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# The Catholic Advocate

The community newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark



*United by faith*



On Saturday, May 25, six new priests will be ordained by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. The Class of 2019 includes (left to right) Father Jason Mantich, Father Cesar L. Chen, Father Juan Rojas, Father Steve B. Chun and Father Andrew J. De Silva. Father Chan Lee, inset, was in Rome when this photo was taken.

Advocate photo-Jennifer Brown



# Bishop David Arias, O.A.R., auxiliary bishop emeritus of Newark, dies at 89

Bishop David Arias, O.A.R., 89, entered into eternal life on May 9. He was the first Hispanic auxiliary bishop in New Jersey and served the Church as a pastor, author, teacher and community leader.

Bishop Arias was born July 22, 1929, in Mataluenga, Leon, Spain. He was one of seven children. At the age of 12, Bishop Arias began his studies that led him to the priesthood. He attended high school and college at St. Rita College in San Sebastian, Spain, and then joined the Order of Augustinian Recollects. From 1948 to 1952, he studied theology at Good Counsel Theologate in Monachil, Granada.

He was ordained a priest in Barcelona at the XXXV International Eucharistic Congress of 1952, a landmark event believed to be the single-largest ordination of priests in the Catholic Church—there were 830 priests ordained in Olympic Stadium. Following his ordination, he served as a priest and a professor, teaching cosmological and natural sciences at St. Rita College in Spain. Later, after studies in Rome, he became prefect of St. Augustine Seminary in Kansas City, Kan., and teacher of Church history, psychology and spiritual theology.

His parish assignments during his early years in the priesthood included Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Mexico City, where he served as

founding pastor; Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Fabens, Texas; St. Mary's Parish, Marfa, Texas; and again at Our Lady of Lourdes, Mexico City.

In 1967, Bishop Arias arrived in the Archdiocese of New York, where he served as director of St. Joseph's Center and spiritual director of the Cursillo movement. Founded in Spain in 1949, the movement focuses on fundamentals of the Catholic faith.

During a five-year period, from 1978 to 1983, Bishop Arias was director for Hispanic Affairs in the Archdiocese of New York and provincial vicar for the Augustinian Recollects in the United States. In 1983, he received a call from the apo-

stolic nuncio in Washington, D.C., who said Pope John Paul II had appointed him as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Archbishop Peter L. Gerety ordained Bishop Arias as auxiliary bishop in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on April 7, 1983. He was, at the time, only the 15th Hispanic bishop consecrated in the United States since 1974, and the first ever in the Garden State.

Soon after his episcopal ordination, Bishop Arias became the archdiocesan vicar for Hispanic Affairs, created the Board of Hispanic Ministry and the Hispanic Pastoral Commission, and began work on a new plan and study about the Hispanic population in the area. The archdiocesan pastoral plan for Hispanic Ministry, called *Presencia Nueva* (New Presence), was organized in 1989 and the Newark Archdiocese became the first in the nation to implement such a plan.

The goal of the plan was to embrace the large Hispanic population and integrate them into archdiocesan activities. Along with providing programs and movements to help the Hispanic community grow and participate in their spiritual life, the pastoral plan outlined six areas of focus: formation of lay leaders, evangelization, spiritual life, marriage and family, youth ministry and social services.

Bishop Arias was appointed regional bishop of Hudson County and, in 1994, was appointed pastor of St. Joseph of the Palisades.

He retired from active ministry on May 21, 2004.

Upon hearing the news of Bishop Arias' passing, Cardinal Joseph



W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., said, "Today, this local Church of Newark mourns a remarkable and trusted shepherd who guided the faithful wisely, well and with great pastoral care. When he was ordained a bishop in 1983, he chose a motto that reflected his love and dedication for the people of this Church: *Pascere Populum Suum*—to shepherd his people."



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## Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, President and Publisher

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# Felician designated a 'Purple Heart University'

Felician University was named a Purple Heart University by the Military Order of the Purple Heart on May 1. The award recognizes the university's effort in providing services to military members, student veterans and their families. The ceremony was held on the quad at the Rutherford campus. It began with a blessing and opening prayer and a welcoming address from President Anne M. Prisco. The Felician Gospel Choir also performed.

Felician's military-friendly degree programs have been designed specifically to meet the needs of veterans and members of the military. The fast-track curriculum features evening classes in eight-week sessions that allow military students to further their education with other veterans and adult students while working during the day.

Felician University provides various programs, services and staff support to enhance the academic experience and overall well-being of student veterans. They have access to study skills assistance and peer tutors at the Center for Learning,

free private services at Felician's Counseling Center and spiritual guidance through the campus ministry program. Felician also offers services and programs for student veterans such as the military grant and Yellow Ribbon Program. Felician University's Lodi campus features a Veteran's Lounge with a rest area, kitchen, study area and desktop computers.

Joseph Belardo, the New Jersey State Commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, said the

group is "working to recognize colleges and universities, towns and counties that exemplify service to veterans and show genuine concern. Veterans need guidance, understanding, support and a friendly environment."



Submitted photo

Panasonic Corporation of North America recently donated 500 baby monitors to maternity patients at Trinitas Regional Medical Center in honor of Mother's Day. "We are completely humbled and honored to receive such a generous gift from Panasonic. As our fellow servants in the Newark community, this is a true testament of an institution giving back to its local community," said Gary S. Horan, president/CEO of Trinitas.

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Kathy DiFiore-Founder

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# Pope Francis urges young people to be courageous; encounter Christ

WASHINGTON—In a message for the 56th annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 12, Pope Francis reflected on the reality that all men are made “bearers of a promise” and are asked to have the “courage to take a risk” with Jesus and for Jesus.

Held on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday, World Day of Prayer for Vocations unites the faithful together in praying for the fostering of all vocations, particularly those of ordained ministry and consecrated life. The day is inspired by the Lord’s instruction in the Gospels of Matthew 9:38 and Luke 10:2 in which Jesus exhorts the people to “ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

Pope Francis emphasized in his message that just as the Lord beckoned Simon and Andrew to leave their nets and follow Him, He also

asks the same of us. He encounters each of us personally and uniquely, and it is in the midst of this encounter with Christ that Pope Francis says we are granted “the promise of a joy capable of bringing fulfillment to our lives.” The Holy Father also urged those discerning to remember that “the Lord’s call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a ‘cage’ or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking.”

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., who serves as the chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, stated that it is precisely because of this encounter with Christ that we are given the courage to leave the security of our daily routines and decisively embark on the path the Lord has for us. “To have courage does



CNS photo

Pope Francis greets Scouts during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican May 1.

not mean that we suddenly have no fear or uncertainty,” Cardinal Tobin said. “To be courageous means to know with confidence that Jesus is walking with us and, in challenging us to take a risk, intends only our greatest joy.”

Also in his message, Pope Francis asked young people to realize that following Jesus is always worth the risk. “Do not be deaf to the

Lord’s call,” he urged. “If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust Him. Do not yield to fear, which paralyzes us before the great heights to which the Lord points us. Always remember that to those who leave their nets and boats behind and follow Him, the Lord promises the joy of a new life that can fill our hearts and enliven our journey.”

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# A note to women: we are all mothers

By Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P.

During the month of May, we thank God for our mothers and all we have received from them. It's also good to remember the other women who have played an important role in our lives, from grandmothers and aunts to teachers, coaches and mentors of all kinds. But it's also wonderful to rejoice that, as women, we all have a lifelong vocation to motherhood, whether physical or spiritual.

In his "Letter to Women," St. John Paul II praised women in their multiple roles: "Thank you, women who are mothers! You have sheltered human beings within yourselves in a unique experience of joy and travail ... Thank you, women who are wives! ... Thank you, women who are daughters and women who are sisters! Into the heart of the family, and then of all society, you bring the richness of your sensitivity, your intuitiveness, your generosity and fidelity."

John Paul II's words inspired many women and encouraged great-

er awareness of their feminine genius. I'd like to encourage women of all ages, but especially those of us who are not so young anymore, to embrace the mission of being spiritual mothers to the younger generations.

Evoking the image of a tree that lacks deep roots and falls in a storm, Pope Francis recently wrote that "it is impossible for us to grow unless we have strong roots to support us and keep us firmly grounded."

We achieve groundedness, the pope said, by remaining close to our elders and discovering the living richness of the past, by treasuring its memory and making use of it for our choices and opportunities. Helping young people to do this, the pope said, "is a genuine act of love." He calls on elders to draw close to the young and journey with them, for the elders have much to teach.

The pope's recent post-synodal



exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, to young people should inspire those of us who are not so young to be more aware of all that we have to share:

"Realize that there is beauty in the laborer who returns home grimy and unkempt, but with the joy of having earned food

for his family. There is extraordinary beauty in the fellowship of a family at table, generously sharing what food it has. There is beauty in the wife, slightly disheveled and no longer young, who continues to care for her sick husband despite her own failing health. Long after the springtime of their courtship has passed, there is beauty in the fidelity of those couples who still love one another in the autumn of life, those elderly people who still hold hands as they walk. There is also a beauty, unrelated to appearances or fashionable dress, in all those men and women who pursue their personal vocation with love, in selfless ser-

vice of community or nation, in the hard work of building a happy family, in the selfless and demanding effort to advance social harmony. To find, to disclose and to highlight this beauty, which is like that of Christ on the cross, is to lay the foundations of genuine social solidarity and the culture of encounter."

Fostering relationships, this culture of encounter, as Pope Francis calls it, is an integral part of the feminine genius.

Perhaps your children are grown and you feel that you have completed the job of mothering. Or perhaps, like me, your personal vocation did not include physical motherhood. By virtue of being women we are called to nurture others, and this vocation of spiritual maternity never ends.

So, look around and find the young people you encounter who are in special need of a mentor, an adopted grandmother or a wise friend. Reach out and share life's journey with them, for together we can learn from one another, warm hearts and inspire minds with the light of the Gospel.

Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P., is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.




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**Qualified Candidates should contact:**  
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## May 18

**Lumen Center**, Caldwell, "Our Call to Love: A Day of Retreat with Paula D'Arcy," 9:15 a.m.-3 p.m., \$50-\$60, call 973-403-3331 ext. 25 or email [lumencenter@caldwellop.org](mailto:lumencenter@caldwellop.org).

**Don Bosco Prep**, Ramsey, chapel concert featuring Claude Bolling's Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano with local artists, at 7:30 p.m. in Mary Help of Christians Chapel, call 201-327-6457.

## May 22

**Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry**, Archdiocese of Newark, Annual Gathering on Youth Ministry, at John Paul II Youth Retreat Center in Kearny, for those who work and volunteer with youth and young adults, 7-9:30 p.m., call Rich Donovan at 201-998-0088 ext. 4150 or email [richard.donovan@rcan.org](mailto:richard.donovan@rcan.org).

## May 25

**Assumption Parish**, Roselle Park, blood drive, also sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #3240, all donors receive free health screenings, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., call 201-251-3703 or 908-245-1107.

## June 1

**World Apostolate of Fatima (Our Lady's Blue Army Shrine)**, Asbury, First Saturday of Reparation, for five consecutive months, day includes 10:30 a.m. confessions, 11:30 a.m. recitation of the rosary, 12:15 p.m. Mass and 3 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet, call 908-689-1700 ext. 224 or visit [www.bluearmy.com](http://www.bluearmy.com).

## Seminary to host fundraising golf event

The 39th annual Judge Roger W. Breslin Cornerstone Golf Classic will be held Thursday, June 27, at the Cedar Hill Country Club in Livingston to raise funds for Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology.

Registration and lunch begins at 11 a.m., with golf starting at 12:45 p.m. The day will conclude with a cocktail reception and dinner.

Established in 1980, the annual golf event bears the name of its founder, the late Honorable Judge Roger W. Breslin Sr. Proceeds of this event benefit resident seminarians who experience unexpected financial need while they prepare for the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary.

Over the past 38 years, the Breslin Fund has helped purchase textbooks and has paid for uncovered medical expenses, emergency travel and other expenses, enabling seminarians to focus on their formation without financial concern.

For more information, contact Michael Burt at 973-275-2479 or [michael.burt@shu.edu](mailto:michael.burt@shu.edu).

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish**, Piscataway, 6th annual Divine Mercy Family Healing Retreat, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., featuring keynote speakers, blessing with the relic of St. Faustina, praise and worship, a healing service and Divine Mercy Chaplet, register by May 20, contact Max Gutierrez at 732-925-7788 or email [maxfler@yahoo.com](mailto:maxfler@yahoo.com).

## June 2

**Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities**, Archdiocese of Newark, gathering for moms and dads of individuals with disabilities, 10-year celebration of "Moms Supporting Moms" group, at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Bergenfield following 1:30 p.m. Inclusive Family Mass, group art activities for sons and daughters available, register at [www.rcan.org/moms-and-dads-save-date](http://www.rcan.org/moms-and-dads-save-date).

## June 6

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

## June 7

**Lumen Center**, Caldwell, "The Pause that Refreshes," weekend retreat at the Jersey Shore, at Emmaus House in Ocean Grove, through June 9, \$250, email [lumencenter@caldwellop.org](mailto:lumencenter@caldwellop.org) or call 973-403-3331 ext. 25.

## June 8

**Office of Family Life Ministries**, Archdiocese of Newark, Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents,

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



**Wednesday, May 15** 4 p.m.  
Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology Mass, graduation and hooding  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

**Thursday, May 16** 6 p.m.  
The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children Gala  
The Venetian, Garfield

**Friday, May 17** 7 p.m.  
Baccalaureate Mass for Felician University, Immaculate Conception Chapel, Lodi

**Saturday, May 18** 10 a.m.  
Mass and dedication of Centennial Wing  
Dominican Nuns, Summit

**Sunday, May 19** Noon  
Transitional diaconate ordinations

Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

**Monday, May 20** 9 a.m.  
Seton Hall University commencement  
Prudential Center, Newark

**Wednesday, May 22** 4:30 p.m.  
Mass and dinner celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States  
Little Sisters of the Poor, Totowa

**Saturday, May 25** 10 a.m.  
Priesthood ordinations  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

**Monday, May 27** 11 a.m.  
Annual Memorial Day Mass  
Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington

one-day retreat at Notre Dame Parish in North Caldwell, \$25/person or \$40/couple, register by May 28 at [www.emfgp.org](http://www.emfgp.org), contact Lauren Egan at 973-497-4327 or [lauren.egan@rcan.org](mailto:lauren.egan@rcan.org).

on the life of St. Anthony presented by Father Alessandro Ratti, O.F.M., at 3 p.m., vigil Mass at 5 p.m., call 201-327-1276.

## June 14

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

## June 15

**Immaculate Conception Parish**, Mahwah, "An Afternoon of Hope," veneration of the first-class relic of St. Anthony of Padua, veneration at 2 p.m., discussion

## June 16

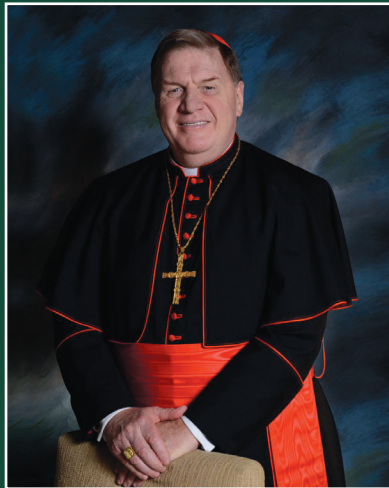
**St. Joseph Parish**, Oradell, veneration of the first-class relic of St. Anthony of Padua, veneration following each Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon, call Father Roy Regaspi at 201-261-0148.

## June 22

**Catechetical Office**, Archdiocese of Newark, "God's Word Today: Alive and Active!" Bible conference, at Seton Hall University, South Orange, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., \$25, Spanish track available, register by June 1 at [www.rcan.org/catechetical](http://www.rcan.org/catechetical) or call 973-497-4285.



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# Pontifical Mission Societies go to Washington

The annual national meeting of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States was held April 30-May 2 in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia.

The meeting's close proximity to Washington, D.C., provided an opportunity for the diocesan mission directors to visit the offices of members of Congress to advocate for issues important to the missionary Church. Chief among the Pontifical Mission Societies is the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which is the Church's primary source of mission support throughout the world.

"Because we are so close to the nation's capital, we decided to do something different, which is to turn our missionary experience into advocacy," said Father Andrew Small, O.M.I., national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies. "We figured out which kind of issues we would raise coming from our experience with missions around the world."

Msgr. Robert Fuhrman, pastor of St. Philomena Parish in Livingston, is also the director of the Pontifical Mission Societies for the Archdiocese of Newark and former assistant national director. He led a delegation of mission directors and national of-



Photo courtesy of *The Arlington Catholic Herald*

Msgr. Robert Fuhrman, center, visited the national office staff of Sen. Cory Booker in Washington, D.C.

fice staff to the office of Democratic Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey. The senator was not present but had arranged for the group to be met by two of his staff.

"We are the people of America, so we came to express our issues, and that communication should be the normative approach to political dialog in our great nation," Msgr. Fuhrman said after the gathering. "Some issues that are very important in mission territories include the most basic human rights. We are concerned about the 'progress of peoples,' respect for the human person, a fair and compassionate reform of immigration law. There are issues around refugees and people seeking

asylum that should be addressed, not just here in America but everywhere. This is not something haphazard or careless. It is a plea for compassion toward those in political crisis or facing extermination."

While in Sen. Booker's office, the group also discussed religious freedom, the human right to be able to worship God and live a life of faith without fear of violence, terrorism, persecution or discrimination. "I think the senator's staff people were well-prepared, were good listeners and understood our perspective. I did remind all present that it is the sanctity of life that is the most basic human quality of all, and that gives us our human rights and binds together all

the rest," Msgr. Fuhrman said.

Other groups of missionary delegates visited the offices of Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas; Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.; and some members of the House of Representatives.

Earlier in the day, Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington celebrated Mass for all those at the national gathering. Acknowledging the advocacy meetings, he blessed the participants, saying that they will be "a voice of the immigrants and most vulnerable, a voice for those whose voice is so often dismissed or unheard. I respectfully encourage you for your good work to continue to promote a universal missionary spirit."

## Parish to celebrate milestone anniversary with historic walking tour



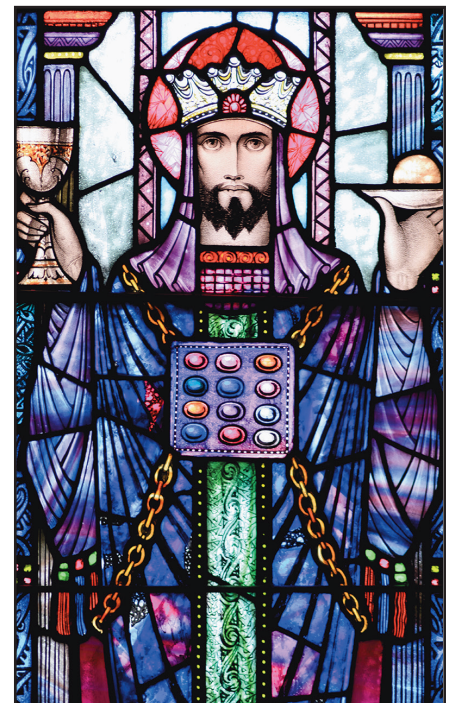
St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bayonne will celebrate its 125th anniversary by hosting a walking tour on Saturday, June 8.

The program will begin at noon with a presentation by church historians Priscilla Ege and Peter Keenen O'Brien. It will include a visual presentation highlighting the history of the church, its architecture and its stained-glass windows designed by renowned Irish artist Harry Clarke. A guided or self-guided tour of the interior and exterior of the church will follow.

St. Vincent de Paul has the distinction of being on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and was recognized by the Bayonne Historic Preservation Commission as a local landmark.

The church's history began in 1894 when Bayonne was prospering as an industrial town thanks mainly to the oil industry. Irish and German Catholic laborers made their way to the area seeking work and a better life.

The present church, located at 979 Avenue C, is an example of Romanesque Revival style of church architecture with Lombard influence of Northern Italy.



Submitted photos



# Educating student funeral directors for a greener, more compassionate experience

By Maxim Almenas

Students in the funeral service program at Eastwick College's Hackensack campus recently toured the Maryest Cemetery and Mausoleum in Mahwah. The students were able to experience the beauty and serene landscape of New Jersey's first Catholic and natural/green burial site.

Instead of headstones, the students discovered engraved boulders, memorialized birdhouses and learned of a maintenance garage converted into a "Nature Center." They also observed the plots are set at a viewing distance with wildflowers and native plants and trees growing harmoniously.

"Our thought was to introduce the boy scouts, the girl scouts and different youth groups to come to the cemetery, not to fear the cemetery. This is a place of healing, it's a peaceful place," said Andrew Schafer, executive director of Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark, whose inspiration for the site came after he camped at many of the U.S national parks with his family.

To create a natural habitat for wildlife, approximately 5,000 trees, 2,500 shrubs and numerous native grasses and plants populate the area. There is also a gazebo overlooking the green burial area and

a natural path adorned with a life-size statue of St. Francis of Assisi taming a wolf.

For Catholic families who prefer an eco-friendly memorial or for those who may want an alternative to cremation, the natural burial section offers more earth-conscious methods, including biodegradable caskets.

For student and Newark resident Dedra Moore, studying funeral directing seemed like a natural calling after providing hair and makeup services for the deceased. It started on a whim when a friend contacted Moore, already a seasoned hair and makeup artist. Although she felt uncomfortable with the idea at first,

the fear quickly passed.

"I felt the way they want to be treated in life they would want to be treated in death, handled with care. Make them look pretty," said Moore. "I'm glad they trusted me. It felt good to be part of that process."

Rosemarie Reilly helped launch the associate degree funeral service program at Eastwick College. As program director, she enjoys teaching the students and is noticing new trends in the field.

"When I went to school, we were predominantly family-owned businesses," said Reilly. "And now I don't think we have one student in a family business. And women were only about 3 percent in the field."



Photos courtesy of Catholic Cemeteries

Women are now over 50 percent in the field."

Schafer believes whether you work at a funeral home or a cemetery/mausoleum, it is all part of a greater ministry. "You build your own heritage. And people will go back to the same funeral home or director," Schafer explained. "You may never own your own funeral home, but you'll create your own heritage just by being a good person and taking care of those families the way they deserve to be treated—with trust, respect and dignity. That's what it's about."

Maxim Almenas is the marketing manager for Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark.



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# Where traditional learning meets modern technology

by Roseanne Dattilo-Schack

Since 1916, Holy Trinity School has provided a quality Catholic education to Westfield and the surrounding communities. A 2011 National Blue Ribbon and a Middle States accredited school, its mission is to educate students to actualize their full, individual potential, both spiritually and academically.

The technology lab at Holy Trinity School's Westfield campus looks like you'd expect—computers, a SMART Board and 3D printer, a technology teacher leading a room full of kindergartners, happily clicking away.

Wait, kindergartners? Yes, technology is part of the curriculum for all students. They receive 40 minutes of computer instruction each week, tailored to each grade level. Recently, kindergartners through third-grade students learned online research skills,



which also reinforced reading and vocabulary.

The kindergarten class has a weekly routine: checking a live feed of their favorite animals at the San Diego Zoo, squealing with excitement seeing the pandas and koalas they've come to know. "Where are the tigers?" asked Jill Spellman, the technology teacher. "They must be sleeping." A kindergartner answered back, "They are nocturnal."

Next, Spellman showed the kindergartners how to navigate an online picture dictionary, controlling their computers from hers. They completed a worksheet giving clues about the types of animals they would be searching for in the online dictionary.

Third-graders had a similar lesson. Intent and focused, they looked for occupations, such as meteorologist, and then filled in their worksheets. Even in computer class, traditional learning meets the modern. Students wrote zoologist and astronomer on the worksheets in cursive writing, which is standard at Holy Trinity School.

In December, students take part in Code.org's global Hour of Code program, according to Spellman. She added, "At Holy Trinity, we have a month of code." Students of all grade levels enjoy coding so much and, with a flexible

curriculum, Spellman can adjust the lesson plan to the interest of each particular class.

At Holy Trinity, computers and technology are not just confined to the computer lab. The school has SMART Boards in every classroom, as well as iPad and Chromebook carts. Students in seventh and eighth grade have dedicated Chromebooks, and that will soon be expanded to the entire middle school. Each family and middle school student has an email account to enhance communication through Google Classroom. Students are taught data literacy and productivity tools, including proper internet citizenship, in keeping with the religious values emphasized in all subject areas at Holy Trinity.

*Roseanne Dattilo-Schack is a teacher at Holy Trinity School in Westfield/Mountainside.*

*superintendent of schools*  
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# Attending Mass: a skill to be learned for individuals with autism

By Anne Masters

“We wanted to attend Mass each week as a family so badly. However, we couldn’t anymore because our son, who has autism, would have major meltdowns,” shared Palma Wasilenko. “Twice an usher asked us to leave because of his behavior. That was very painful. If our pastor and other parish leaders had not been so supportive through that time, I don’t know what we would have done. Anthony had celebrated his first Holy Communion, but going to Mass was so hard because of his meltdowns.”

Families such as the Wasilenkos are not alone. I have spoken with parents throughout the Archdiocese of Newark and all over the world who share this experience because many individuals with autism are unable to participate in community events unless taught through a structured process. Learning to attend Mass is really the first step of sacrament preparation. How else will he or she develop a sense of belonging within the Church? It also denies the communal essence of Eucharist.

The Office for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities worked with Caldwell University Center for Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis to develop the Attends Mass program in 2008-2009. Based on the needs expressed by families of loved ones who have autism, who were not yet successful at participating regularly in weekly liturgies, we were able to develop the program with an amazing group of generous-hearted professionals who donated their time. However, that is not a sustainable model. The cost is approximately \$5,000 to \$7,400 per learner for the appropriate support professionals and materials. We will need to seek funding to provide Attends Mass if it is to become available in the archdiocese.

We cannot underestimate the importance of supporting individuals with autism to participate in Mass. Gathered together at Sunday Eucharist is not only an important source of nourishment in our life, it is also



Submitted photo

an important part of feeling and being part of the parish community. Faith communities are an untapped source for individuals with disabilities to form relationships and learn new skills. As Catholics, we believe in the obligation to nurture human flourishing. Helping individuals with autism and other disabilities to attend Mass and participate in parish life is an example of that. It is also particularly relevant here, given that 1 in 34 children in New Jersey is diagnosed with autism.

It is very traumatic for families

who do not feel welcomed by their parish because of their loved one’s disability, where they expect to be welcomed. If their loved one is not accepted, most likely the family looks elsewhere for a faith home or, worse, experiences a spiritual crisis.

“It is so important for families to attend Mass to continue practicing our faith, which helps us to get through the tough times,” Wasilenko said. “But, we also need a supportive parish to help us work through life’s challenging questions, just like any other family does.”

The Wasilenko family worked with Casi Healey, an applied behavior analyst in charge of the program with Anthony. “We couldn’t even be in the church for Mass when Anthony was first learning,” his mother said. “That was hard, we didn’t like dropping him off, but we trusted Casi. She was fabulous to work with and a dream come true. After only six months, we were attending Mass as a family with our beautiful son. He made tremendous progress with the program.”

Trust is key in the process, Wasilenko explained. Anthony went on to celebrate confirmation as well. “We highly recommend the Attends Mass program for every individual with autism who cannot participate in Mass each week. It really works. There is light and hope at the end of the tunnel; everyone just needs to believe,” she said.

To assist Cardinal Tobin’s understanding of the pastoral needs of the archdiocese, we are distributing a survey to validate the extent of the need and interest in the Attends Mass program. If you don’t have a loved one with autism, share it with families you know who do. You can access the link for the survey at [www.rcan.org/attends-mass-survey2019](http://www.rcan.org/attends-mass-survey2019). The survey will run for approximately six weeks.

Anne Masters is director of Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities.

If you have any questions, please contact Anne Masters at 973-497-4309 or [anne.masters@rcan.org](mailto:anne.masters@rcan.org).

## RENEW partners with archdiocese for ‘Healing Our Church’

RENEW International, an organization that creates Catholic small-group resources, is partnering with the Archdiocese of Newark to implement its “Healing Our Church” (*Sanando Nuestra Iglesia*), a pastoral response to the sexual abuse crisis in the Church. This six-session book is part of Cardinal Tobin’s initiative Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead, which seeks to establish a foundation for healing and renewed missionary discipleship in the archdiocese.

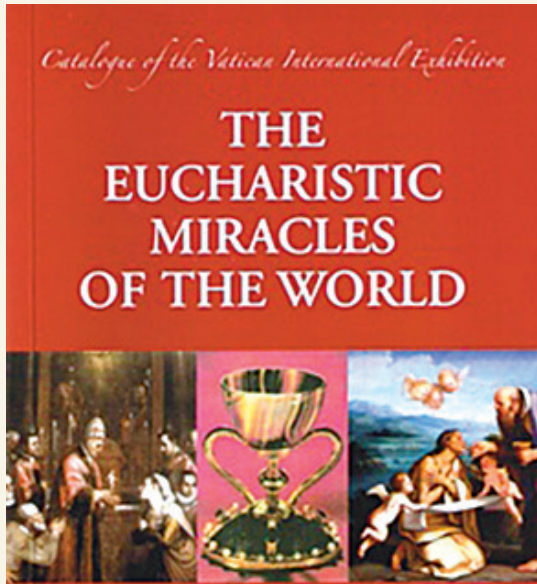
“Healing Our Church” will begin the process by encouraging participants to share their feelings about the crises, embrace their role as members of Christ’s Body and discern and commit to meaningful actions.

This process, offered in both English and Spanish, will be guided by the RENEW pastoral services team in coordination with Sister Donna Ciangio, O.P., chancellor of the archdiocese. An informational session providing an overview for clergy and lay leaders was held on May 8 at the Archdiocesan Center. Specialized training sessions will follow in the coming months for both pastoral teams and individual group leaders. Parish small groups will begin meeting this fall.

For those interested in “Healing Our Church,” contact Peter Fiore at [peterfi@renewintl.org](mailto:peterfi@renewintl.org) or 908-769-5400 ext. 110. For more information about this resource, visit [www.healingourchurch.org](http://www.healingourchurch.org).



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# Answering the call to priesthood

By Father Eugenio de la Rama

**W**hy would anyone want to do something as crazy as become a priest? None of it makes sense if you think about it. Priests do not marry or have children because of celibacy. They do not earn a lot of money because they promise to live a simple lifestyle. They need to move anytime the bishop asks them to because they promised obedience.

Additionally, we know that many priests are overworked because of the growing demands of parish life. Throw in the fact that the newest revelations of scandal in the Church have forced them to face the hundreds, if not thousands, of the faithful they serve who are rightfully demanding answers and you have just forced a man to do a job his seminary studies could not have possibly prepared him to do.

Yet, these men keep showing up. Since Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled the priesthood with the apostles, the Church has benefited from the ordained ministry of priests for more than 20 centuries. Wars, plagues, heresies, revolutions, persecutions, schisms, anti-popes, scandals and even oppressive governments have not stopped men from offering to give their entire lives to the Church and leave it all on the battlefield for the cause of Christ.

Why? Why trade the comforts of Belgium for a leper colony in the middle of the ocean like St. Damien of Molokai? Why scream something so incendiary like, "Long live Christ the King!" when you are staring down the barrel of a gun simply because you would not renounce Christ like Blessed Miguel Pro? Why volunteer to take the place of another man headed for death in a concentration camp like St. Maximilian Kolbe? All of these priests died as a result of the very circumstances they chose to serve under.

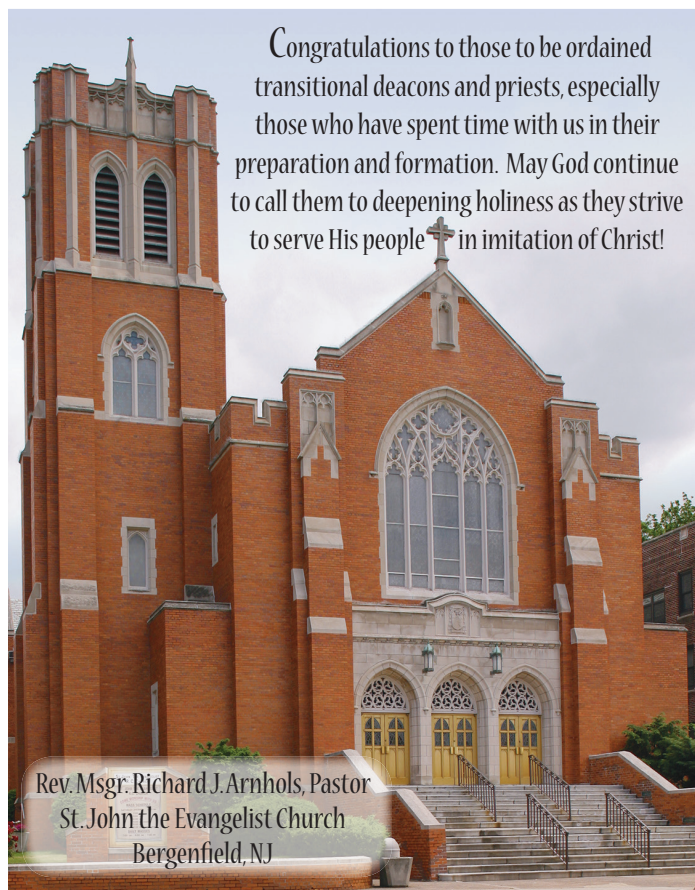
The trend remains: God calls priests within the intimacy of their hearts. Whether it be as a boy serving Mass or as a fully grown man in the workforce, a priest can tell you the story of the moment he was coveted by the Lord as if it happened yesterday. Regardless of the era, the experience of being called to the priesthood is the same—he does so in a way that is profoundly indisputable.

Why would anyone want to do something as crazy as become a priest? Because God asked him to—"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn 15:13)

*Father Eugenio de la Rama is director of the Office of Priestly Vocations.*







## Reverend Jason Mantich

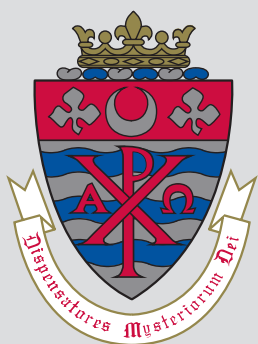
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Reverend Mr. Jae Joo  
Reverend Mr. Nicholas Sertich

Reverend Steve Chun  
Reverend Andrew De Silva  
Reverend Chan Lee  
Reverend Juan Rojas

*May God bless you in your future priestly ministry.  
Ad multos annos!*

# CLASS OF 2019: *United by faith*

By Melissa McNally and Kelly Marsicano

**S**ix men will be ordained priests of the Archdiocese of Newark by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on May 25. Most of this year's class were born in other countries, including South Korea, Panama and Colombia. The ordinandi include a former banker, a former biotechnical engineer and a member of the U.S. military. From all over the globe, the newly ordained priests represent the true universality of the Church, united by faith.



Advocate photo-Alexandra Pais

## FATHER CESAR L. CHEN

**Age:** 50

**Birthplace:** Panama City, Panama

**Home parish:** San Gerardo Mayela, Via Cincuentenario, Panama

**Education:** B.S. in computer science from Suffolk University in Boston, Mass.

Father Chen worked as an IT manager prior to entering the seminary in 1997. As one of four children growing up in Panama, his faith and the faith of his family were transformed by the Neocatechumenal Way, a charism dedicated to Christian formation.

"Through the Neocatechumenal Way, I got to know many people who played a role in further convincing me that in my baptism laid the answer to many of my personal problems. This brought me closer to God, the Church and, accompanied by a community of believers, ultimately helped me find my vocation that I would otherwise never have thought possible nor even found by myself," Father Chen explained.

Amidst the current turmoil surrounding the priesthood, he resolves to focus on the positive aspects of Christianity, like "forgiveness, reconciliation, love" rather than "hatred, division, judging and accusations."

Father Chen moved to the United States in 1989 and served as a deacon at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Lodi, where he will celebrate his first Mass as a priest.



men God calls to His priesthood and whether I was being called to priesthood or not. At the retreat, I felt like all of the questions I had were answered and the retreat was catered just for me, even though there were a number of other guys there," he explained.

The day after the retreat, Father Chun participated in a service trip to Haiti where he discovered that there is a deeper meaning to his existence than "what I can obtain in this life." He entered Immaculate Conception Seminary in July of 2013. "I am looking forward to a life of the priesthood," Father Chun said. He hopes to "share what I have witnessed, that experience of life when you seek God and find peace in the presence of Christ."

## FATHER ANDREW J. DE SILVA

**Age:** 40

**Birthplace:** Quebec City, Canada

**Home parish:** St. Paul, Ramsey

**Education:** B.A. in liberal arts from Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, Calif.; M.A. in pastoral ministry and biblical studies from Seton Hall University

Father De Silva's path to the priesthood hasn't been a direct route. He said it was while he was working as a wine consultant and manager at a company in northern Virginia that he felt compelled to return to the faith of his childhood.

"I began to feel God's presence very strongly in my life, and once I let myself consider becoming a priest, I heard God calling me to give my life to Him. In particular, I felt and still feel the call to help those suffering or who have no love in their lives discover God's loving presence," De Silva explained.

As one of 10 children, he sought the opinion of his family when contemplating priestly life after college. "When I started opening up to the possibility that I was being called by God to consecrate my life to Him, I questioned numerous family members and friends asking for their advice," he recalled. "I asked, 'As those who know best my strengths and weaknesses, what career do you think I would be good at?'" The most consistent reply was that he would be adept in ministry.

He entered the seminary in 2016, where he developed a "prayerful Catholic fraternity" with other men. "I have made lifelong friends who are supportive in difficult times and joyful reminders of the personal invitation of Jesus Christ to be His priest," Father De Silva said.

He also currently serves as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves Chaplain Corps.



## FATHER STEVE B. CHUN

**Age:** 39

**Birthplace:** Seoul, South Korea

**Home parish:** St. Joseph, Demarest

**Education:** B.A. in Catholic Theology and M.Div. (Master of Divinity) from Seton Hall University, South Orange

Born in South Korea, but raised in Montvale, N.J., Father Chun worked as a banker before discerning his vocation. The oldest of three children, his family attended St. Joseph Parish in Demarest. He described that he had drifted away from the Church before starting "to fall in love with Jesus Christ" again. Father Chun recalled that God stirred in his heart six years ago while attending a retreat for men interested in vocation to the priesthood

"I wanted to find out more about the life of a priest and what kind of





## FATHER CHAN LEE

**Age:** 25

**Birthplace:** Cheonan, South Korea

**Home parish:** Church of the Korean Martyrs, Saddle Brook

**Education:** B.A. in philosophy from Seton Hall University; S.T.B. (Bachelor of Theology) from Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

Raised in Fair Lawn, Father Lee attended Church of the Korean Martyrs in Saddle Brook with his parents and older brother. Following ordination, he will celebrate his first Mass as a priest there.

He first heard the call to priesthood at the very same church while a senior at Bergen Catholic High School. At the time, he did not consider himself a "serious Catholic" but was required to complete 40 hours of community service to graduate. He asked Father Don Bosco Park, then pastor at Church of the Korean Martyrs, if he could help out as an altar server.

"He asked that I serve Mass and the Eucharistic Adoration that followed every Thursday, and I gladly accepted. It was during those one-hour periods in front of the Blessed Sacrament that made me face the reality of the call," Father Lee recounted. "I grappled with the choice to continue with my college admissions, which was set and confirmed at that point, or enter the seminary. Although I felt the call as being truly from God, my personal desire was to not enter, so much of my prayer was spent trying to 'convince God' that I wasn't really priest material."

The pastor asked a young Father Lee if he was truly happy with his life. That question propelled him to accept his vocation. "I was running away from God and I knew that I couldn't run forever. It was through God's providence that I served Mass every Thursday, and that my pastor and I had that conversation about my future. God was preparing me, gently showing me that I won't find happiness outside of His call for me. It was through these events that I became more open to seriously discerning the priestly vocation," Father Lee said.



been a part of the seminary since before I arrived and had become our workhorse for moving or hauling things around the grounds or off campus," he explained.

Sort of jokingly, Father Mantich prayed for new a pickup truck. "Well, He came through in a big way when, a few months later, someone I had never met before pulled up to the front door of the seminary and handed me the title and keys to his Ford F-250 4x4 Super Duty pickup truck. This donation was a big memorial for me and continues to be a huge help for the seminary."

## FATHER JUAN ROJAS

**Age:** 29

**Place of Birth:** Yarumal, Antioquia, Colombia

**Home parish:** Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge

**Education:** License in philosophy and religion from College Cristo Sacerdote, Yarumal; M.Div, M.A. in biblical studies from Seton Hall University

As one of six children, Father Rojas always knew he wanted to be involved in the Church. "I was raised in a very strong Catholic family, and I always wanted to help people to get closer to God and to build up the body of Christ, His Church," he explained.

While at the seminary, he recalled how serving at St. Joseph Medical Center in Paterson as part of his formation helped reaffirm his calling. During the eight-week program, Father Rojas visited with patients and their families.

"To meet our people in their very needs is a moment of grace that cannot be described. Both families and patients were very welcoming," he said. "Something that struck me from this assignment, and more so now as I am approaching the holy orders of priesthood, is the fact that this is a ministry of presence, a ministry of being with the people of God."

Father Rojas remembered holding the hand of an elderly woman and realizing the impact of his vocation. "I was not only ministering to an elderly woman who was in so much pain, but I was meeting the Lord. I was overwhelmed with so much compassion for not being able to change her physical condition. However, the good Lord was allowing me to participate in a profound experience in which I found so much encouragement to pursue my vocation, to serve His people, especially those in need."



## FATHER JASON MANTICH

**Age:** 38

**Birthplace:** Silver Spring, Md.

**Home parish:** St. John the Evangelist, Bergen-field

**Education:** B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park

"I never thought that my faith journey would bring me to discover that my vocation was to the priesthood," explained Father Mantich, who worked in the biotechnology industry for seven years. "I am very grateful to be able to say that the plans I had for my life were definitely very cheap compared to the life God is giving me through His Church and by following His will."

He credits the Neocatechumenal Way community for helping him reconsider his relationship with his faith when he was in his mid-20s. "I once heard a homily in which the priest asked those listening, 'How many people are waiting for you to convert?' This question has stayed with me throughout my formation in the seminary," Father Mantich said.

He joined the seminary in 2010. He was tasked with taking care of the seminary's fleet of cars and vans. He described how "God's loving providence" presented an opportunity to the seminarians when one of their vans, "Big Red," broke down. "This older Ford Econoline van had



Advocate photos-Jennifer Brown

### CORRECTION:

An article in the May issue of *New Jersey Catholic* incorrectly stated that Deacon Cesar L. Chen will be ordained a Redemptorist priest. Deacon Chen, who is studying at Redemptoris Mater Seminary, will be ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark. We regret the error.



Rev. Francisco J. Rodriguez, Pastor,  
Parishioners, Staff and Priests  
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extend prayerful congratulations to



**Cesar L. Chen**  
Class of 2019  
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*Reverend Juan Rojas*

*The Priests, Deacons, Staff and Parishioners  
of Our Lady of Mercy Parish  
Park Ridge*

*Offer their congratulations and  
prayers. May the Lord bless you  
as you begin your priestly service.*



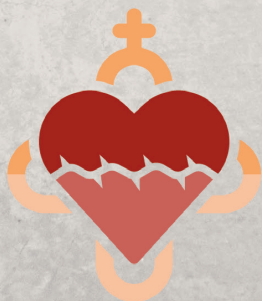
Ordination to the Priesthood • Saturday May 25, 2019 • 10AM  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart • Newark, NJ

*Lord, give us Priests.*

*Lord, give us many Priests.*

*Lord, give us many Holy Priests.*

*Amen.*



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Congratulations on your Ordination!

*Father Steve Chun*

With love and prayers,

All of us at St. Elizabeth's  
Wyckoff

# Caldwell University to offer fully online master's in nursing

Caldwell University's School of Nursing and Public Health will offer a new, fully online Master of Science in nursing degree program in population health this fall, the first of its kind in New Jersey.

The 36-credit program will explore the social determinants of health, including factors such as access to health care, finances and income, transportation, housing, social support and level of education.

"It will prepare nurses to meet the demands of health care today and tomorrow by promoting healthier communities and addressing needs associated with the social determinants of health, commonly attributed to the zip codes in which we live and work," said Dr. Donna Naturale, assistant professor and coordinator of the program.

Graduates of the program will be qualified to work in a number of positions within a variety of health

care systems, including outpatient facilities, hospitals, public health departments and within insurance and quality improvement fields. Graduates will also be qualified to teach in undergraduate nursing programs.

Students will integrate technology using health care data to identify trends and issues associated with the overall health of populations. They will also learn to provide high-quality nursing care, promote health and prevent diseases.

The program addresses health care needs that are identified in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's "Future of Nursing 2020-2030" report. "The academic program will aim to prepare nurses to identify

health disparities and work toward reducing those disparities that are influenced by social determinants of health, and work toward improving overall health and well-being for populations as we plan to care for the next generation," Naturale said.

As a Catholic Dominican institution, Caldwell's new program ties in with the mission of the university. "As the Catholic Health Association states, there is a 'moral imperative for making a commitment to the people of our community and that our focus on social determinants of health is not only because it is necessary but also because it is just,'" explained Naturale.

Students can apply online for



**Dr. Donna Naturale**

the program. Applicants will also need to submit transcripts from previous institutions of higher education, two letters of recommendation, a resume and a writing sample.

Applicants are required to have an unencumbered RN license, bachelor's degree with 3.0 GPA, and prerequisite coursework of undergraduate statistics (in any discipline) with a grade of C+ or better.

For information on the program, contact the Caldwell University admissions office at 973-618-3500 or [admissions@caldwell.edu](mailto:admissions@caldwell.edu).



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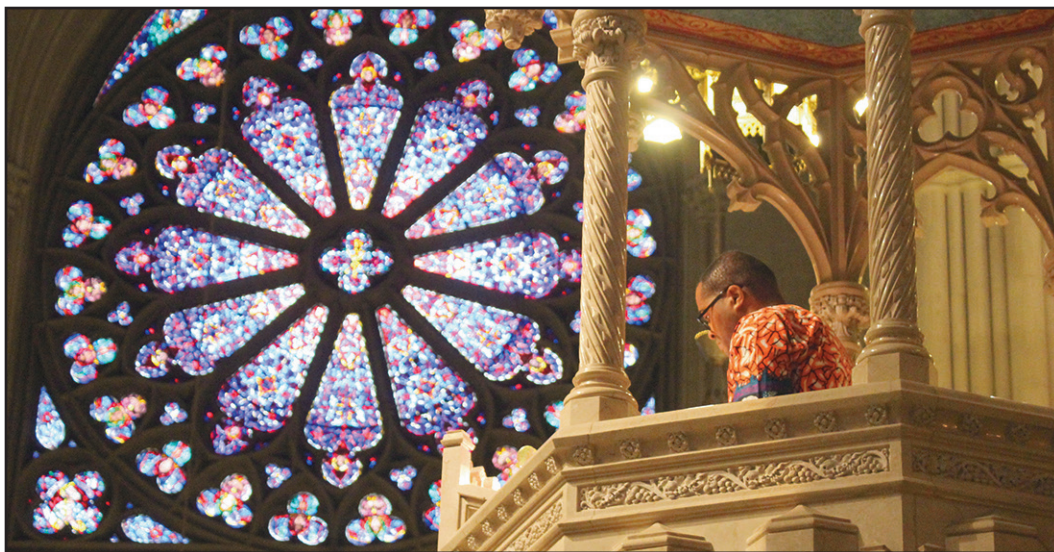


**CATHOLIC  
INITIATIVES**





The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark welcomed about 150 couples marking 50 years or more of marriage at a special anniversary Mass on April 28. Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., celebrated the liturgy, which included the blessing of rings and a special prayer over the congregation. The Mass was organized by the Office of Family Life Ministries. In his homily, Cardinal Tobin expressed his gratitude to the jubilarians. "Our community and all its believers are Jesus at work in the world taking away the sins by giving life in its fullness. You married couples receive that mission in a very special way in the sacrament you received," the cardinal explained. "Your faith helps you recognize Jesus in your relationship, always replacing fear by joy. And you receive the mission that is greater than the desires of each of your hearts alone. On your wedding day, Christ breathed into you the Holy Spirit and is your teacher, your strength and the source of grace for you to carry out what the Lord is getting you to do." Cardinal Tobin went on to describe how marriage is a symbol of the relationship between God and His people. "The sacrament of marriage is not just something simply given by the Church, it is for the Church. We are to understand marriage by thinking of how God loves us, and married love can be best understood as a glimpse of how God loves and saves us." He concluded his homily by stating to the couples, "Your faithfulness helps makes us one." Following the liturgy, the couples received a commemorative pin from Cardinal Tobin and Deacon James Detura, director of Family Life.





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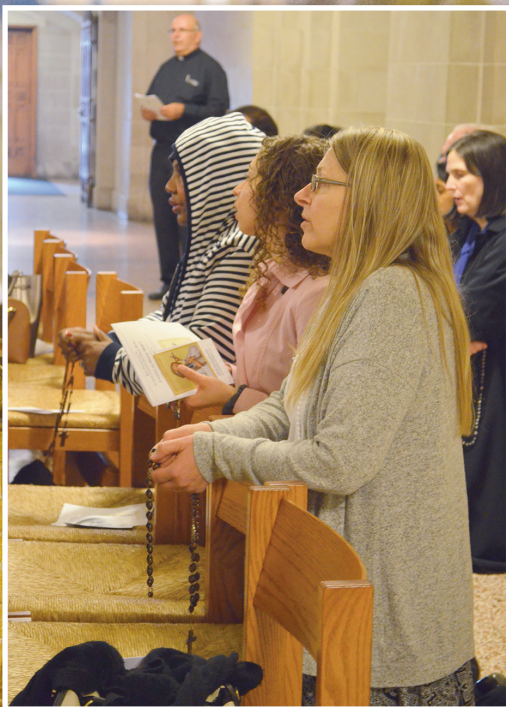
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Advocate photos-Kelly Marsicano, Melissa McNally and Jonathan Azzara





The relic pilgrimage of St. Jean Vianney's incorrupt heart visited the Archdiocese of Newark on May 3, gathering faithful from across the archdiocese to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus through a loan from the Shrine of Ars, France, the relic has remained intact for more than 150 years. The all-day veneration included morning and afternoon prayer, recitation of the rosary, confession and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the cathedral crypt. To close the day, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., celebrated Mass with the relic present. St. Jean Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests.



# Holy Angels celebrates Grandparents' Day

Grandparents' Day remains one of the best-loved traditions observed at the Academy of the Holy Angels in Demarest. This year, freshmen and juniors invited their esteemed relatives (or those who are like grandparents to them) to school for a morning Mass and classroom visit followed by a special luncheon.

In her words of welcome, Holy Angels President Melinda Hanlon

said, "I think it especially appropriate that as we celebrate our Easter liturgy, commemorating the ultimate act of love, that we also honor the special bond of love between grandparents and their grandchildren."

She quoted from St. Teresa of Calcutta, who wrote that love is to be given without conditions and expectations. "In my experience, that kind of love is the love of a grandparent," Hanlon added.



Submitted photos  
Adriana Santos with grandparents Daniel and Yolanda Rodriguez.



Kristina Gatto with her grandmother Cassy Stagg.

Father Vincent D'Agostino of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Wyckoff celebrated the Mass. During his homily, Father Vincent pointed out that May is the month of the Virgin Mary. While many people focus on Mary being visited by the angel Gabriel and saying "yes" to becoming the mother of Jesus, Father Vincent said he also likes to consider Mary's time alone after the angel's departure and her trip to the

hill country to visit her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of Jesus.

"God puts wonderful people in our lives as examples," he said, adding that there are many people who guide and inspire us, including grandparents, who offer their invaluable gifts of wisdom.

At Father Vincent's request, the students and their grandparents shared loving hugs before they continued on with their visits.

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# Mother Seton offers career showcase

From a funeral director to a veterinarian, 25 career professionals from varied fields came to Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark to offer students an opportunity to learn firsthand about the work they do. The April 30 event was organized by the guidance department and supported by the faculty and administration.

Students from all grade levels were surveyed about their interests in several general career fields. Every student had the opportunity to hear three presentations of their choice.

"It was an honor to return to my high school to speak about nursing and very exciting to learn about Mother Seton's latest effort to prepare students for the future," said alumna Marianne Poos.

"We wanted the students to have a direct and personal experience with these working professionals," said Corinne Wnek, director of guidance. "Our students learned about the career paths some of the presenters took to get to a certain point in their professional lives and even sometimes how they got to that place unintentionally."

Student Isabella Gonzalez was inspired by the career showcase. "I have always wanted to do something in life with cosmetology and business and it seemed hard to find the balance. But the career showcase showed me I can do both without sacrificing one area for another," she said.

Other careers represented at the showcase included journalism, social work and psychology.



Submitted photo

Don Bosco Preparatory High School in Ramsey recently announced that it will be adding a Communication Arts Pathway to its curriculum, beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Students will have the option to take elective courses over four years in this specific area of study. Freshman will be offered multi-media production, which focuses on the basics of television and film production, including scripting, producing, filming, editing and exporting and uploading projects. Basic industry standards and vocabulary will be used and taught in the program. "This structured pathway will allow students to explore communication arts more fully, and we are confident that these courses will facilitate the development of essential 21st century skills and expose students to meaningful, real-world experiences in the field," said Laura Hollenbaugh, vice principal for academic affairs.

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