

THE CATHOLIC ADVOCATE

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LIGHTS, CAMERA, EVANGELIZE

Local priest pens feature film about vocation

By Melissa McNally
Editor

“Look interested and keep smiling.” Those were the directions given to Joseph Meighan, a parishioner at St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Wyckoff and an unlikely movie extra. He and his wife, Mary, volunteered their talents on the set of the upcoming feature film “Trinity’s Triumph” written by their pastor, Father Stephen Fichter. The movie was shot at several locations throughout Bergen County and New York in June.

The couple, in their 80s, filmed at the Christian Health Care Center in Wyckoff and St. Cecilia Parish in Englewood. “I was instructed to bring flowers to a patient in the hospital and I actually got to keep the flowers, which was great. Mary was in the background as a patient in a wheelchair,” Meighan recalled. He and his wife were also extras in a wedding scene and ordination scene filmed at St. Cecilia’s. “We had a wonderful experience. It was just an honor to be involved,” he said.

“Trinity’s Triumph” focuses on three young seminarians and their journey toward discovering their vocation. Director Michael J. Wickham, a native of Jefferson, believes the film will appeal to everyone, not just Catholics. “This movie is a peek behind the ‘stained-glass curtain’ of the priesthood,” Wickham explained. “I wasn’t trying to do just a faith-based film. I think of it more as a vocational drama.”

He initially came on board the project in February to help with editing the script. He eventually signed on to direct, and shot the whole movie in 15 days on a \$500,000 budget. “I think the film looks bigger and better than its budget,” Wickham explained.

Denise LaGalia got to witness firsthand all the work it takes behind the scenes to



Photo courtesy of Ramy Mam

The crew of “Trinity’s Triumph” gathered on the steps of St. Cecilia Parish in Englewood. The screenplay was written by Father Stephen Fichter, lower right, and Kathe Carson, who is seated behind him. Holding the clapperboard is director Michael J. Wickham. Seated directly behind him are producers Tiziano and Damiano Tucci.

create movie magic. She portrayed a hospital receptionist and was outfitted with scrubs and a nametag by the costume department. “I had to say what room number a patient was in and got to interact with the actual actors on set. It was a pretty interesting process,” she recalled.

A Mahwah resident, LaGalia attends St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Saddle River, where Father Fichter once served as parochial vicar. She first heard about the opportunity to be an extra in the film on his Facebook page. “Father Stephen is amazing,” she said. “He has such passion for the priesthood. It was just so exciting

to support him and be a part of the movie.”

Joseph McSweeney and his wife, Joan, served as extras in a scene filmed in New York. “It was kind of a kick,” he explained. “We’ve known Father Stephen for a long time. He said he wrote part of the script at the kitchen table in our house.”

The process of getting the script to the screen was a long and arduous one. Father Fichter first had the original idea to write a film about the priesthood when he was living in Rome over 20 years ago. He describes the story as a “conglomeration” of autobiographical experiences and his friends’ stories. There had been a signifi-

cant drop in men joining the vocation, and he felt that an honest portrayal of priestly life was necessary.

“The media was not friendly to priests, and I felt there needed to be a more realistic depiction of the priesthood to attract more young men to serve God,” Father Fichter explained. In a chance encounter while in Rome, he showed the original 100-scene first draft screenplay to acclaimed film director Franco Zeffirelli.

“I sent the script to him, and he invited me to his villa just outside Rome,” Fa-

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UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

The strangers at our doorstep

By Brother Patrick Sean Moffett, C.F.C.

In anticipation of the master plan addressing the world's continuing and escalating migration problem, we each have ample and immediate opportunity for corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Here and now, we ask individually and collectively: Who are *we* to take on this responsibility? Who are *we* not to?

As a religious brother, psychologist and currently a board member for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, which represents leaders of religious nationwide, the call for this reflection came as I was attending a dedication at the Boys' Town of Rome in May. The chapel at the center of this "youth village" was being reconstituted with Vatican and diocesan approval as the church of a newly formed St. Paul VI Parish. This move was very much in the spirit of Msgr. John Patrick Carroll-Abbing, the founder of the Boys' and Girls' Towns of Italy. He and the future pope had worked together in Vatican services during World War II, and each dedicated his life to promote collaboration in building a more peaceful future for the children of the world.

The Boys' and Girls' Towns of Italy was founded to serve youth left homeless in the wake of the war. In addition to food and shelter, Msgr. Carroll-Abbing realized these children needed to be given a chance to take on responsibility, feel appreciated and gain self-confidence. The "towns" were established as self-governing, complete with elected officials, assemblies and currency.

The Boys' and Girls' Towns has responded to successive generations of children whose family situations necessitated finding a new place to live and an opportunity for growth.

Throughout the '80s and '90s and into the new millennium, these "towns" became increasingly international as issues of famine, poverty, civil unrest and war generated waves of unaccompanied minors arriving on the shores of Italy. From the Horn of Africa, Albania, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and then northern, central and western Africa, they are a remnant, the survivors of journeys that proved fatal for many others.

Today, the American charity A Chance in Life carries forward the mission of Msgr. Carroll-Abbing in Italy while ex-



A sculpture leading into St. Paul VI Chapel at the Boys' Town of Rome.

Photo courtesy of Brother Patrick Sean Moffett

tending the effort to youth in Ethiopia, India, Guatemala, Bolivia and Peru. Encouraging girls and boys to grow in responsibility for themselves and their community, A Chance in Life seeks to do its part to help children and families remain together in their own homelands.

Families do not give up their children, do not put them in harm's way, do not leave their homeland without good reason. And the children do not give up their families—ever. Children are never affectively separated from their families. Periods of physical forced separation intensify the psychological bonding.

But separation can be an assault on the youngster's self-esteem and undermines an emerging understanding of personal purpose and belonging. The depth of the trauma is a measure of what will be a lifelong pursuit of personal reintegration—the consolidation of the physical, emotional, psychological and social integrity of the individual.

The stories told by survivors indicate, no matter the logic or intentions of those

who effect the separation, the child or teen typically experiences traces of anger, abandonment, oppression, rage and, all too often, personal guilt: What did I do to deserve this? How can they do this to me? Why are my parents not protecting me? Are they OK?

Then there are moments of flight—physical if possible, but mostly flights of fantasy entertaining images of escape, revenge or regression. Their moods offer a window on the fantasy and the affective temperature of their depression or exhilaration. They are processing the trauma with limited introspective tools.

I am grateful to previous generations of unaccompanied minors who have shared their stories and to fellow psychologists and child care specialists who reveal the consequences of the separations.

And yet today, our own government has become the protagonist in family separations. According to the Administration for Children and Families, New Jersey is one of the nation's top destinations for receiving detained unaccompanied

immigrant children. The Garden State received the fifth highest number of unaccompanied children released to sponsors last year.

Unaccompanied minors bring us to a prominent realization of our shared need to journey together. At every point of these perilous journeys there is a call for action. Once on the road, they need to be safe. At the crossings, they need to be heard. While waiting, all need nourishment, sanitary facilities, clean beds and medical care. Education, exercise, socialization and play are essential to the growth of children wherever they are on the journey. Our children need to be with families, sponsors or accredited educational communities, not in detention centers. We are bonded in an awareness that obliges us to protest as did St. Paul VI with respect to war: "No more, never again!"

Brother Patrick Sean Moffett, C.F.C., is a member of the leadership team of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Province of North America whose Province Center is located in Elizabeth.

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Cardinal Tobin prays for newborns during hospital visit

PATERSON—Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., offered his blessings and prayers to patients and families in the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Joseph's University Medical Center on July 19. The cardinal prayed alongside parents whose premature newborns were undergoing extensive treatment. In a time of uncertainty, hospital officials said the power of faith and prayer spoke volumes to these families.

"We were thrilled to welcome Cardinal Tobin to St. Joseph's," said Kevin J. Slavin, president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph's Health. "Our staff, patients and their families were uplifted by the cardinal's presence and blessings. We thank him for supporting St. Joseph's and our mission to care for all in our communities."

Prior to visiting patients, Cardinal Tobin presided over the noon Mass held in the chapel.

The cardinal visited St. Joseph's in support of archdiocesan seminarians Moris Montoya and Christian Scalo, who participated in the hospital's summer seminarian internship in ministry program. Led by Deacon Lawrence Duffy, the program exposes seminarians to various aspects of pastoral ministry, including hospital chaplaincy



Submitted photos



and pastoral care with a special regard for a ministry of presence. Montoya and Scalo both spoke with Cardinal Tobin, citing examples of the importance of "just being there" during a family or patient's time of need.

Montoya shared with the cardinal how he connected with the family of a palliative care patient. Through their suffering, the seminarian explained, they encouraged Montoya to keep learning and sharing his faith, and thanked him for always being there during the most difficult moments.

Scalo, who described the importance of his tenure there with the word "accompaniment," faced a similar situation with a family who struggled taking their father off of life-sustaining treatment. Scalo remained with the family through the process, and when they asked if they were making the right choice, responded, "God understands the place you are in and the struggle you face. Be at peace."

The cardinal's afternoon at St. Joseph's ended with a visit to the Binder Autism Center summer camp program. He introduced himself to the children and watched as they completed their arts and crafts projects.

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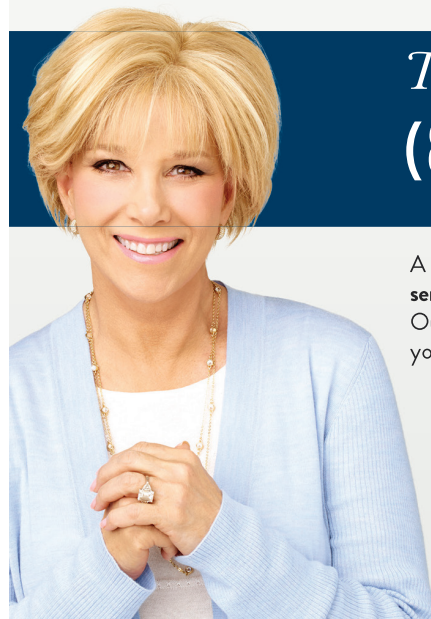
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Disrespect for life, lack of moral center seen as factors in gun violence

By Elizabeth Bachmann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In this American age of violence, where 165 shootings happened this year alone, where politicians scream at each other across the aisle about gun laws and Second Amendment rights without even the common ground of mutual respect, religious leaders, scholars and TV personalities alike notice a more insidious problem with American culture.

The problem behind the problem, they suggest, is a pervasive disregard for the sanctity of life.

On Aug. 5 on CatholicPhilly.com, the archdiocesan news outlet, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput republished a statement he had given before the U.S. Senate as testimony in response to the Columbine High School shooting 20 years ago in Colorado, when he was archbishop of Denver.

He paired it with a current response to the shootings in Gilroy, Calif., in late July and in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, in early August, which left a total of 34 people dead and dozens more injured.

"The real problem (of Columbine-like violence in our culture) is in here, in us," Archbishop Chaput said before the Senate in 1999. "In the last four decades, we've created a culture that markets violence in dozens of different ways, seven days a week. It's part of our social fabric. ... When we glorify and multiply guns, why are we

shocked when kids use them?"

Robert George, director of the James Madison program in American ideals and institutions at Princeton University, tweeted along similar lines: "People have lots of motives for killing other people—greed, envy, ideology, hatred, racism, nihilism and on and on. Sometimes people kill others simply because they are in the way. Only one thing can overcome all motives to kill: the conviction that every human life is sacred."

Archbishop Chaput went on to explain that disrespect for life is stained into the fabric of American culture, through abortion, the death penalty, assisted suicide—currently legal in eight states and the District of Columbia—violent video games, disrespect for the elderly and morbid fascination with the bloody details of each new shooting. The list goes on.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin also addressed the "culture of hate" in an Aug. 5 statement.

"What is different now is the culture of hate that has been developing over the last few years," he said. "Whether it is expressed in the violence of white nationalism or violence against the defenseless unborn, hate seems to be an accepted way of life."

However, Tobin added the strong caveat that, in addition to addressing this cultural immorality, government leaders should institute a ban on assault weapons, implement universal background checks and criminalize gun trafficking immediately.

"How many people have to die from unspeakable violence until our legislators act on gun control legislation?" Cardinal Tobin noted in his statement. "Twenty-five years ago, the U.S. Bishops wrote: 'Our families are torn by violence. Our communities are destroyed by violence. Our faith is tested by violence. We have an obligation to respond.'"

Cardinal Tobin expresses gratitude for pope's letter

WASHINGTON—Pope Francis marked the 160th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, by addressing a letter to all priests throughout the world on Aug. 4. In the letter, the Holy Father acknowledges the pain and suffering the Church has experienced because of the sexual abuse scandals and cover-up, while expressing his solidarity with priests who may find themselves angry and tempted to despair.

Pope Francis also underscores his gratitude for faithful priests, those who continue to image Christ, the Good Shepherd in their everyday work and ministry. The Holy Father urges his brothers to remain hopeful and encourage one another with hope grounded in the Lord's redemptive sacrifice on the cross and united in prayer with Mary, the mother of all priests, who is always interceding for her children.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, who serves as the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, issued the following statement in response to Pope Francis' letter:

"The Holy Father's letter to all priests is a most welcome gift, coming, as it does, at a particularly difficult time for the Church. Amid the pain, ugliness and anger, it is possible for the Church, and especially those who are priests, to fall into despair—the opposite of hope. Instead, the Holy Father reminds us that we must never lose sight of those 'luminous moments when we experienced the Lord's call to devote our lives to His service.' That sort of memory recalls the many moments of gratitude and encouragement offered to us from the Lord and from others. While working to protect all of God's people, especially the innocent and vulnerable, from the evil of the abuse of power, we should not become blind to how the joy and hope of Christ 'are constantly born anew.' Speaking as a priest and bishop in the United States, I thank the Holy Father for his wonderful letter to us."

Pope Francis' letter to priests can be read in its entirety at www.rcan.org.

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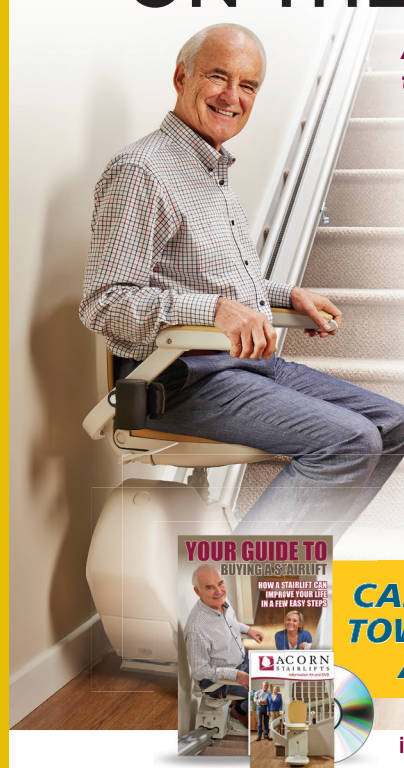
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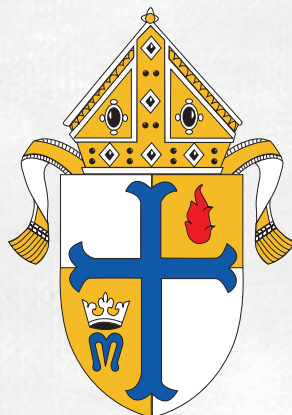
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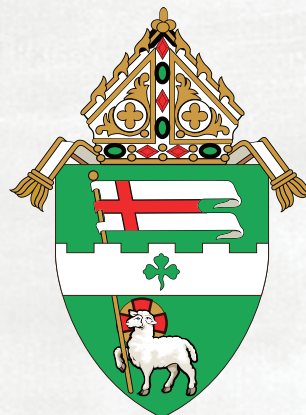
Newark



Camden



Metuchen



Paterson



Trenton

LIGHTS, CAMERA, EVANGELIZE

Continued from page 1

ther Fichter recalled. “Zeffirelli said he really liked the story and thought it was a good idea. He made the suggestion that the movie should focus on three seminarians, not just one main character, to make it more intriguing.” Coincidentally, the Italian film director died during the first week of filming “Trinity’s Triumph.”

After several years working abroad in Europe, Father Fichter returned to the Archdiocese of Newark. He admitted the transition was difficult, especially after spending many years with the controversial religious institute Legion of Christ. “I became a bit disillusioned. I thought to myself, ‘Why am I even doing this?’ I prayed through the crisis and that struggle changed me,” he claimed.

He decided to go back to writing his film script, which had been on the “backburner” of his busy schedule. In 2004, Kathe Carson, co-writer and co-producer, came on board to help further refine the script. Currently serving as director of communications at St. Elizabeth Parish, she also has a background in television and radio production.

“The priest is a well-known figure on the social landscape, but you don’t really get to know about them in a personal way,” Carson explained. “That is what’s so charming about the story. The seminarians have real conversations, and you find them so endearing because they are so



Photo courtesy of Ramy Mam

Director Michael J. Wickham and Father Stephen Fichter on the set of “Trinity’s Triumph.”

much more accessible. They all have incredibly human struggles and questions.”

Carson and Father Fichter kept rewriting the script for several more years and received feedback from various supporters, including prolific novelist Mary Higgins Clark, lawyer and producer Thomas Hanna and producer Craig Saavedra.

After securing funding and producers Damiano and Tiziano Tucci at the beginning of the year, the dream finally came to fruition. “After a lot of ups and downs and so many false starts, it was finally real,”

Carson said. “It’s like the saying goes—it took 20 years to be an overnight success.”

Carson also has a cameo in the film as the friend of one of the main characters. “I have a brief walk-on at the ordination after-party and I’m in one of the hospital scenes. It was a lot of fun,” she stated.

The film is currently in post-production. Father Fichter is hoping to have the film completed by Christmas. The next step is to find distribution, and he would like to shop “Trinity’s Triumph” around at film festivals next year. He was cautious to

sell the script to another larger production company. “This storyline is so delicate that if you veer off to the left or right it could end up not being a Church-positive or priest-positive story,” he explained.

Getting the script to the silver screen has been an adventurous ride—one that Bishop John W. Flesey, who also has a cameo in the movie, thinks is another great story. “Bishop Flesey joked that my next book should be about the making of the movie,” Father Fichter said. “I told him that the title could be called ‘Hollywood.’”



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OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

CARDINAL JOSEPH W. TOBIN, C.S.S.R., HAS ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:

– PASTORS –

Reverend Stephen Ehiahurike, S.D.V., has been appointed pastor of St. Michael Parish, Newark, effective July 1.

Reverend Martin Schratz, O.F.M. Cap., has been appointed pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Hackensack, effective Aug. 1.

Reverend Peter G. Wehrle has been appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Verona, effective Sept. 15.

– ADMINISTRATORS –

Reverend Mauro Primavera has been appointed temporary administrator of Holy Family Parish, Nutley, effective Aug. 15.

Reverend Ernest G. Rush has been appointed administrator of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lyndhurst, effective Aug. 1.

Reverend Philip A. Sanders has been appointed administrator of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Parish, Bayonne, effective Sept. 15.

– PAROCHIAL VICARS –

Reverend Gustavo Alfaro has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, effective Aug. 1.

Reverend Arokiaswamy Samson has been appointed parochial vicar of Madonna Parish, Fort Lee, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Henry Ramirez Soler, C.M.F., has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish, Jersey City, effective Aug. 1.

– CHAPLAIN –

Reverend Armando S. Crisostomo Jr. has been appointed chaplain at Hackensack University Medical Center, with residence at Holy Trinity Parish, Hackensack, effective Sept. 1.

– COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY –

Reverend Duverney Bermudez has been granted permission to complete his degree in professional counseling at Seton Hall University, with residency at Immaculate Conception Parish, Elizabeth, effective July 1.

Reverend Gerald J. Buonopane, Ph.D., has been granted a renewal of assignment to the faculty of Seton Hall University, effective immediately.

Reverend Luis M. Garcia has been appointed vice rector of the College Seminary, St. Andrew's Hall at Seton Hall University, effective July 1.

– OUTSIDE THE ARCHDIOCESE –

Reverend Viktor Markovic has been granted permission to continue his missionary activity in Estonia by means of the Neo-Catechumenal Way for an additional three years.

– RETIREMENT –

Reverend John J. Cryan has been granted retirement, effective Sept. 1.

Reverend Nazareno Orlandi has been granted retirement, effective Aug. 1.



Submitted photo

Mothers of Priests, or MOPs, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a Mass at Queen of Peace Parish in North Arlington on Aug. 11. Father Scott Attanasio, the parochial vicar at the parish whose mother is in the group, celebrated the Mass. A light lunch followed in the Queen of Peace Convent. The Newark chapter of the prayer apostolate was started in 1994. It's one of six chapters throughout New Jersey and New York. There are about 15 mothers currently in the Newark group. They gather in prayer for Holy Hour four times a year on a Sunday afternoon at the convent.



Submitted photo

Brother Martin Buganski, originally from Berkeley Heights and former parishioner of Our Lady of Peace in New Providence, professed his first temporary vows with the Brotherhood of Hope during a July 20 ceremony in Methuen, Mass. The Brotherhood of Hope is a Catholic community of brothers representing the Church on six college campuses in four states. Brother Martin will serve as a campus minister at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Founded in 1980 in Newark, the Brotherhood of Hope today has 18 perpetually professed brothers and two dozen men in various stages of formation. The Brotherhood is now based in Boston under the supervision of Cardinal Sean O'Malley. The

Brotherhood's formation process takes at least seven years. The novitiate year is the most intensive component and the only period of full-time formation. Brothers typically profess temporary vows for five years before professing perpetual vows and serve on college campuses during this period of ongoing formation.

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Ceramics helps Catholics memorialize loved ones, pray the rosary

By Maxim Almenas

For many Catholics, seeing the image of a loved one from their wedding day or a cherished moment while visiting them at a cemetery or mausoleum is a moving experience.

When this enduring memory is created in a photo ceramic or porcelain tile, it can potentially last for centuries.

"If you go to any of our cemeteries, which are well over 100 years old, you will find photo ceramics of loved ones from the turn of the last century," said Joseph Verzi, assistant executive director of Catholic Cemeteries. "In those days, the photos were black and white. With today's technology, the colors are vibrant. It's created exactly in the image the people supplied of their loved ones."

Photo ceramics have been popular at many of the Catholic cemeteries and mausoleums for decades due to their ability to endure UV rays from the sun and extreme weather conditions without diminishing the quality of the image.

Many families have one or more ceramic photos installed on headstones, crypts or cremation niches to cherish the memories of loved ones.

When Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark designed and con-

structed the rosary garden at St. Gertrude Cemetery and Mausoleum in Colonia, they wanted to provide an uplifting experience where visitors could pray the rosary using a medium that could last forever.

After consulting with Father Thomas Dente and Msgr. Richard Groncki from the Office of Divine Worship, four ceramic panels highlighting the mysteries of the rosary—joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous—were proposed.

After careful planning to account for each mystery, four original paintings were commissioned for the rosary garden from Leandro M. Velasco, an artist known for his mosaics of the Incarnation and Redemption domes inside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Since the paintings were to be installed onto the granite structures in the rosary garden, it was decided that the images would be reproduced on photo ceramic tiles, much like the photos used to memorialize the interred, to ensure the paintings last for centuries.

Photo Porcelain Dominic reproduced the original rosary paintings into ceramic tiles. Giovanna Campanelli and her husband, Nino Bocchicchio, are co-owners of the Quebec-based company. "When I saw the images, I told them (Catholic Cemeteries) they were beautiful," said Campanelli, who was moved by the images of the



Photos courtesy of Catholic Cemeteries

Giovanna Campanelli and her husband, Nino Bocchicchio, co-owners of Photo Porcelain Dominic, holding ceramic tile samples in front of a banner of the icon before the final installation.



Bishop Manuel Cruz (center) blessed the four murals after the Memorial Day Mass at St. Gertrude. From left to right: Jorge Repollet, director of Information Systems for Catholic Cemeteries; Father Michael Saporito, pastor of St. Helen's in Westfield; Bishop Cruz; Frank Caputo, superintendent of St. Gertrude Cemetery and Mausoleum; Joseph Verzi, assistant executive director of Catholic Cemeteries; and Lisa Kennedy, business systems analyst for Catholic Cemeteries.

rosary mysteries during the reproduction process. "It was very emotional."

The four murals were installed on two garden mausoleum structures and were blessed by Bishop Manuel Cruz on May 27 following the Memorial Day Mass.

In addition to St. Gertrude, Catholic Cemeteries has two other locations with rosary gardens—Gate of Heaven Cemetery and Mausoleum in East Hanover and Holy Cross Cemetery and Mausoleum in North Arlington. The Holy Cross rosary garden is located inside the mausoleum and features an open roof that allows rain to fall onto the garden below.

Bocchicchio said the experience of working on these types of projects has not only increased his faith but also reinforced the importance of sharing the religious lessons illustrated within the art with his children. "When I work on an image, whether it's a man or a 9-year-old, you have to pretend it's your parent or your own family," said Bocchicchio. "You have to respect it. That's how I work."

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

Msgr. Bradley: A man of joy, a man for others, a man of prayer

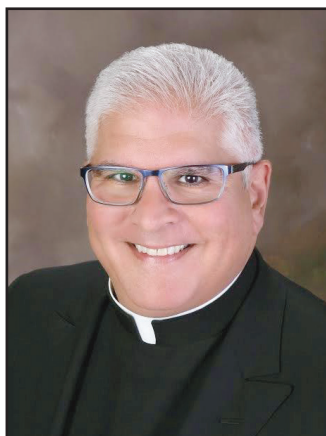
By Father John J. Paladino

It is important, in these difficult times for the priesthood, to share positive stories of clergy who have morally and faithfully lived their vows with honor. One of those individuals, the 79 years young Msgr. Edward Bradley, recently retired as archdiocesan director of Ministry to Retired Priests.

I focus on three words, evident and lived out in the priesthood of Msgr. Bradley: joy, others, prayer.

Msgr. Bradley is a man of joy. In the daily life of waking up, doing our work, making a living, going to sleep, life often loses its flavor. It becomes dull and meaningless. Jesus says that it is possible for us to celebrate in simple things each moment of our daily life. Msgr. Bradley does this better than anyone else I know. He celebrates the food he eats, the opportunity to work and do something creative, the experience of finding joy in a simple tree, in the first spring flower, in the smile of a child or in the warm touch of a friendly hand. The same is true for him in times of sickness, suffering and crisis. The apostle Paul says of these times, "When I am weak, then I am strong." This is one of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith. Msgr. Bradley has shown us time and time again when we are weak, when we are suffering, when we are hurting, when we are fed up, then we are strong because we throw ourselves more fully at the feet of Christ. That divine life released in us gives us joy.

Msgr. Bradley is a man for others. His every gesture, every word, every look says, "I'm delighted to be here, delighted to be with you"—not only at the altar but also in a classroom or beside a hospital bed, on the phone or at a party. It's as if he is saying to each of us, "I take you for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, as long as life shall last and I find



joy in that taking." As Thomas Merton has said, "Without love and compassion for others, our own apparent love for Christ is fiction."

Msgr. Bradley is a man of prayer. He is, as the old adage says, a mediator between God and man, bringing God down to men, men up to God. But there is much more. He is more concerned about our

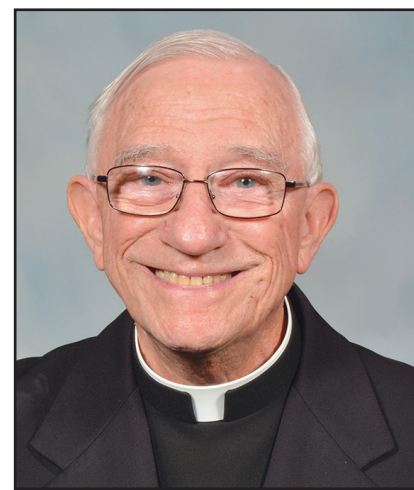
personal relationship with God, a love relationship that is a living experience that cannot be imprisoned but must move out to touch others, a ceaseless living in God's presence.

A man of joy, a man for others, a man of prayer—this was Jesus' vision and desire for His followers, which is lived out by Msgr. Bradley, a challenge to all of us.

As St. John Paul II once wrote to priests on Holy Thursday toward the end of his life: "The only priest who will always prove necessary to people is the priest who is conscious of the meaning of his priesthood: the priest who believes profoundly, who professes his faith with courage, who prays fervently, who teaches with deep conviction, who serves with zeal, who puts into practice in his own life the program of the beatitudes, who knows how to love disinterestedly, who is close to everyone and especially to those who are most in need."

Thank you, Msgr. Bradley for proving yourself necessary to so many of us.

Father John J. Paladino is the vicar for clergy for the Archdiocese of Newark.



Msgr. Edward G. Bradley retired from his role as director of the Ministry to Retired Priests on July 1. Since first appointed director on May 1, 2002, he has helped archdiocesan priests with retirement planning and raised awareness for the needs of aging priests and religious.

Upon hearing the news of Msgr. Bradley's decision to retire, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., said: "I have been both privileged and blessed to have worked closely with Msgr. Edward Bradley here in Newark over the past two and a half years. Since 1966, Msgr. Bradley has dedicated his life to the spiritual needs of others, and to caring for our aging priests and religious. I am truly grateful for all that he has done for the archdiocese, and he will be missed. At the same time, I pray that God will continue to bless him as he enters this new chapter in his life."

Msgr. Bradley was ordained to the priesthood on June 25, 1966, in Belgium at the American College of Louvain. He was assigned as a faculty member to Seton Hall Preparatory School, then located in South Orange, where he taught Latin and theology. In May of 2005, he was honored as Chaplain for his Holiness with the title Reverend Monsignor.

In his 53 years of priesthood, Msgr. Bradley also served as chaplain for the Jersey City Medical Center, director of Seton Hall Prep theology department and acting executive director of Clergy Personnel for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Upon Msgr. Bradley's retirement, Father Stanley Gomes, director of Adjunct Clergy Personnel, will be named director of the Ministry to Retired Priests while also maintaining his present position.



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Advocate photos-Kelly Marsicano

A retirement party was held at the Archdiocesan Center on Aug. 14 in honor of Msgr. Bradley's years of service. Family members attended the event along with Cardinal Tobin and archdiocesan employees, who lined up to wish him well.

Felician Sisters welcome new member to the community

LODI—Joyful song and dance, rich tradition and heartfelt worship brought the Immaculate Conception Convent to life on July 13 as the Felician Sisters celebrated Sister Maria Bakhita Waweru's perpetual profession of vows. A marriage of Felician tradition and Sister Bakhita's Kenyan heritage, the Mass was a testament to the global community of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice.

Father Anthony Korir, S.M.A., from the Society of African Missions in Tenafly,

offered greetings in both Swahili and English to everyone bearing witness to Sister Bakhita's vows, those physically present in the chapel and those watching around the world via Facebook Live.

Among the guests at the event were singers, dancers and musicians who incorporated Kenyan culture into the Mass. They ushered in the Word of God with *Iende Mbele Injili* (Let the Gospel Go Forth) and the bread and wine with *Ni-meitika Wito* (I Have Answered the Call).

They also offered up a Communion meditation in Swahili and celebrated Sister Bakhita's commitment with joyful cheers of praise.

Born and raised in Kenya, Sister Bakhita said she felt called to religious life from an early age. With the support of her family, she joined the Missionaries of Charity, a congregation established by St. Teresa of Calcutta, in Kenya in 1999 and made her first vows in 2002. After spending five years ministering to the poor in Mexico, she was sent to the United States for a year and made her final vows in 2008.

After much prayer and reflection, Sister Bakhita began to recognize "vital unfulfilled yearnings" in her heart. "God's ways are not our ways," she explained. "My finding and transferring to the Felician family were part of the puzzle of His divine providence. I had a great spiritual guide who accompanied me through the whole process just to make sure that it was God in action and not self. The Missionaries of Charity superiors, whom I love dearly, were kind, understanding and supportive. As soon as it became clear to them that Jesus was leading me, they quickly gave me a green light to begin my process with the Felician Sisters."

Sister Bakhita visited the Felician Sisters at the Provincial House in Beaver Falls, Pa., and immediately felt a sense of belonging. "I knew this was the family. Over these four years with them I have



found that all my earlier unfulfilled yearnings are now met. I thank the good Lord for all His love, care and mysterious operation in my life," she said.

Sister Bakhita will begin the pre-nursing program at Madonna University in Livonia, Mich., this fall.



Submitted photos

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Photos courtesy of Jai Agnish

Thousands flocked to the 109th annual St. Ann's Italian Festival in Hoboken held July 24-28. The five-day festival was preceded by a solemn novena in honor of the patron saint. The traditional St. Ann procession through the neighborhood was held after the feast day Mass on Friday. The event featured food, a beer garden, games, crafts, children's carnival rides and live music. The grand 50/50 raffle climbed to over \$46,000. The winner received half of the prize money while the rest goes toward the parish's maintenance fund.



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AW19-1034

Cardinal issues statement on assisted suicide law

In April, Gov. Phil Murphy signed the Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act. The law, which went into effect on Aug. 1, allows adults with a prognosis of six months or less to live to get a prescription for life-ending medication. On Aug. 14, a state judge granted a temporary restraining order to stop the law from taking effect, until at least the next court date, scheduled for Oct. 23. Below is a statement by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., on the new state law:

Human compassion fills our hearts with sadness when we hear about an individual who wishes to end his or her life to escape the pain and suffering of illness, disability or disease. The fear associated with such devastating human conditions is real and legitimate.

However, as Pope Francis has noted, we must be careful not to yield to a false sense of compassion. Our Holy Father reminds us that we must never take a human life—even, or especially, our own, since “this is a sin against God, the creator.”

The gift of human life and dignity is sacred and must be respected and protected at every stage, from conception to natural death. Respect for human life encourages a trust and peace with God despite illness and suffering.

We remain united to Christ through our suffering. St. Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. We have Christ in life and death—when He will intercede for us and bring

us to eternal joy.

We must be clear. What legislatures now refer to as “death with dignity” is legal permission for one to end their own life with a lethal overdose of prescription drugs. This new state law has become an answer to addressing one’s fear of affliction or suffering. What is more, in a for-profit industry like health care, there is the real danger that euthanasia will be seen as a cost-cutting measure. There is evidence in states that have already legalized assisted suicide that insurers encourage this “solution” instead of more-costly medical care. The handicapped and impaired will feel pressure to end their lives.

This law also puts immense pressure on Catholics in health care ministries to follow their conscience instead of being coerced into providing assistance that is immoral.

Dying patients who request euthanasia should receive loving care, psychological and spiritual support and appropriate remedies for pain and other symptoms so

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

Friday, Aug. 23

Noon

Visit at Mercy House, Newark

Saturday, Sept. 7

11 a.m.

Feast of La Madonna Dei Martiri

93rd Anniversary Mass

St. Francis Parish, Hoboken

Sunday, Sept. 8

11 a.m.

135th Anniversary Mass

St. Anthony Parish, Jersey City

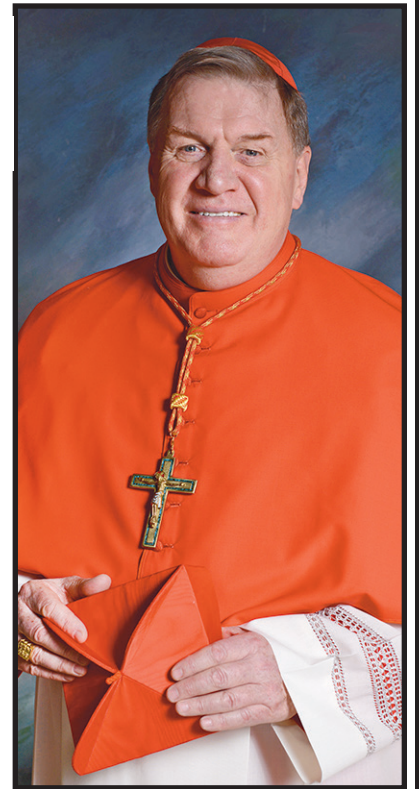
Wednesday, Sept. 15

Noon

175th Anniversary Mass

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish,

Elizabeth



they can live with dignity until the time of natural death.

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August 21

St. John the Evangelist, Bergenfield, carnival, through Aug. 24, rides, games and food, call 201-384-0101.

August 23

Diocese of Metuchen, Retrouvaille, weekend program for married couples facing challenges in their relationship, in Somerset, \$450 per couple, call 732-236-0671 or email 3024@retrouvaille.org.

St. Antoninus Parish, Newark, Real Love Ministries, 14th annual conference, "The Family that Thrives," through Aug. 25, visit www.realloveministries.org or call Martin and Osato Ohiro at 973-336-7615.

September 3

Assumption Parish, Emerson, Healing Mass, 7:30-9:30 p.m., call 201-262-1122.

September 6

St. John Paul II Youth Retreat Center, Kearny, "Journey to Joy," retreat for young adults in their 20s and 30s, includes talks, workshops, fellowship, Mass and Adoration, through Sept. 8, \$130, register at www.newarkoym.com/events-1, contact Marisally Santiago at marisally.santiago@rcan.org or call 201-998-0088 ext. 4147.

September 12

St. Mary Parish, Nutley, "Surviving Divorce," 12-week program featuring 30-minute DVD sessions, Thursdays 8-9:30 p.m., call Paulette Gareri at 201-906-1115 or email pgareri73@gmail.com.

September 14

St. Ann Parish, Hoboken, "The 177 Project: An Evening of Adoration and Music," 7-9 p.m., call 201-659-1114.

September 24

Office of Family Life Ministries, Archdiocese of Newark, bereavement ministry support training course, eight-session program at the Archdiocesan Center, \$175, sessions offered Tuesdays beginning Sept. 24 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or Saturdays beginning Sept. 28 from 9:30 a.m.-noon, call Lauren Tamara at 973-497-4327 or email lauren.tamara@rcan.org.

September 28

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Roseland, "Surviving Divorce" three-day retreat, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., continued Oct. 26 and Nov. 16, \$20 for all sessions, register online at <https://conta.cc/31gcKqr>, contact Lauren Tamara at 973-497-4327 or email lauren.tamara@rcan.org.

Other

Caritas Chamber Chorale invites those who wish to share their voices to audition, the choir presents concerts that benefit the Adorno Fathers' mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, weekly rehearsals begin after Labor Day in the Warren/Bridgewater area, visit www.CaritasChamberChorale.org, contact Barbara Sanderman at 732-718-0775 or email director@caritaschamberchorale.org.



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OBITUARIES

Sister Regina Hudson, S.C.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 15 at The Villa at Florham Park for Sister Regina Hudson, S.C., 88, who died July 11.

Formerly Sister Regina Michael, she was born in Orange and entered the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth on Sept. 6, 1956.

She graduated from St. Michael Hospital School of Nursing in Newark and from Seton Hall University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in nursing. She also earned a master's in nursing administration from Boston University.

Sister Regina served in New Jersey, New York, West Virginia and Maryland. She was as a nurse at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Elizabeth and director of nursing at East Orange General Hospital. She was one of the founding sisters at Seton Center in Princess Anne, Md. She retired to The Villa in 2015.



Sister Mary Robert Wain, C.S.J.P.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 20 at St. Michael Villa in Englewood Cliffs for Sister Mary Robert Wain, C.S.J.P., 95, who died July 17.

Born in Jersey City, Sister Mary Robert entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace on July 31, 1951. She pronounced final vows in 1957. She attended Seton Hall University and earned her license in practical nursing from Holy Name Medical Center School of Nursing in Teaneck.

Sister Mary Robert taught at various schools in New Jersey, including St. Ann School in Fair Lawn and St. Anthony School in Northvale. She also served as a nurse at Holy Name Medical Center.

She retired to St. Michael Villa in 2006, where she continued to do volunteer work.



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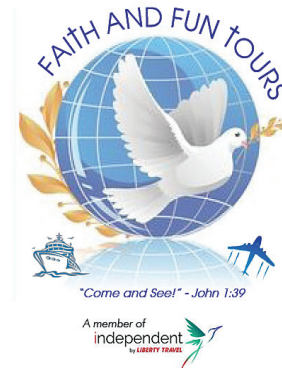
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Bishop Peter Baldacchino was installed as the third bishop of Las Cruces, N.M., on July 23 at a packed Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A native of Malta, Bishop Baldacchino was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark in 1996, and served at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Ridgewood and the Mission Sui Iuris of Turks and Caicos before being named auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Miami in 2014. Now, he will be shepherding a flock spread across a territory four times the size of New Jersey. In the top left photo, Bishop Baldacchino smiles as the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, reads the papal bull issued with Pope Francis' signature. In the right photo, Bishop Baldacchino shows the papal bull to the clergy and the faithful. In the below left photo, he is greeted by some of the priests who, together with Bishop Manuel Cruz, traveled from the Archdiocese of Newark for the occasion. From left to right are Father Ivan Sant, Father Ivan Sciberras, Bishop Baldacchino and Father Raul I. Silva, who currently serves the Diocese of Winona-Rochester in Minnesota.

Photos courtesy of Sister Elizabeth Worley, S.S.J.

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