand the laws to be

applied and that they take the necessary steps to prevent abuse, to care for the victims and to make sure that no case is covered up or buried," Gisotti said.

He acknowledged the "high expectations" surrounding the meeting and emphasized that "the Church is not at the beginning of the fight against abuse."

"The meeting is a stage along the painful journey that the Church has unceasingly and decisively undertaken for over 15 years," he said.

In a separate statement, the Vatican press office said the meeting's organizing committee met with Pope Francis Jan. 10. The committee members include Cardinals Blase Cupich of Chicago and Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, India; Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta, adjunct secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; and Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, president of the Centre for the Protection of Minors at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

The members informed the pope about their preparations for the gathering, which will include plenary sessions, working groups and moments of common prayer and listening to testimonies.

Pope Francis has asked Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the former director of the Vatican press office, to moderate the plenary sessions.

The meeting will include a penitential liturgy Feb. 23 and a closing Mass Feb. 24.



## January 26

**St. Cecilia Parish**, Kearny, "Spotlight on the New Testament," 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., presented by Father John D. Gabriel, \$40, call Joanne DePasquale-Parent at 973-497-4288 or email [parentjo@rcan.org](mailto:parentjo@rcan.org).

## January 27

**St. Michael School**, Cranford, open house, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., call 908-276-9425 or visit [www.smscranford.com](http://www.smscranford.com).

**Transfiguration Academy**, Bergenfield, Blue Ribbon School celebration, Mass at noon celebrated by Cardinal Tobin, reception to follow at Conlon Hall, call 201-384-3627 or visit [www.transfigurationacademy.org](http://www.transfigurationacademy.org).

**Hispanic Family Life Ministries**, Archdiocese of Newark, Marriage Enrichment Retreat in Spanish, at the Archdiocesan Center, 2:30-6:30 p.m., call 973-497-4326 or email [genaoyam@rcan.org](mailto:genaoyam@rcan.org).

## January 31

**Caldwell University**, "Papal Policies on Clerical Sexual Abuse: God Weeps," presented by Dr. Jo-Renee Formicola, a professor of political science at Seton Hall University, 4:30 p.m. in the Alumni Theatre, call 973-618-3931.

## February 1

**St. Joseph by the Sea Retreat House**, South Mantoloking, "Come to the Quiet" silent weekend retreat, through Feb. 3, \$220, call 732-892-8494 or visit [www.sjbsea.org](http://www.sjbsea.org).

## February 2

**St. Michael School**, Cranford, 90th Anniversary Mass, 5:30 p.m., reception to follow, call 908-276-9425 or visit [www.smscranford.com](http://www.smscranford.com).

## February 6

**Loyola Jesuit Center**, Morristown, "A Spiritual Journey Through the Lens of the Wizard of Oz," presented by Spiritual Director Anna Graziano, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., \$40 includes breakfast and lunch, call 973-539-0740 or visit [www.loyola.org](http://www.loyola.org).

## February 7

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

## February 10

**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**, Wallington, Sweet Sunday Dessert Party, sponsored by the Rosary Confraternity, 2-5 p.m., \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door, call MaryJane at 201-939-8576 or Chris at 973-546-9043.

## February 19

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish**, Wyckoff, bereavement support groups, eight consecutive Tuesday mornings from 10-11:30 a.m. and Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9 p.m., call 201-891-1122, ext. 266.



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



## Sunday, Jan. 27

Noon  
Catholic Schools Week Mass  
Transfiguration Academy,  
Bergenfield

## Tuesday, Jan. 29

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

## Thursday, Jan. 31

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

## Saturday, Feb. 2

11 a.m.  
World Day of Consecrated Life  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred  
Heart, Newark

## Sunday, Feb. 3

Noon  
Father Washington 76th  
Anniversary  
St. Stephen Parish, Kearny

## Saturday, Feb. 9

5 p.m.  
Mass  
St. Thomas More Parish, Fairfield

## Sunday, Feb. 10

3 p.m.  
Ministry of Lector Mass  
Redemptoris Mater Seminary,  
Kearny

## Sunday, Feb. 17

Noon  
Black History Month Mass  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred  
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# Archdiocese of Newark welcomes new director of communications

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., has appointed Maria Margiotta as acting director of the Office of Communications and Public Relations of the Archdiocese of Newark, effective Jan. 1. Margiotta succeeds Jim Goodness, who retired Dec. 31 after serving in the position for 20 years.

Margiotta is a marketing communications professional with more than 25 years of experience in the corporate and non-profit sector. Most recently, she managed marketing initiatives for Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark. She developed and implemented strategic marketing plans, as well as digital advertising, social media marketing, publications and videos, and content development to

further the mission of Catholic Cemeteries.

Prior to joining the archdiocese, Margiotta served as the director of Marketing and Communications at one of New Jersey's leading hospitals and health care networks for almost 10 years. During her tenure, she executed annual marketing and public relations business plans to spotlight leadership and technology. She also served as the hospital spokesperson and headed communications efforts on high-profile issues, including union contract disputes and competitive legal challenges. Additionally, Margiotta acted as the public information officer during public health crises, emergencies and natural disasters, in-

cluding Hurricane Sandy.

Previously, Margiotta held senior leadership positions in the health care public relations industry with firms such as Edelman PR Worldwide and Ruder Finn. She represented and promoted therapeutics for global pharmaceutical companies, including Novartis, Johnson & Johnson, Schering-Plough and Roche. In her roles, she directed communications programs to educate patients about diseases and corresponding drug therapies and promoted physician awareness of new medications.

Margiotta earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Fordham University, and went on to earn a master's degree in public rela-



**Maria Margiotta**

tions from Iona College. She and her husband, Dr. Vincent Margiotta, have been married for 24 years and have two children, Vincent and Nicole.

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## Parish ministry helps refugees settle in

Continued from page 1

where there is a large Arabic-speaking population. "He just wasn't comfortable here," Mulroe explained. The volunteers raised money for Aljooni to pay rent for a few months in his new home.

Nancy Burke, the ministry's fundraising chair, was careful not to pry into the more personal circumstances of the refugees' journeys. "I did learn that belonging to a community when they get here is extremely important. Learning English is also extremely important," she explained. "I learned that every refugee is an individual and has his/her own hopes and dreams, and they're not all going to take the same path. We need to help them communicate what they want to do and help them to take the steps toward their dreams."

Abbas flourished. Within his first few weeks in America, he landed a job at a restaurant in Montclair. "Sayeed is like a son or a nephew to me," Mulroe explained. "He's just the most loving, optimistic person; he's really a blessing."

Abbas explained that he fled Syria during his final semester at university. "They wanted me to sign up for the army," he said. He traveled to Thailand with a friend and stayed there illegally. While in Thailand, he applied for asylum

with the United Nations. The process lasted five years before Catholic Charities took his case. He credits the organization and volunteers like Mulroe with helping him settle in the United States.

"Cathy is like an angel. Her family is so lovely and her house was so warm and welcoming. It is because of the volunteers that I adjusted so well," Abbas said. "In the past, I was once one of those people at the border. I am feeling what they are feeling right now. I have been through the same thing."

He currently attends Seton Hall University where he hopes to be a social worker. "I want to help others like people have helped me," he stated.

Father Benny Prado, pastor of St. Teresa of Calcutta, relates to the refugees' struggles. Originally from Nicaragua, he immigrated to the United States more than 30 years ago. "I left Nicaragua because there was a dangerous political situation there," he explained. The Sandinista regime was in power and, as a teenager, he would have been forced to join the army. "I knew people in the neighborhood who died because they were told to fight without any training." At 15 years old, he traveled to the Bronx with an older cousin. He spoke no English and lived with his mother's relatives. Six months later, his father arrived in America followed a year later by his mother and sister.

"With the experiences that I've had and from where I came from, I understand the refugees' desperation," Father Prado said. "I am a big believer in social justice and I share Cardinal Tobin's vision. I am so grateful for the diverse committee here at St. Teresa and for the ministry volunteers who help the refugees in need."

The change in government policy caused the refugee resettlement services at Catholic Charities to shut down in December 2018, but despite that, the work to help refugees continues. Catholic Charities has contracts with the International Rescue Committee in Elizabeth, N.J., and continues to help with ESL and skills training.

The refugee resettlement ministry at St. Teresa currently aids a family who arrived from El Salvador. Volunteers recently hosted a pancake breakfast fundraiser to



Submitted photo

Abbas received the Spirit of the Heart award at the Catholic Charities gala from, left to right, John Westervelt, CEO Catholic Charities; Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.; and Msgr. Robert Fuhrman, Catholic Charities board of trustees chairman.

plan their next steps. The group's GoFundMe campaign continues to receive donations from members of the community who support their efforts. The group would like to restore the Our Lady of Mount Carmel rectory in Montclair to house more refugees. "A few families could stay in that rectory—about four or five," Mulroe noted.

Abbas regularly keeps in contact with Mulroe. He has assimilated so well to being in America that he received the Spirit of the Heart award at the Catholic Charities gala last May. The volunteers from St. Teresa

of Calcutta Parish were presented with a Community Partner Service award for "deciding, as Christians, to take a stand supporting refugees."

In his acceptance speech, Abbas referred to Mulroe and fellow volunteers as his "American moms." He credited the refugee resettlement ministry and Catholic Charities for his success and happiness. "I am grateful for everyone who supported me, even with just a smile or by saying, 'welcome to the United States,'" Abbas said in his speech. "From the bottom of my heart, God bless you all and God bless America."



Maria Bambrick-Santoyo, left, and Catherine Mulroe from St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish at the Catholic Charities gala held last May.

## Official Appointments

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



### ARCHDIOCESAN AGENCY MINISTRY

**Reverend Monsignor Renato Grasselli**, rector of Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Kearny, has been appointed to another three-year term as rector, ending July 1, 2021.

### PASTOR

**Reverend Esterminio Chica**, administrator of Christ the King Parish and Our Lady of Sorrows in Jersey City, has been appointed pastor at those parishes, effective immediately.

### ADMINISTRATOR

**Reverend John Berchmans Antony**, parochial vicar of

Madonna Parish in Fort Lee, has been appointed administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish in Jersey City, effective July 1, 2019.

### PAROCHIAL VICAR

**Reverend Brian O. Gonzalez**, parochial vicar of St. Aloysius Parish in Newark, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Joseph and St. Michael Parish in Union City, effective Feb. 1, 2019.

### RELEASED

**Reverend Ivan Sant**, released to the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, has had his release extended for three years, ending Sept. 1, 2021.



## Senior residence at St. Peter the Apostle celebrates anniversary

RIVER EDGE—The Senior Residence at St. Peter the Apostle recently marked its fifth year with a lunch for its residents and prayer of thanks by Tulio (last name withheld), a resident of the community.

"I am so very grateful to be here, with my friends and family nearby. On cold winter days like this, I am particularly thankful not to be alone in my apartment. I

was really lonely then and now I have lots of friends and great food; I have gained 10 pounds since I moved in. The family environment enhances positive and community spirits," said Tulio, who has resided at the residence since it opened.

The Senior Residence is a community of 23 seniors and is housed in a former convent on the grounds of St. Peter the Apostle



Submitted photos

Parish. Meals are shared together by residents in the sunlit dining room, creating a home-like environment. The convent's chapel now serves as a library and sitting room and is a favorite gathering place for residents.

"The Senior Residence is unlike many other senior communities," said Community Manager Gina Principato, who helped plan and open the facility. "We are a small family—we argue, we laugh, but, most importantly, we love. The limited size enables us to know our residents on a person-

al level. We know who likes broccoli and who does not. We care for them as if they were our own."

In addition to three home-cooked meals a day, The Senior Residence provides weekly house-keeping, recreation, assistance with medication and transportation coordination. "We are not a medical facility," Principato explained. "We support our residents so they may remain independent for as long as possible."

For more information, call 201-225-0707 or visit [www.stpetersresidence.org](http://www.stpetersresidence.org).

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**Sister Sebastian Conlon, F.S.P.**

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 3 at Marian Woods Chapel in Hartsdale, N.Y., for Sister Sebastian Conlon, F.S.P., 95, who died Dec. 30.

Born in Jersey City, Sister Sebastian attended Fordham University and earned a master's

degree in Latin from St. Bonaventure University, Olean, N.Y.

She entered the Franciscan Sisters of Peace Sept. 8, 1941. Sister Sebastian was a teacher at the Academy of St. Joseph of the Palisades in West New York and St. Joseph School in Bogota. She

was also assigned to several schools throughout New York.

**Sister Evelyn Lebiez, S.C.**

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 4 at Holy Family Chapel in Convent Station for Sister Evelyn Lebiez, S.C., 83, who died Jan. 1.

Formerly Sister Malwina Anne, Sister Evelyn entered the Sisters of Charity on Sept. 6, 1953, and was a member for 65 years.

She graduated from All Souls' Hospital School of Nursing in Morristown, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Seton Hall University and a master's in maternal and child health from Boston College.

Sister Evelyn served in the health ministry as a maternity nurse and midwife at St. Mary's General Hospital in Passaic. She worked in nursing at facilities in Massachusetts, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, New Mexico and Florida. She also served at the Sisters of Charity Mission in Caranavi, Bolivia, and on the island of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Upon her return to New Jersey, Sister Evelyn lived at St. Joseph Hospital Convent in Paterson, and

volunteered at St. Joseph Rehabilitation Center in Cedar Grove.

**Sister Barbara Brady, S.C.**

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 7 in The Villa at Florham Park for Sister Barbara Brady, S.C., 85, who died Jan. 2.

Formerly Sister James Marian, Sister Barbara entered the Sisters of Charity on March 6, 1955, and was a member for 63 years.

Sister Barbara graduated from the College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station and earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Scranton.

She served as a teacher at St. Patrick School, Jersey City (1957-1959); Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Tenafly (1963-1969), and as principal from (1969-1972); and at St. Augustine School, Union City (1972-1981).



## Two-day spiritual conference to offer hope, healing

EMERSON—Today, many Catholics are angry, fearful and confused by recent events and the state of the Church. "God's Victory thru Mary," a spiritual conference presented by the John Leaps Foundation, will be held Feb. 1 and 2 at Church of the Assumption Parish. The conference will combine noted national Catholic speakers and personal testimonies with music, worship and community time to help Catholics refocus on God's presence and discover the victory over the challenging times foretold through Mary more than 400 years ago.

"These dark times for the Church were revealed in a series of apparitions of the Holy Mother beginning Feb. 2, 1594," explained Karen Japzon, director of John Leaps. "The apparitions were confirmed by the Church, and today, with our event coinciding with the anniversary of the first apparition, we are working to share the joyful news the Holy Mother made known to us. Our goal is to dispel the fear and confusion many Catholics are feeling."

The conference will be held Friday evening, 6-8 p.m., with sessions all day Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. The \$50 online registration covers both days. Tickets at the door are \$60. For more information and to register, visit [www.johnleaps.com](http://www.johnleaps.com) or call 800-313-6933.

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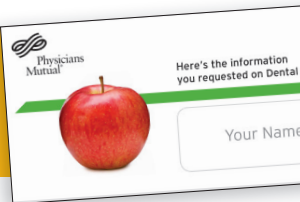
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Submitted photo

On Jan. 8, St. Mary of the Assumption High School in Elizabeth dedicated its Writers' Corner to John Adair, an English professor for 50 years at Cumberland County College in Vineland who died Jan. 11, 2018. The room showcases 1,750 first edition books from the late educator's personal library. Adair's wife, Marie (right), executive director of New Jersey Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, donated the collection. It was through her friendship with Dr. Mary M. Reece (left), director at the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association's Foundation for Educational Administration, that the books found their new home. Reece's husband, Gary, is an alumnus of St. Mary and founded the Writers' Corner, which is a student workshop. Also present at the dedication was Willa Spicer (seated), former deputy commissioner of the NJ Department of Education.

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The successful candidate must be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing with a Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW) and 2-4 years of human services, case management and/or counseling experience.

The preferred candidate must have a valid driver's license and a willingness to conduct site visits when needed. This individual will also need to possess strong verbal and written communication skills and be able to collaborate effectively with others in ministry. Knowledge of Word and Excel is required. Multi-lingual, including Spanish, is desired.

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# Consecrated life a gift that has touched us all

By Lisa Abrusia

**O**n Feb. 2, 2019, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., will celebrate the World Day for Consecrated Life with a Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Everyone is invited to join with him in celebrating this special day to honor the men and woman religious of the archdiocese who are celebrating their anniversaries as priests, nuns, sisters and brothers this year.

St. John Paul II understood there was a great need in the Church for a day set aside for prayer dedicated to all persons in consecrated life. He instituted this day on Feb. 2, 1997, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Also known as Candlemas Day, when candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world, so too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The whole Church will gather together to thank God for the great gift of religious life, a gift that

has touched us all. Consecrated life is rooted in one's baptismal call—a relationship that is nurtured and bonded within family life and is enriched in the life of the Church. The family life of the Church continually nourishes and sustains all types of vocations.

Sister Patricia Wormann, O.P., delegate for religious of the Archdiocese of Newark, understands how important it is to encourage each other in our vocations within the Church. In 1976, she was a young, “shy” sister and was invited to minister at St. Andrew's Parish in Westwood. Because of the parishioners, she came to a deeper realization of her call. “They helped shape, form and prepare me for my religious vocation by helping me to look deeper within myself,” Sister Patricia said. “Living out consecrated life is a way of being in the Church. I was not conscious of many of my gifts and talents, but because the parish community called them forth, I found new ways of ministering and relating to the people of God.”

She believes that vows “free a

person” to be more present in the world. “Every Christian is called to live the evangelical counsels,” Sister Patricia added. “Because of our varied vocations, we live them differently, but they are a Gospel call. For religious, they are called to live vows publicly. Although money, sex and power are good in themselves when used in the right way, by themselves they cannot make us totally happy, only God can make us happy. The vows free a person, enabling them to live more simply.”

There are various ways of living consecrated life within the family of the Church. There are religious priests, brothers, sisters, nuns and monks who make a profession of the evangelical vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, lived within a community. There are also consecrated virgins and widows who take private vows to the local bishop as they live out their vocation in various walks of life. Also, there are those in secular institutes who bless the Church in their own special call.

There is no greater time than now for the archdiocese to stand to-

gether to acknowledge, at the heart of the Church, the men and women who dedicated themselves, after the example of Mary, as consecrated persons. St. John Paul II stated in his apostolic exhortation *Vita Consecrata*: “In effect, the consecrated life is at the very heart of the Church as a decisive element for her mission, since it ‘manifests the inner nature of the Christian calling’ and the striving of the whole Church as Bride toward union with her one Spouse.”

Each of us is called to share in the life of the Church as family. We deal with the good, the bad and the ugly just as all families do, but we do it together and with the fraternal bond of an undying love that comes from our relationship with our Lord Jesus.

On Feb. 2, may we gather with those in consecrated life in gratitude for the many fruits we have received, from their rich sacrifices, their undying dedication and filial love.

*Lisa Abrusia is administrative assistant for Campus Ministry.*

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The Catholic  
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January 23, 2019

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 27 – February 2

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# St. Vincent Academy honors teachers celebrating 50 years of service

By Melissa McNally  
Editor

St. Vincent Academy in Newark is celebrating 150 years of educating young women. The Middle States accredited, college-preparatory high school was founded in 1869 by the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth. During a rededication ceremony in November, two teachers were honored for serving the school for 50 years: Sister Margaret Killough, S.C., and Jo-Ann Caporaso.

"It was such a beautiful program," said Sister June Favata, S.C., administrative director. The rededication included a presentation on the history of the school, highlighting 15 decades, and celebrated the academy's diversity with students in native dress from their respective countries. At the end of the assembly, the two educators were recognized for their service.

"They were shocked and thrilled," Sister June noted. "They knew about the program, but didn't know we were going to honor them."

Sister Margaret, or "Sister Peggy" as she is affectionately known, had a threshold named in her honor. "At the beginning of every school year, Sister Peggy is at the door greeting the students," Sister June explained. "It is a threshold of welcome and possibility dedicated to her."

"I felt like I had to remind the girls that I wasn't here for all 150 years," Sister Margaret said with a laugh.

Caporaso was equally surprised by the recognition. "Someone tapped me on the shoulder and



Submitted photos

Memorabilia was on display during St. Vincent Academy's rededication event highlighting 150 years of the school's history.

pointed out that my family was in the audience. I knew nothing about it," she said. "There were flowers and a plaque. I said it was the best thing this side of being dead. The only thing missing was the urn. I cry easily so, of course, I was in tears."

The third floor, where Caporaso taught for many years, was dedicated to her. "I was just so excited that my family got to meet the students; they are the best of who we are," she noted.

Sister Margaret, who started at the school in 1969, said she has seen the school evolve over the decades. "The demographics of the students have definitely changed, and I wore a full habit back then. Now, I wear regular clothes," she said. In 1978, St. Vincent established a leadership team, and since 1985, Sister Margaret has served as financial director. During her time at the academy, she has been a business teacher and taught accounting. She implemented a cooperative bosses program where young women interned at different businesses. Many of the students went on to work where they first interned. Sister Margaret also taught shorthand typing.

"(She) has a great sense of humor," said Sister June, who was also assigned to St. Vincent at that time. "I remember during her typing classes, she would play music like 'I Heard It Through the Grapevine' and had the girls type the lyrics. She made class fun. Sister Peggy was a very low-key, yet attentive teacher. She understands her students."

"It has always been a great school with cooperative families and disciplined, caring teachers," Sister Margaret added. "The students really love the school. They recognize that the teachers care for them and are good counselors."

As for Caporaso, she is a 1967 graduate of St. Vincent Academy. She served as a basketball coach at the school while she was in college. "They said there would be no basketball team because the girls didn't have a coach. I loved the sport and played when I was at St. Vincent. I volunteered to be the coach without pay. You just don't say no to a nun," she explained.

After graduating from Seton Hall University, she was offered to teach at Belleville Junior High School. Caporaso opted to work at her alma mater instead. "Everyone said that working at the public school would be a 'real job' with a higher salary. I chose to come back to St. Vincent because that's who I am and what I'm about," she said.

She taught history for many years and is currently on the academy's Freshman Team, which is where freshmen have classes with a core group of four teachers for most of the day. "It's like a school within a school," Caporaso explained. "There are a lot of adjustments freshmen have to make at high school. We work on behavior modification, mentoring and tutoring. We are available every single day after school for the freshmen."

Caporaso's dedication to the



Sister Margaret Killough, S.C., (left) and Jo-Ann Caporaso

school endears her to students and faculty alike. "Besides being an excellent teacher, she is so effective at her job because of her personality," Sister June said. "She's good at reading people and responding to the students' needs. She guides them, teaches them and helps to advance their growth as people. Jo-Ann is one of the first teachers students ask for when they come back from vacation. They feel close to her and are confident in her advice."

Both Caporaso and Sister Margaret said they are proud of the success the academy has had with students attending colleges and universities. Last year, 100 percent of the 63 graduates went on to further their education. The Class of 2018 also earned \$14 million in merit-based scholarships.

"We do the work and it pays off," Caporaso said. "For most of the students, earning scholarships is the only way they can afford to go to college." The teacher recalled a recent graduate who returned to visit St. Vincent and told her that she had made the Dean's List. "The student said she felt so prepared for college. Hearing her say that feels great."

Offering students in Newark and surrounding urban areas an opportunity to grow is what keeps Caporaso teaching at the high school. "We educate the entire person, not just academically, but we nurture their spiritual development," she said. "The face of the school might change, but at its core, that has always been St. Vincent Academy. That is what got me here and what keeps me here. I tell students all the time that they have to be willing to change the world for good. Our world is a mess and I'm too old. They have to be agents of change."



Jo-Ann Caporaso admires her dedication photo.





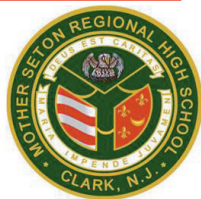
Submitted photos

Rebecca Starace (above, left) recently visited the kindergarten class at her alma mater, Visitation Academy in Paramus, with a very special guest—her dog, Daisy. The four-legged visitor was brought into the classroom through Paws to Read, a program that uses shelter cats or trained therapy dogs to improve the literacy skills of children. According to the organization, children who read aloud to animals on a regular basis demonstrate drastic improvement in their reading skills. Animals provide a safe, non-judgmental presence for struggling readers. Sharing books with pets helps children sustain concentration and focus while they enjoy the experience of reading.

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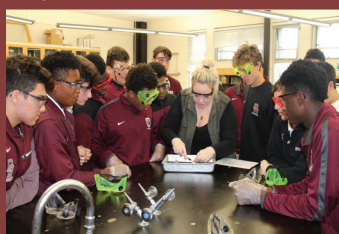


Submitted photos

The National Art Honor Society at Immaculate Heart Academy in Washington Township hosted its annual art alumnae event Jan. 9 at the campus art studio. Present honor society and art students heard from inspiring young alumnae who are currently studying various fields of art in college.



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Submitted photos

The St. Nicholas School robotics team, Leggo My Eggos, won first place in the Robot Design Award at the FIRST LEGO League's "Into Orbit" robotics competition. This was the Jersey City grammar school's first time participating at the event held at Liberty Science Center last month. The robotics team includes students in grades six through eight and is moderated by Ellen Millan with assistance from Ashley Benjamin. The New Hampshire-based charity FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology.

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# Social justice: the heart of the Church's mission, the heart of Catholic education

By Patty Rodriguez

During the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, we are called to reflect on the ways in which Catholic education works toward the mission of the Church. At the heart of this mission is Catholic social teaching. The Church reminds us that social justice “is not a marginal interest or activity, or one that is tacked on to the Church’s mission, rather it is at the very heart of the Church’s ministry of service: with her social doctrine the Church ‘proclaims God and his mystery of salvation in Christ to every human being, and for that very reason reveals man to himself.’” (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, 2004) In light of this, what does it really mean to learn, serve, lead and succeed from a Catholic perspective?

It is important for Catholic educators to be intentional regarding the role of Catholic social teaching in the formation of young people. Throughout the Archdiocese of Newark, Catholic schools and parish catechetical programs are involved in a variety of community service activities during the school year. Children and teens participate in activities such as food and clothing drives and Cross Catholic Outreach’s “Box of Joy” project, which ships gifts to children in need. Students also find opportunities for direct service as they share their time at soup kitchens, shelters, nursing homes and other agencies throughout the area.

However, in Catholic schools and parishes, these acts of charity and works of mercy are inspired by a deeper understanding of

what compels us as Christians to serve. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ reminds us that we serve not purely for humanitarian reasons, but rather out of a deep love for every human person. The educational resources used in our Catholic schools and catechetical programs teach young people about the seven themes of Catholic social teaching (e.g., The Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Care for God’s Creation). In this way, service is supported with learning about the Gospel, and teachers instill in their students not only a desire for immediate action, but also the realization that social responsibility is central to lifelong discipleship.

When learning about justice and direct service come together,



Patty Rodriguez

er, Catholic education prepares young people for leadership that stands firmly on Gospel values. This kind of authentic Christian leadership leads to the kind of success that God desires for His children—a world where there is true justice and enduring peace.

Patty Rodriguez is associate director of Catechist Formation and Enrichment, Union County Region.

For more information and resources on Catholic social teaching, visit [www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching).



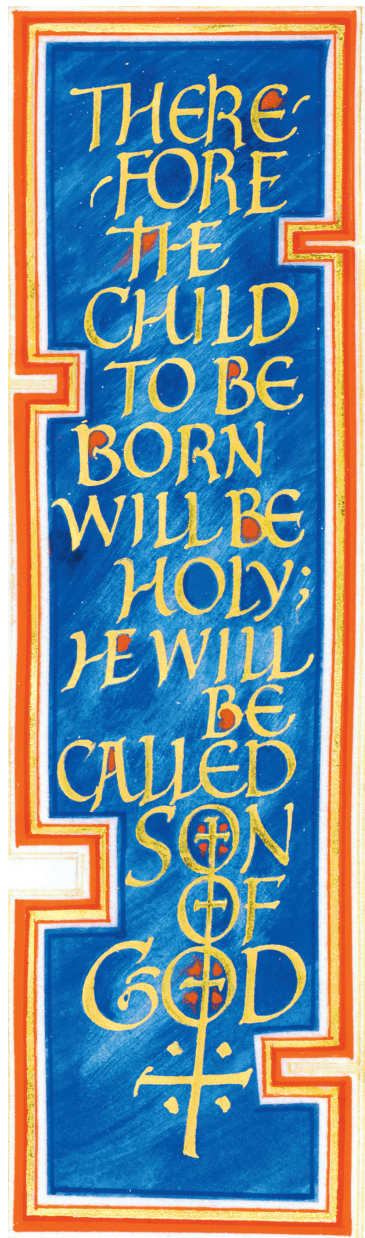
Submitted photos

Sacred Heart School in Jersey City welcomed a new mentoring project through the Friends of Delille New Jersey Chapter. The “Friend of a Friend” project, which began in November, focuses on the corporal works of mercy demonstrated by Venerable Henriette Delille, whose cause for sainthood is currently before the Vatican. If canonized, Delille would be the first U.S.-born African-American saint. The central principle of the mentoring project focuses on holiness, and students participate in activities that encourage team building, assist in developing leadership skills, as well as understanding the importance of service. The Friends chapter members visit Sacred Heart School once a month and work with the students on service, community building and conflict resolution. The project was recently approved for the Daniel Rudd Grant through the National Black Catholics Congress.





# Caldwell University to host St. John's Bible



*Therefore the Child To Be Born,* Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, *The St. John's Bible*, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

signature as its certificate of authenticity.

Throughout the year, Caldwell will present programs and lectures in theology, art, history, science, music and more as they relate to the Bible.

The public is invited to a launch celebration Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. A reception will follow. Groups are also invited to sign up for visits during the year by emailing [thesaintjohnsbible@caldwell.edu](mailto:thesaintjohnsbible@caldwell.edu) or by calling 973-618-3922.

Beginning Jan. 28, visitors to Caldwell University can experience a gift of sacred art—the St. John's Bible, the first illuminated, handwritten Bible of monumental size to be created in more than 500 years.

The project was commissioned by Benedictine St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minn., led by creative director Donald Jackson, senior scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office.

For one year, Caldwell will host the Heritage Edition of the Gospels and Acts volume of the Bible, a work of art that unites the ancient Benedictine tradition with today's technology.

"We are looking forward to sharing the St. John's Bible with the campus community and with the wider community," said Dr. Nancy Blattner, Caldwell University's president. "The Bible will provide many opportunities for study and discussions. We hope that it will promote dialogue, inspire hope and educate."

Over a period of 15 years, Jackson and six calligraphers handwrote all 1,150 pages on approximately 300 sheets of calfskin vellum with more than 160 major illuminations. The work was done in a scriptorium in Wales. A Jewish scribe drew the Hebrew script.

The first volume released was presented to Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican in April 2008. He said, "This is a work of art ... this is a great work of art ... this is a work for eternity."

The Heritage Edition is the only full-size limited signed and numbered fine art edition that will ever be produced.

Each volume includes Jackson's



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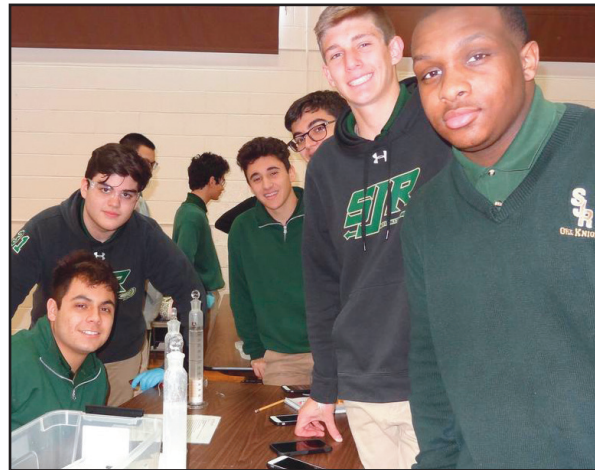
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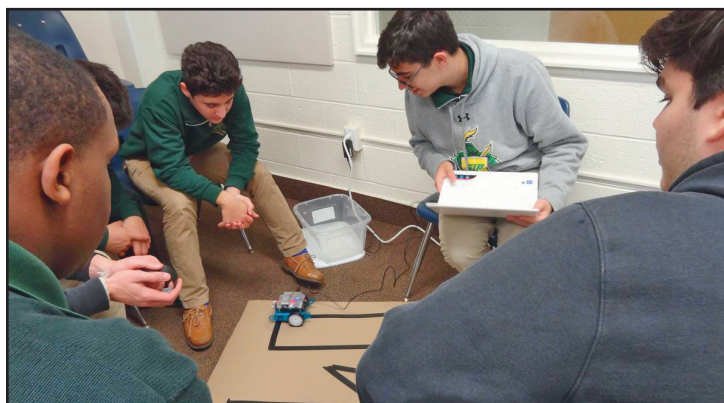
**Preparing lives. One by one.**





Submitted photos

Students from St. Joseph Regional High School in Montvale attended the Engineering Tomorrow workshop in Kearny on Dec. 12. The workshop began with an overview of engineering, highlighting various careers in the field. Students were split into groups to participate in activities focused on hydraulic and electrical engineering. "It is predicted that in 2025, 50 percent of the world population will be without clean, fresh water, so we were given the task to efficiently solve the problem," said student Sebastiano Rivero. Another task required students to program a self-driving car to move with coding so that it would travel through a maze. "All in all, it was a fun day with other students to see all of the different opportunities that a path in engineering can potentially lead to in the future," explained student Christopher Flug.



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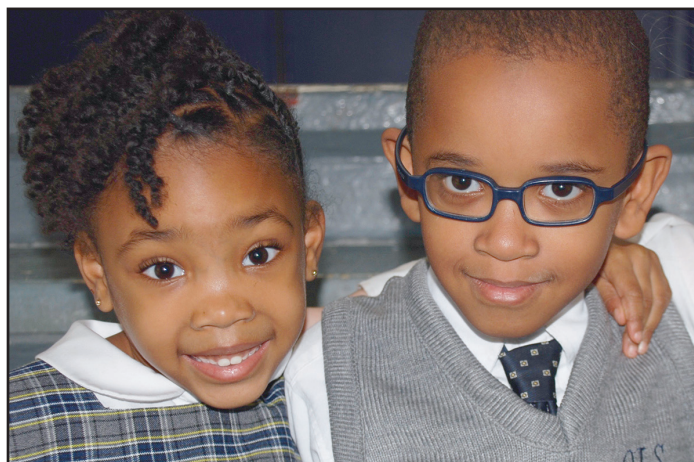
# Our Lady of Sorrows plans slate of Catholic Schools Week activities

SOUTH ORANGE—Students at Our Lady of Sorrows School are getting ready to celebrate Catholic Schools Week beginning on Sunday, Jan. 27.

Parishioners, students in full uniform, teachers and administrators will celebrate 10 a.m. Mass at the church, adjacent to the school on Prospect Street, to kick-off the

weeklong festivities.

Every year during Catholic Schools Week, the grammar school organizes fun and academically enriching activities for students. This year, immediately following the opening Mass, Our Lady of Sorrows School will host an open house in the gym from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event gives prospective



Submitted photos



parents and students the opportunity to get to know the school through private, student-guided tours. Guests will have the opportunity to meet with teachers and learn about the school's extracurricular activities, including forensics, sports and quiz bowl.

On Monday, Jan. 28, students are invited to the Scholastic Book Fair in the gym. The following day, students will participate in the Religion Bee, a competition that pits every student against each other, from first grade to eighth grade, to

answer topical religious questions.

The fun continues as students are treated to an off-site trip to The Funplex Center in East Hanover, which includes pizza, unlimited rides and game tokens for each child. One of the highlights of the week is Thursday's talent show, where parents are welcome to enjoy performances from the entire student body. Catholic Schools Week concludes Feb. 1 with an appreciation luncheon as an expression of gratitude for all teachers and staff.



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Despite being a blue chip prospect according to the Tennis Recruiting Network and being ranked 4th in the nation, Andrea gave up her junior year of high school tennis to focus on academics. "Tennis takes a toll on academic life," admitted the 17 year old Bloomfield resident.

She returned senior year to go 23-0, and win her second NJSIAA singles title, and her third Bergen county singles title. Over her three year high school tennis career, Andrea went 78-1, losing only in the state singles tourney freshman year.

Andrea also won big on the academic circuit. In the fall of 2019, she'll be attending the University of Michigan on a full scholarship studying Finance and playing tennis in the Big Ten.

Andrea said her time at PC blended athletics with "rigorous academics in a competitive and compassionate environment with a lot of caring people."

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# Program at Mother Seton helps students soar

CLARK—Mother Seton Regional High School has developed a program to help new Catholic high school students adapt to their environment. Now in its second year, the Success Through Academic Readiness (S.T.A.R.) program is designed to help students maximize their high school experience.

According to Principal Joan Barron, some new students at the college preparatory school can become overwhelmed, especially

if they have difficulty with organizational skills, taking standardized tests or are struggling with academics. The program has been widely acclaimed by parents, students and teachers as a much-needed support program that improves self-esteem and confidence.

JoAnn Zwiebel, the coordinator of S.T.A.R., works with new students, athletes and honors students who need her assistance. "My job is to help all students see that they can be successful," she said. "Our



program is unique because time is built in to the student's daily schedule for assistance, much like clubs and activities are also built in to the schedule at Mother Seton. This affords the girls extra support to discuss subject matter content about which they may need more clarification," Zwiebel supports English, history and sciences.

"We often forget that success in learning is not just about absorbing facts and formulas," said Corinne Wnek, director of guidance who proposed the S.T.A.R. program two years ago. "For academic

success to happen, students also need to be aware of the unwritten criteria that goes along with successful learning—namely time management, good note taking, study skills and learning how to approach a testing situation without anxiety."

Student Jasmahik Mander has experienced the benefits of S.T.A.R. firsthand. "It is nice to have another teacher in and out of my chemistry and English classes so when we break into our small learning groups, I benefit from Ms. Zwiebel being right there explaining material to all of us in a different way for us to understand," she said.

"It takes a weight off of our shoulders to receive extra assistance from Ms. Zwiebel when we need it. I also feel more confident now when I take tests," added sophomore Brittany Fields.

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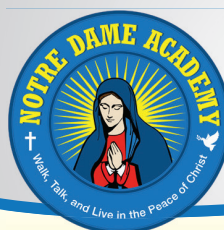
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## Operation Smile mission in Morocco transforms Mount student

WATCHUNG—"This kind of experience and opportunity was truly once in a lifetime," said Caroline Cull, a senior at Mount Saint Mary Academy and Scotch Plains resident. Cull recently attended a 12-day mission trip for Operation Smile in Tangier, Morocco. The organization provides free surgeries for children and young adults in developing countries who are born with cleft lip, cleft palate or other dental and facial conditions.

While in Morocco, Cull worked at Hospital Al Korto-bi, which is located on the coast across from Spain.

"My first two days were screening days," said Cull, who has been a member of the Mount Saint Mary Academy Operation Smile Club since her freshman year. She explained that during screening, 279 potential patients were medically assessed. "Some were not able to be operated on because they were either not healthy enough or because of resource or time limitations," she said.

While the medical professionals were working, Cull and her



Submitted photo

mission partner, Abigail DeMartini, played with children waiting outside to be screened, putting them at ease. She described the screening days as long, but said they were also able to fit in some sightseeing.

"The next day was our team day, which we spent in Chefchaouen, commonly called the Blue City. The week after this was surgery week. Our hospital had eight operating tables, which is more than most missions are able to have," explained Cull.

The medical team created new

smiles for 177 patients—four of which she observed. "During surgery week, we split our time between child life (where the patients went right before surgery), pre-op and post-op," she said. "The kids loved having a distraction from the pain or anxiety they were enduring and needed something fun to do."

Cull also had the opportunity to visit a patient shelter and a nearby school. "At the school, we presented health modules that we had been presenting all week (part of the student team's responsibilities) and talked to the kids about not

bullying people who are different from them after hearing many stories of discrimination back at the hospital," she said.

She recalled her interaction with the mother of a 15-year-old girl named Khadija who received cleft palate surgery.

"They were from Senegal," Cull said. "Khadija's mother had spent all of her money on one-way plane tickets to Tangier, and they had no way of getting back. They would have to stay in Morocco until they made enough money to make it back home. Abigail, our translator, our student sponsor and I were all deeply touched by this. We spoke to a couple of our friends who were nurses on the mission, and we scraped together enough money for the two of them to get back to Senegal."

Cull said the mission trip was transformative, and urges other students to consider participating.

"Operation Smile does life-changing work, and I was incredibly lucky to be a part of that and to help change someone's life," she added.

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# The good news in Catholic schools

By Sister Marie Gagliano, M.P.F.,  
and John O'Neil

**A**s we enter 2019, we would like to share the good news of the schools in the Archdiocese of Newark. Our schools trace many of their traditions to religious congregations. They have long traditions of serving the families of these communities. They are a rich collection traceable to the several religious orders that founded and/or administered the schools under the archdiocese for many years.

The schools have developed curriculums that match and exceed the requirements set by the New Jersey Department of Education. In addition to this rich learning, students at all grade levels have many other opportunities: service events in the schools and outside communities; STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) courses, fairs and expos; support of all learners through collaboration with our special education coordinator; tracking of grades in Power-

School and other related programs; exploring makerspaces and collaborative creation environments; and utilizing technology to support all learners in all subject areas.

Some of the unique opportunities in Catholic elementary schools include the ability to attend virtual high school courses through arrangements with an archdiocesan Catholic high school; participation in competitions such as FIRST LEGO League and Future City; and participation in sacramental preparation.

Catholic high schools offer students the opportunity to earn college course credits through arrangements with a number of local universities. These schools are places where young people can grow and explore their religious and academic endeavors, and receive support and guidance about their future plans.

It is true that tuitions have risen in Catholic schools due to the increasing costs of operating. Each school has developed programs of financial aid and scholarships.



Sister Marie Gagliano, M.P.F.

These programs and those sponsored by the Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children ([www.sficnj.org](http://www.sficnj.org)) can offer assistance to families that desire a Catholic education for their children.



John O'Neil

Sister Marie Gagliano, M.P.F., is assistant superintendent of Bergen and Hudson County elementary schools. John O'Neil is associate superintendent for secondary schools.

## superintendent of schools EDUCATION OUTREACH

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Submitted photo

As part of the fourth grade social studies unit on the Civil War, students at Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Park Ridge designed and made their own drums. Teacher Katharine Borghoff read excerpts from "The Diary of a Drummer Boy," a fictionalized diary based on the true story of Orion Howe, a Union drummer boy. As a STEM follow-up project, students used materials from the school's collaboratory—a creation environment where students can make projects and share ideas—to construct an original drum and a set of drumsticks. The project culminated with the students performing as a drum corps in their music class.

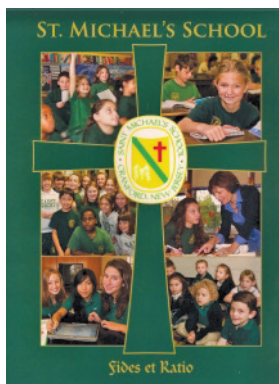
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Submitted photos

Nearly 70 alumnae received a warm welcome when they returned to the Academy of the Holy Angels in Demarest on Jan. 4 for the annual College Angels Reunion. Graduates from 2015 through 2018 gathered in the learning commons for a chance to catch up with former classmates, faculty and staff. The afternoon event, organized by the school's Office of Advancement and Alumnae Relations, included lunch with a dessert reception and hot chocolate bar. Alumnae continue to support their alma mater by contributing to scholarship funds, appearing as guest speakers in classrooms and acting as mentors.



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# Scholarship Fund hires new CEO



Submitted photo  
Dr. Michelle L. Hartman and Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., at last month's SFIC Christmas Breakfast.

The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) recently appointed Dr. Michelle L. Hartman as its new chief executive officer. In this position, Hartman will lead a major gift program to raise funds that provide economically disadvantaged students in grades K-12 with partial-tuition scholarships to attend private and parochial schools in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Hartman joins the Scholarship Fund after serving as executive director of Mary's Meals USA, an organization that provides daily school meals to more than one million children in need worldwide. Prior to Mary's Meals, Hartman served as the executive director of the New Jersey Region of the American Friends of Hebrew University and as director of operations and community affairs development at the Museum

of Tolerance in New York, a Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum. Her experience includes development, cultivation and stewardship of major gift prospects and donors, special events, marketing and overall administration of nonprofit organizations.

Hartman earned a bachelor's degree and masters in political science and social science from William Paterson University and a masters and doctorate in political science from the New School for Social Research, New School University in New York City. A Wyckoff resident, Hartman also served as a professor at St. Peter's University, Ramapo College and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Since 1983, the Scholarship Fund has provided nearly \$40 million in partial-tuition scholarships to more than 50,000 students. For more information about the Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children, visit [www.sficnj.org](http://www.sficnj.org) or call 973-497-4279.



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# Oak Knoll unveils student-designed stained-glass window

**SUMMIT**—More than a year's worth of work by Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child alumna and artist Christina Nguyen culminated Jan. 8 when the school officially unveiled a stained-glass display she designed to greet worshippers entering the Upper School chapel.

The roughly 6-foot by 8-foot, three-panel depiction of the Holy Child being held by the Virgin Mary was blessed by Father Scott Pontes, academic dean of religion at Oratory Prep School, during a ceremony that included faculty, staff and administrators, as well as Nguyen's family and some of her classmates from the Class of 2018.

"We want to thank Christina for her incredible work of art and her gift that she shared with all of us and that she's going to share with generations of Oak Knoll families," said Head of School Timothy J. Saburn,

who also thanked special benefactors who left a bequest to the school.

Creative Arts Chair Will Cardell, who first approached Nguyen during the spring of 2017 to design the stained-glass display, also praised her.

"The project is an extraordinary and unparalleled one as the school has never engaged a student in such an undertaking—one that would be typically offered to a professional," Cardell said. "But, as we are a school that believes in investing in the talents of our very capable students, the decision to give Christina this special assignment was embraced enthusiastically by the entire community."

Nguyen is currently a freshman at the University of Notre Dame. She thanked her family for their support and for sending her to Oak Knoll.

"Thank you to everyone who



Submitted photo

Christina Nguyen with Will Cardell in front of the stained-glass window she designed.

supported this project ever since that first meeting when I showed up with just three little sketches," Nguyen said.

She also thanked Cardell and Princeton-based artisan Zach Green, who translated her work from paper to glass.

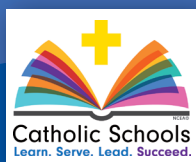
During the summer of 2017, Nguyen proposed three potential designs for consideration for the stained-glass window: the Nativity, the journey to Egypt and the Holy Child image.

The chosen design of the Holy Child, which originally incorporated two angels, was altered to include St. Francis of Assisi, an influential figure to Venerable Cornelia Connelly, the founder of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

With the inclusion of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, Nguyen added a dove and two cardinals, with the latter birds representing the living blood of Christ. Rays in the sky also incorporate the school's colors.



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# Cristo Rey prepares students for success in the workforce

By Father Robert J. Sandoz, O.F.M.

It was Colin Powell who said, "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work." How well all at Cristo Rey Newark High School know this fact. As a member of the Cristo Rey Network of schools, which now numbers 35 across the United States, we identify three outcomes of our education: academic, character formation and work readiness.

As with any college preparatory school, we have a rigorous course of studies that readies the graduate to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with student peers from any other community.

As a Catholic school, we actively form the students in their character formation according to the principles of values given to us by Christ. All of us, adults and students alike, are called to witness to the goodness and righteousness that the Gospel life presumes.

Our work-study program takes its place equally with academics and character formation. Business and corporate leaders have been pleading with educators for decades to prepare young people for the workplace. Often, these leaders report that after college graduation, young people are ill-prepared to work. Some have reported that it takes three months to prepare

## Living Our Faith

a person to become productive. The Cristo Rey model of innovative education addresses this need head-on and is making great progress in helping young people be productive immediately following their college graduation.

One example of this impact is our student Jamie. Jamie came to Cristo Rey as a shy student. She once wanted to become a physician. During her time at Cristo

Rey, she was placed at Prudential Financial, where she flourished and came to know her real passion. After graduating from Cristo Rey, Jamie secured a job at the company. She hopes to continue at Prudential after she graduates from Rutgers University in May. This is our success formula writ large.

During Catholic Schools Week, all of the Archdiocese of Newark can celebrate the treasure of Cristo Rey Newark High School. This mission is fully aligned with our Catholic teaching. Reaching back as far as St. Augustine's work "City of God" (published in 426 B.C.), we know that only by actively living faith, hope and love are we able to build that community that will truly advance the justice for all people and lasting peace forever. The same message is relevant for us today. Let us not forget the inspiring



Rev. Robert J. Sandoz, O.F.M.

words of Colin Powell and help our young people achieve their rightful place today in our City of God.

Father Robert J. Sandoz, O.F.M., is president of Cristo Rey Newark High School.

For more information about Cristo Rey Newark, contact Vice President for Work Study Teresa Austin at [taustin@crstoreynewark.org](mailto:taustin@crstoreynewark.org) or visit [www.cristoreynewark.org](http://www.cristoreynewark.org).

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