

# THE CATHOLIC ADVOCATE

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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## Silent No More gives voice to the voiceless

By Melissa McNally  
Editor

**A**t the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, where the landmark decision was passed, Mary Kominsky readied herself to speak in front of thousands gathered for the March for Life in our nation's capital.

"Behind you are police officers with guns, there are pro-choice demonstrators screaming at you, and you have to be brave enough to share your story," recalled Kominsky, office manager of the Newman Catholic Center at Montclair State University.

She is one of several people who have shared their abortion experience with the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. The campaign's mission is to raise awareness about abortion's adverse effect on society. She will again attend this year's March for Life being held on Jan. 24.

Around 60-100 people gather onstage to share their testimony. A diverse group of individuals, including former abortion doctors, clinic workers and siblings of those who have been aborted, speak out.

"It's surreal. You're out there speaking and there are thousands of people filing in from the march," Kominsky explained. She has shared her story hundreds of times to schools, parishes and even EWTN, but the March for Life is a completely different experience. "Parishes and schools are a 'safe' audience," she claimed.

Those who decide to share their stories with Silent No More must have had healing first. "We do not want to exploit those sharing their experience," Kominsky said. "All of the testimonies are vetted and written in advance. There's an outline to follow and someone worked with the speakers to ensure that they are supported. You are not going through this alone."

Kominsky, who has given her testimony a few times, the last being five years



Photo courtesy of Silent No More

Patricia M. Decker (second from left), Cheryl Riley (to the right) and Mary Kominsky (second from right) stand with Silent No More at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

ago, admitted that "no one wants to talk about their biggest regret." But, she chose to share her experience of going through an abortion as a young teen before *Roe v. Wade* was passed. "It had a profound impact on my life," she stated. "What I do now is pass the baton to others to begin their healing."

She began the healing process herself in 1999 at the Rachel's Vineyard retreat,

where she met Patricia M. Decker, current associate director of the Archdiocese of Newark Respect Life Office, and Cheryl Riley, now director of the Respect Life Office. Both have served on the ministry team of the post-abortion healing retreat.

Kominsky now joins Decker and Riley for the March for Life with Silent No More and has been doing so for over 10 years.

Riley gave her own testimony two years

ago. She said, at first, distilling her story to a few minutes seemed daunting. "You think you are going to need more time, but it is still affective. There's always one person in the crowd who needs to hear your story. That is why we do it," Riley said.

"There is a sense of empowerment when you are on stage telling your sto-

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Forward in Faith Together  
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# God is the merciful source of peace and justice for all

**W**e begin each new year with a fervent prayer for peace. We long for the world of tomorrow, the time when there will be no more discord among individuals, families, neighbors or nations. Having just celebrated the birth of the Prince of Peace, we hope that His coming will inspire us all to live differently. We begin each new year with the profound hope that we can set aside our jealousy, our fear, our desire for economic control and political domination, our aversion to strangers from foreign lands and our discomfort with those who are different from us. We pray for peace, forgetting that mercy, the way of the meek, is the only way to peace.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God. (Mt 5:9) We become children of God when we are reconciled to Him—through our baptism and our Communion with Him in and through the Church. But when we lose sight of God, through our blindness, selfishness and sin, there can be no peace. Injustice, violence and cruelty dominate the world order, and peace disintegrates—in our hearts and homes, in our neighborhoods and nations and throughout the world.

True peace, the peace that lasts, happens when we work for justice. It is the product of the hard work of civilization, the rule of law and the right-ordering of social structures. Peace requires fairness, respect for human dignity and the refusal to take advantage of another's weakness. As Pope Paul VI said on the World Day of Peace (Jan. 1) in 1972, "If you want peace, work for justice." And that means this work must be done both here at home and around the world.

Lasting peace—the kind that is more than a temporary ceasefire or a periodic break between hostile actions—is the effect of charity. There is no real peace without mercy or without the willingness to sacrifice our individual or collective self-interests for the sake of genuine harmony. If we want peace, we must let go of our desire for revenge, and we must be willing to let old wounds heal through the saving grace of God's mercy.



## My prayer for you

*My prayer for you—and for all our brothers and sisters—is that we will know peace in 2020. May the violence we have experienced in our archdiocese and throughout the world end and the peace of Christ be with us always. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, and all the saints, may we find happiness and joy in working for justice and in sharing with others in Jesus' name God's abundant mercy. Through the experience of God's mercy, may we share this peace with people from all nations and cultures everywhere! Amen. ✠*

This is one reason that four years ago, in 2016, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, proclaimed a Year of Mercy. In the papal bull *Misericordiae Vultus* (The Face of Mercy), Pope Francis explains how in Jesus Christ the mercy of God has been revealed to people of every nation, language and culture. This is the great mystery we celebrate on the Epiphany of the Lord.

Peace will happen when we can share God's love and mercy with all our sisters and brothers throughout the world. When that day comes, nations will unite in a world order that respects the fundamental human rights and authentic cultural diversity of nations and peoples. Neighbors will help and respect one another. Families will live together joyfully. And each woman and man on earth will be calm, untroubled and at peace.

Have a blessed New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

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



## A message from Pope Francis: Words of challenge and hope

Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel. How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God.

May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the kingdom of God is already present in our midst. Nothing in the Church's preaching or witness should be lacking in mercy.

(From *Misericordiae Vultus*, The Face of Mercy, 2016)

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# Franciscans announce departure from Assumption Parish

WOOD-RIDGE—The Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province are withdrawing from Assumption of Our Blessed Lady Parish. Ministerial responsibilities and administrative operations will be turned over to the Archdiocese of Newark this summer, ending 94 years of pastoral service by the friars at the parish.

The Holy Name Province administration cited the challenges of a declining friar population, whose insufficient numbers make it difficult for the province to staff all the Fraternities-in-Mission it has served in the past. The diminished numbers also make it impossible to maintain a core component of the Franciscan Order—friars living and ministering together in fraternal community.

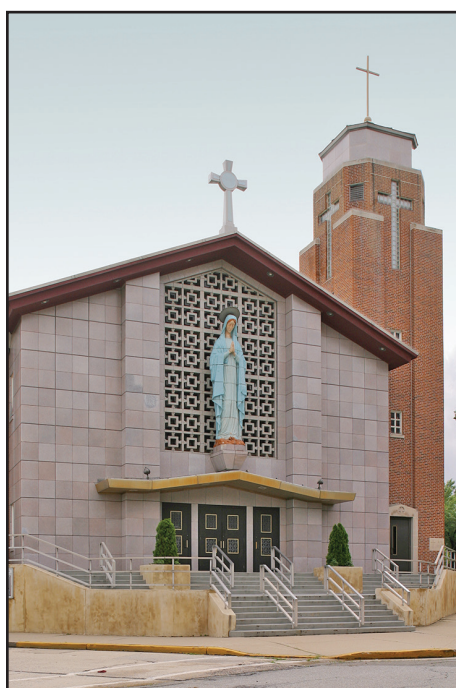
In 1985, the province had 708 friars, a number that dropped to 443 in 2001, and currently stands at a little less than 300. While there are several men in the initial formation process, just three friars have professed their solemn vows since August 2018.

In addition to Assumption Parish, the Franciscan Friars are withdrawing from eight other sites this summer. One of the sites, a mall ministry in upstate New York, will be permanently closed, while responsibilities and operations of the others will be turned over to their respective dioceses.

This is the culmination of a more than two-year collegial process that Holy Name Province called “Fraternal Ecology”—an initiative that engaged the participation of virtually all friars, as well as local dioceses and lay partners, in evaluating the future sustainability of the province’s 30 missions, including parishes, elementary schools, colleges, urban ministry centers, soup kitchens and other pastoral and social justice ministries.

“This was a deliberate, measured and comprehensive process that consisted of dozens of meetings and site visits, and dialogue with all interested parties, which generated studies and reports that ultimately helped guide the Provincial Council’s final decisions on the Fraternities-in-Mission where friars would remain, and those where they would be withdrawn,” explained Father Kevin Mullen, O.F.M., provincial minister of the New York City-based Holy Name Province, the largest Order of Friars Minor community in the country.

“It was collaborative and transparent discernment marked by frank discussion and honest assessment and evaluation by our friars and lay partners in ministry, as well as the dioceses where our Fraternities-in-Mission are located. The council made its final decisions after careful thought and prayerful reflection,” Father Mullen added.



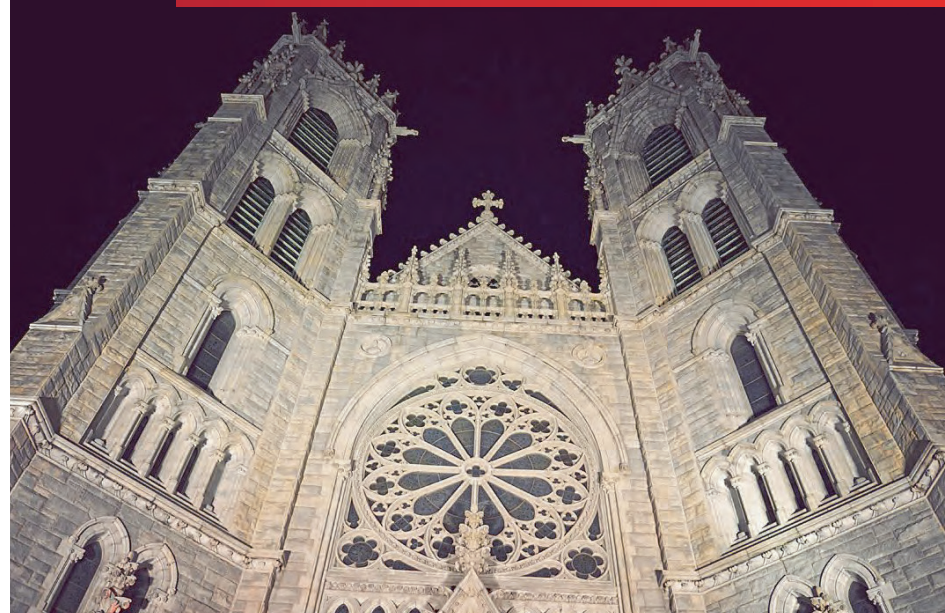
Advocate file photo

Father Mullen called the departure of Assumption a “disappointment” after serving at the parish for almost a century. “The decision to withdraw from the parish was not taken lightly,” continued Father Mullen, “and, in fact, was very difficult and painful—as with the other Fraternities-in-Mission where we have announced our departure. But despite our long history and rich tradition since 1926 at Assumption Parish, the reality of our declining numbers, and the challenges and strain it places on our ability to fulfill our fraternal mission, made this a pragmatic and necessary decision.”

Father Mullen said the Province was grateful to the “good and faith-filled parishioners of Assumption Parish for the support, collaboration, generosity and warm embrace” extended to friars for the past 94 years. “We are confident that we are leaving the parish stronger and more robust than when we first arrived,” said Father Mullen, who noted that the transition to the Archdiocese of Newark later this year would be a seamless one.

Franciscan tradition and ideals are deeply rooted at the parish founded by Holy Name Province in 1926, when the church was built, and Wood-Ridge residents no longer had to travel to neighboring towns for Sunday Mass. The parish elementary school opened 12 years later. In 1958, a new church was built to meet the growing population, followed by an addition to the school in 1965. Declining enrollment after the 2008 recession forced the school to close, but funds from the sale of the building were used to renovate the church and parish hall, the latter which serves as a center for the parish’s numerous ministries, programs and activities.

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# Pope sets special day to honor, study, share the Bible

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The newly established “Sunday of the Word of God” is an invitation to Catholics around the world to deepen their appreciation, love and faithful witness to God and His Word, Pope Francis said.

By papal decree, the third Sunday in Ordinary Time—Jan. 26 this year—is to be observed as a special day devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.”

A day dedicated to the Bible will help the Church “experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of His Word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world,” the pope said in the document establishing the special Sunday observance.

Dioceses and parishes have been invited to respond with creative initiatives, useful resources and renewed efforts for helping Catholics engage more deeply with the Bible at church and in their lives.

In his letter, Pope Francis wrote: “A day devoted to the Bible should not be

seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak His Word and to break bread in the community of believers.”

“We need to develop a closer relationship with sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, struck as we are by so many forms of blindness,” he wrote.

Pope Francis urged priests to be extra attentive to creating a homily each Sunday that “speaks from the heart” and really helps people understand Scripture “through simple and suitable” language.

The pope also suggested pastors provide parishioners with the Bible, a book of the Gospels or other catechetical resources; “enthroned” the Bible in order to emphasize the honor and sacred nature of the text; bless or commission lectors of the parish; and encourage people to read and pray with Scripture every day, especially through *lectio divina* (divine reading), a form of meditation rooted in liturgical celebration that dates back to early monastic

## Gov. Murphy signs bill to remove long-standing religious protection from health insurance plans

The New Jersey Legislature passed S3804/A5508 that eliminates a long-standing religious employers’ exemption contained in state law requiring health insurance coverage for contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs. Governor Phil Murphy signed the bill into law on Jan. 16.

Religious employers now must provide health insurance coverage for family planning medications, devices and procedures, including abortion-inducing drugs and sterilizations.

Language in the bill specifically says: “The bill removes the exemption in current law for religious employers to provide coverage for female contraceptives if the required coverage conflicts with the religious employer’s bona fide religious beliefs and practices.”

The legislation mandates that Catholic organizations, such as schools, dioceses and social service agencies, offer employees health benefits that violate fundamental Catholic principles.

communities.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, parishioners are encouraged to bring their personal or family Bible to Mass the weekend of Jan. 25-26 for a special blessing. Resources will also be handed out on the enthronement of the Bible in the home.

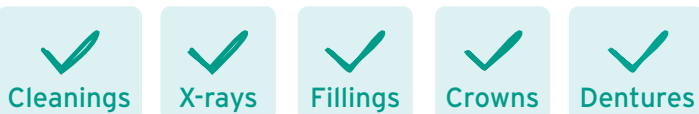
“The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books

for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs, above all, to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words,” the pope wrote.

“The Bible is the book of the Lord’s people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division toward unity” as well as come to understand God’s love and become inspired to share it with others, he added.

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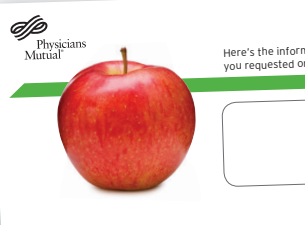
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# Christmas celebration at Most Blessed Sacrament not dampened by fire

FRANKLIN LAKES—On Christmas Eve, more than 1,200 parishioners from Most Blessed Sacrament attended Mass in the gymnasium of the Academy of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the parish school. Members of the Franklin Lakes community were shocked when the church was burned down by a suspected arsonist during the early morning hours of Dec. 11.

Father John Job, the pastor, celebrated the Mass. He thanked the community for their support and provided uplifting words during his homily. “In the midst of triumphs and tragedies, as we reminisce about our past and look forward to the future, we must always, always focus on keeping Christ in Christmas, indeed, keeping Christ at the center of our lives every day,” he said. “And in doing

so, in the months and years ahead, with your love and support and with God’s grace and blessing, our parish will not only survive but thrive. We will always remain Most Blessed Sacrament strong.”

The Christmas Eve Mass also featured the talent of the parish children’s choir.

The following is an update on Mass and other parish activities at Most Blessed Sacrament:

Sunday Mass, including the 5:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass, will be held in the gymnasium at the Academy of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Daily Mass, including the 9 a.m. Saturday Mass, will be held in the parish center. There is no change to the frequency of Masses or times.

All major holiday Masses will be celebrated in the school gymnasium. Check [www.mostblessedsacrament.ws](http://www.mostblessedsacrament.ws) or the church bulletin for Mass schedules.

While weddings and funeral Masses will be relocated to neighboring parishes, Most Blessed Sacrament staff will continue to prepare them and coordinate the music and logistics for these events.

Baptisms will be celebrated in the gymnasium during Masses.



There is no change to the many parish ministries of Most Blessed Sacrament, which take place in the parish center and at other facilities.

Classes continue as usual at Academy of the Most Blessed Sacrament, which is on the same property as the parish but was not directly affected by the fire.

Donations to help rebuilding efforts can be mailed to Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 787 Franklin Lake Rd., Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417. For check donations, please be sure to specify “MBS Restoration” on your donation.



Submitted photos

Most Blessed Sacrament pastor, Father John Job.

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## New Vocations Board assembled

By Melissa McNally  
Editor

The Archdiocese of Newark has assembled a new Vocations Board to better promote vocations to religious life. Last July, Father Emeka Okwuosa, S.D.V., with the permission of Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., resigned as the part-time vocation director for religious life due to his many community re-

sponsibilities. He continues as coordinator of the African American, African and Caribbean Apostolate and will be part of the new board. Archdiocesan Delegate for Religious Sister Patricia Wormann, O.P., said she believes Father Okwuosa will be an asset in understanding and promoting vocations within communities, especially within the black and Hispanic communities.

Rather than one vocation director,



Advocate photo-Melissa McNally

From left to right: Vocations Board Vice-Chair Sister Mariette Thérèse Bernier, O.S.B.; Chair Brother Patrick Winbush, O.S.B.; and Secretary Sister Barbara O'Kane, M.P.F.



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a board comprised of vocation directors of religious institutes within the archdiocese will meet on a regular basis. The new Vocations Board is similar to the structure of officers used by the Diocese

of Paterson's Vocation Awareness Committee.

The new structure was put in place last September, and at a meeting, the board voted unanimously for their new leadership team. Brother Patrick Winbush, O.S.B., will serve as chair; Sister Mariette Thérèse Bernier, O.S.B., will serve as vice-chair; and Sister Barbara O'Kane, M.P.F., will serve as secretary. Sister Patricia will serve as the liaison between this board and the cardinal's office.

Brother Patrick was born and raised in Newark and educated in Catholic schools from pre-K through college. He entered the Benedictine Abbey of Newark in July of 1999. He professed first vows on July 11, 2001, and then solemn vows on Sept. 24, 2005. He has been engaged in a variety of ministries and is currently a member of the Paterson Diocese Vocation Awareness Committee, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, director of Abbey Vocations, Abbey Sub-Prior, as well as being the director for Benedictine volunteers.

Brother Patrick explained that he sees one of the priorities of the new Vocation Board as building a relationship with Father Eugenio de la Rama, director of the Office of Priestly Vocations, to encourage vocations. He will also ask religious superiors to assign representatives to be involved with the Vocations Board. According to Sister Patricia, there are more than 900 men and women religious and about 150 communities in the archdiocese.

Newly elected vice-chair Sister Mariette Thérèse is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth. Raised in Elizabeth, she now ministers full time as vocation director for her community. Sister Mariette Thérèse also serves as secretary for her religious community and works as a school counselor at St. James the Apostle School in Springfield. She is a member of the Vocation Awareness Committee in the Diocese of Paterson and collaborates with other vocation directors for the Lower Hudson Valley Region of the National Religious Vocation Conference.

Sister Barbara is the vocation director of the Religious Teachers Filippini. She has served in Metuchen and Trenton diocesan schools, as director of a parish outreach ministry helping those in need, and as a catechist in religious education programs in New Jersey and New York.

A revised website for the Vocations Board is also being prepared and is scheduled to be up and running by Lent.



### Most Blessed Sacrament Church Rebuild Fundraiser

**Sunday, February 9, 2020**

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Any questions contact  
Mary Flynn: [mflynn623@gmail.com](mailto:mflynn623@gmail.com)



## Silent No More

Continued from page 1

ry and then you kind of just sink down and come back to reality," Kominsky recalled.

"Being at the rally and hearing everyone's testimonies can trigger a lot of emotions," Decker added. "It is a long, difficult day. For some, it is their first time publicly sharing the reality of their abortion."

Silent No More also makes their awareness known by standing at the curb in front of the stage with signs that read "I Regret my Abortion."

"We greet people on the street, and they can speak to us personally—it's like street ministry," said Kominsky.

"Often, people from the throng of marchers whisper to us that they also regret their abortion but have never told anyone. Or they know someone who is in a downward spiral after an abortion and they ask advice how to reach out to help them," Decker added.

The campaign educates those at the march about post-abortion healing. "We discretely pass out little cards with the website SilentNoMore.com that links to a wealth of information about healing," said Decker.

Kominsky noted that many women suffer in secret; their families don't know, and their parishes are not talking about healing from an abortion.

"There are not many of us who God has called to do this ministry," Kominsky said. "Many women feel that it's difficult to share their experience with their families—they would feel shocked and won't understand why you had an abortion."

The work of Silent No More is necessary and important, according to Kominsky. "It is important to say that abortions do hurt women and hurt families," she said. The main reason people like Kominsky and Riley share their story is for people to know that there is healing, forgiveness and restoration.

"We need to let people know that abortion hurts but there is also healing. Silent No More is a great way to have a voice. Some of us didn't have a voice when we had our abortions," Riley said.

Kominsky explained that she is continually in the healing processes along with other participants of Silent No More, but she said she believes healing shines the

light on much darkness.

"When people share their testimonies, you can see the commonalities in their post-abortion experience," Kominsky said. "Many succumb to drugs, divorce or depression. You can connect the dots when you hear all these stories, one after the other. They all say, 'I thought it was just me.'"

Some may think if you have an abortion, you must suffer the consequences, Decker said. "There are so many ways abortion wounds that affect people around us. When you hear the testimonies, you really see the spectrum of people who come forward. It can really take a toll on a person," she explained.

Through Silent No More, Decker said she made a group of friends from all across the country. "It's been a great community of support," she noted. "We stay connected throughout the year and continually pray for each other."

The group of women sometimes even pray the rosary together over the phone. "We believe our aborted children are in heaven with God, who is perfect love. We can call on them to intercede for us to help us get there for the heavenly reunion," Decker said. "Whether it's in private or in public, when you break the isolation and share your abortion experience in the light of Christ, it can enrich your spiritual life."



Submitted photo

## Cardinal Tobin presents *Forward in Faith* to Hispanic ministry leaders

By Esmeralda Cameron  
Public Relations Manager

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., met with nearly 180 Hispanic ministry leaders, representing 40 parishes from Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties, to present the pastoral vision for the Archdiocese of Newark *Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead*.

"My vision for our archdiocese is one of genuine solidarity in Christ. Our differences should enrich our Church, not divide it," Cardinal Tobin explained. "The challenges we face should bring us closer together and allow the Holy Spirit to give us the wisdom, courage, hope and generosity we need to be successful missionary disciples. We have a responsibility to the Lord to never tire tending His vineyard. After all, the Church is His."

After his presentation, held Dec. 10 at the Archdiocesan Center, Cardinal Tobin stayed for the remainder of the meeting to answer questions and address Hispanic Ministry concerns.

Oswaldo Sanchez, a parishioner of



Active Engagement  
of the Laity

and today we saw how we can also support him and the Catholic Church," Sanchez said. "I found the pillars of his vision very interesting and feel greater engagement of the laity will help to unite and strengthen all of our parishes."

Claudia Usma from St. Lucy Parish in Newark called the gathering a "fruitful" meeting. "It was great to hear about the process of how the vision was created with feedback from parishioners, and it gives us a call to action as Hispanic ministry leaders on how we can help to engage other parishioners to support this

St. Cecilia in Kearn, said it was very meaningful to have the cardinal personally meet with the group. "This time we spent with the cardinal was very important because we need the cardinal's support

vision," she said.

Deacon Asterio Velasco, who serves as coordinator of the Archdiocese of Newark Hispanic Ministry, helped organize the meeting to not only inform Hispanic ministry members about archdiocesan plans but provide an update about the *V Encuentro* process, which began four years ago and will be in its final stage on Oct. 17. For Deacon Velasco, it was also a wonderful opportunity for community members to meet with Cardinal Tobin and learn how they can make a difference as active members of their parishes.

The *V Encuentro* process, which is being done in more than 160 dioceses throughout the country, provides an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth, Deacon Velasco said. "It has given us the opportunity to listen to the voices of the diverse communities we serve about their pastoral needs, the obstacles and challenges they face, as well as their dreams and hopes, gifts and talents," he stated.

Cardinal Tobin, he explained, has



Submitted photo

Deacon Asterio Velasco with Cardinal Tobin.

been very supportive of the *V Encuentro* process. "(Cardinal Tobin) encouraged us and walked with us during the entire time. He accompanied us in the archdiocesan, as well as in the regional and the national *Encuentros*. We have always felt his pastoral concern. The fact that he can communicate with us in Spanish is a blessing for our people," Deacon Velasco said.

More information about *Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead*, including resources in English and Spanish, can be found at [forward.rcan.org](http://forward.rcan.org).



# THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK AND IMMIGRATION

## *A rich variety of Hispanic Catholic heritage*

By Msgr. Robert J. Wister

The first two Hispanic groups to arrive in great numbers in the Archdiocese of Newark, Puerto Ricans and Cubans, grew very quickly. Soon, other Hispanic groups took advantage of the 1965 immigration laws and came to the United States and the archdiocese in astounding numbers. In most instances, they would follow the pattern of ecclesial life established by the previous groups and integrate into existing parishes and, eventually, into archdiocesan structures.

Poverty, political oppression and criminal violence prevalent in many Latin American countries had contributed to the great migration of Hispanics to the United States. Desperation often leads people to take measures that otherwise they would not consider.

According to the Migration Policy Institute in 2018, there were almost a quarter million undocumented persons, mostly Hispanics, in New Jersey. The pastoral care of these migrants poses a great challenge to the local Church.

### THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

After Puerto Ricans, the largest Hispanic group in the Archdiocese of Newark is from the Dominican Republic. The diocese of its capital, Santo Domingo, created on Aug. 8, 1511, is the first diocese established in the Western Hemisphere.

Although about 5,000 Dominicans immigrated before 1924, there was no significant immigration to the United States until the latter part of the 20th century. The Dominican Republic has had a complex relationship with the U.S. The United States twice invaded and occupied the Dominican Republic, first from 1916 to 1924, and again in 1965.

The second United States invasion played a more significant role in launching the most recent migration of Dominicans. The assassination of military ruler Rafael Trujillo in 1961 marked the start of a period of political uncertainty in the Dominican Republic that ended in 1965 when United States armed forces intervened by order of President Lyndon Johnson.

The civil unrest and the intervention by the United States on the side of the conservative military led many supporters of the losing side to emigrate in the 1960s. Those emigrants, most of whom came to the United States, were the first of many Dominicans who have come in ever-increasing numbers in the past several decades.

In the 1980s, immigration to the United States from the Dominican Republic rose to unprecedented levels. The U.S.



Census Bureau provided a separate category for Dominicans in the 1990 census. Despite their numbers, however, Dominican immigrants have been relatively unstudied. Religion remains little commented upon in the literature on Dominicans in the United States. Dominicans in the Caribbean are approximately 57 percent Catholic.

According to the 2010 census, the Dominican population of New Jersey almost doubled in ten years. Of the 197,922 Dominicans in New Jersey, almost half (97,039) live in the Archdiocese of Newark. The largest number are in Hudson County, followed by Bergen County. The U.S. Census Bureau's estimates for 2017 show a very significant growth in the Dominican population in New Jersey and especially in the Archdiocese of Newark.

The cities in the archdiocese with the largest number of Dominicans are Jersey City (13,512), Newark (12,527), Union City (10,020), Elizabeth (7,073) and West New York (4,935).

### MEXICO

The presence of very large Mexican communities in the Southwest and especially in California has been part of the story of 20th and early 21st century immigration for decades. In recent years, Mexican immigrants spread to many parts of the United States, including the Northeast. Many Mexicans first came to New Jersey as seasonal farm workers in the southern part of the state. They then stayed on and more joined them.

In the late 20th century, the Mexican population suddenly exploded in New Jersey. From just over 6,000 in 1970, they soared to 121,000 in 2000, and then almost doubled in the next ten years to 217,715 in 2010.

About one quarter of the state's Mexican population lives in the Archdiocese of Newark. While Mexicans live throughout the four counties of the archdiocese, the cities with the largest Mexican populations are Newark, Elizabeth, West New

York, Union City and Jersey City. About 81 percent of the population of Mexico is Catholic. The presence of large Hispanic communities in these cities made the integration of the Mexican immigrants easier. There are more than 10,000 Mexicans in Bergen, Essex and Union counties, and more than 20,000 in Hudson County.

Almost 80 percent of Colombians are Catholic, one of the highest percentages in Latin America. The 67,653 Colombians in the Archdiocese of Newark are almost 60 percent of all the Colombians in New Jersey. Almost equal numbers of Colombians live in Bergen, Hudson and Union counties, while there is a much smaller number in Essex County.

### COLOMBIA, ECUADOR AND PERU

In the early 20th century, a small number of Colombians immigrated to the United States, mostly settling in New York. Due to internal strife in Colombia, more immigrated during the 1950s. The economic crises of the 1960s brought more Colombians to the United States.

The majority immigrated in the 1980s and 1990s as conflicts escalated among guerrillas, paramilitaries and narcotics traffickers. Only Florida and New York have more Colombian immigrants than New Jersey.

Until the 1960s, only about 11,000 Ecuadorians had migrated to the United States. Most Ecuadorian immigration to the United States has occurred since the early 1970s. The Ecuadorian land reform of 1964 forced many small landowners to sell their property. Many then migrated to the United States.

Continued economic difficulties in the 1980s and 1990s, and political turmoil in the late 1990s, drove further emigration. In 1986, the Immigration Reform and Control Act legalized the status of 16,292 Ecuadorians in the United States and spurred a large increase in family-sponsored Ecuadorian migration to America.

The number of Ecuadorians in New



Advocate file photo

Salvadoran Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.





CNS photo

A woman attends the beatification Mass of Blessed James Miller in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Jersey almost quadrupled between 1990 and 2010 and continues to grow. Almost three-quarters (91,121 of 125,475) of Ecuadorians in New Jersey live within the archdiocese. The largest concentrations of Ecuadorians are in Hudson and Essex counties. Among the cities with large Ecuadorian populations are Belleville, Union City, Harrison, Jersey City, Newark and Elizabeth. Ecuadorians in New Jersey are the second largest concentration in the United States, following New York.

In Ecuador, 79 percent of the population is Catholic. Ecuadorians have a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin. In particular, this devotion focuses on Our Lady of Quinche. The Ecuadorian community has established a shrine to her in St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in Newark.

Peruvian Americans are relatively recent arrivals, as most of them migrated to the United States after 1990, following political and economic turmoil. New Jersey has the third largest number of Peruvian immigrants, following Florida and California. The number tripled between 1990 and 2010. Cities with large numbers of Peruvians are East Newark, Harrison, Kearny, Garfield, Elizabeth and Union City.

While like all Latin American Catholics, Peruvians have a deep devotion to the Mother of God, they also have a special devotion to Our Lord of the Miracles. In Hudson County, the *Hermandad del Señor de los Milagros*, or Brotherhood of the Lord of Miracles, stages an annual procession with the help of three

participating churches: St. Cecilia in Kearny, St. Anthony's in East Newark and Holy Cross in Harrison. A large depiction of Christ's crucifixion is borne aloft along a 20-block route within the three towns.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

The rapid growth in the population of migrants to the United States born in Central America between 1960 and 2017 is due in large part by increased immigration from El Salvador, Guatemala and (more recently) Honduras. Increased immigration from these three countries alone accounts for 85 percent of the growth in the Central American-born population over this period. While these countries sent a large number of migrants, the number from Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama is comparatively small.

The increase in the numbers of the Salvadoran, Guatemalan and Honduran immigrants demonstrates the effects of the civil turmoil and the rampant crime in these nations. More than two-thirds of the Salvadoran immigrants, about one-half of the Honduran immigrants and just under half of the Guatemalan immigrants in New Jersey live within the Archdiocese of Newark. Fifty-five percent of all Central American immigrants live in the archdiocese.

The largest number of Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Honduran and other Central American immigrants live in Hudson and Union counties. Of the almost

100,000 Central American immigrants in the archdiocese, based upon religious identification in their home countries, about half are Catholic.

While Salvadoran migration to the U.S. remained low throughout the first several decades in the 20th century, it spiked at the onset of the Salvadoran Civil War (1979-1992), when many fled to the United States seeking sanctuary from the devastation that plagued the country, and United States immigration laws were liberalized. However, many Salvadorans came to the United States undocumented and applied for asylum and/or work permits in order to legalize their status. This massive migration to the U.S. was a result

of political violence as much as it was the deteriorating economic conditions in El Salvador. By the end of 1989, more than 250,000 Salvadorans had migrated to the U.S. The unofficial number was about one million.

The flood of refugees from a United States supported government forced a national rethinking of foreign policy priorities. Salvadoran Americans are at the center of an ongoing national debate about United States responsibility toward the world's refugees and the future of immigration in general.

The number of Salvadorans in the United States, documented and undocumented, is amazing when one considers the small size of the country. Salvadorans are the United States' fifth largest immigrant group after Mexican, Filipino, Indian and Chinese.

The large influx of Guatemalans into the United States began in the 1970s and 1980s and peaked in the 1990s due to civil war. During this period, tens of thousands of Guatemalan refugees, both documented and undocumented, came to the United States through Mexico.

Guatemalans are the sixth largest Latino group in the United States and the second largest Central American population after Salvadorans. Half of the Guatemalan population is in the Northeast and in southern California. In the Archdiocese of Newark, there are large numbers of Guatemalans in Plainfield and Fairview.

The number of Honduran immigrants has increased in recent years due to increasing lawlessness in the country. Many Honduran Americans are migrant farm laborers who first established themselves in the large cities.

Most of the Hondurans who live in the Archdiocese of Newark are in northern Hudson County and Union County. Pew Research Center estimates that only 46 percent of Hondurans are affiliated with the Catholic Church.

*Robert J. Wister, Hist.Eccl.D., is a faculty member at Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange.*



Advocate file photo

The Latin American community of Holy Trinity Parish in Hackensack celebrates the Christmastime tradition of *La Posada*.

Coming up in the February issue of *The Catholic Advocate*, Msgr. Wister will explore immigration from Asian communities in the Archdiocese of Newark.



# Despite extraordinary efforts, Marist High School to close

BAYONNE—After 65 years educating students in Hudson County and the Archdiocese of Newark, Marist High School will close its doors at the end of the academic year in June. All classes, athletic team schedules, guidance and extracurricular activities will continue through June.

After much deliberation and support, Provincial Brother Patrick McNamara and the Provincial Council of the Marist USA Province made the decision to close. “Marist is a wonderful high school and educational family,” Brother Patrick said. “We Marist Brothers have cherished the many years of excellent education given by dedicated brothers and lay Marists, and we are grateful to all the extraordinary efforts by the Marist school board and alumni to support Marist. But we, the Marist Brothers or Marist High School, simply do not have the funds to continue school operations after this academic year.”

Since 2008, enrollment at Marist has declined by more than half. Fewer students and the resulting loss in revenue through the years has created an operational deficit that depleted the school’s reserve despite aggressive fundraising efforts. In 2017, the Marist Brothers and the school administration announced a “Save the School” campaign to raise \$1.5 million necessary to continue operations but were successful in bring-

ing in only \$750,000. Since that time, those funds have been utilized to maintain continuity and to build a strategic plan that included the September 2018 hiring of President Peter G. Kane to explore available options to avoid the school’s closing.

This most recent development caps a decade-long, nationwide decline in Catholic education. According to the National Catholic Educational Association, almost 1,000 elementary and secondary schools have closed since 2009. In New Jersey alone, there have been more than 100 closings in the past 20 years.

According to Kane, “Marist High School is proud of its service to the community through six decades, maintaining the highest standards of Catholic education. This has been a painful and difficult decision for everyone involved. I am heartened by knowing the positive impact Marist has made in the lives of our current students, their families and alumni who have been so supportive of our efforts through this challenging process.”

Marist’s current enrollment of 235 students represents a dramatic decline from over 300 students as recently as 2015. “Despite our best efforts, we cannot continue to bridge the annual operational gap of over \$1 million. The steady decline in enrollment, along with increasing expenses and the ongoing financial

assistance we provide to our families has made this closure unavoidable,” Kane stated.

Since first opening its doors in 1954, Marist High School has been guided and directed by the principles of its founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat, Marist Brothers and by dedicated and generous

lay Marists.

School administration, faculty, coaches and guidance counselors will continue their commitment to the community of enrolled students and parents and focus their efforts on assisting families to make the necessary arrangements for transfers to regional high schools.



Photo courtesy of Marist High School

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## January 23

**Felician University**, Lodi, talk with author Nancy Laracy, writer of "Bunny Boy and Me," 6 p.m., \$15, contact Maura DeNicola at 201-355-1432 or [denicolam@felician.edu](mailto:denicolam@felician.edu).

**St. Michael School**, Cranford, open house, 7-8:30 p.m., also on Jan. 26 from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., call 908-276-9425 or visit [www.smscranford.com](http://www.smscranford.com).

**Loyola Jesuit Center**, Morristown, "The Greatest New Year's Resolution: To Fall in Love with God," day of prayer, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., includes breakfast, lunch, reconciliation and Mass, \$40, call 973-539-0740 or visit [www.loyola.org](http://www.loyola.org).

## January 26

**Koinonia Academy**, Plainfield, Mass at 10 a.m. with a reception and open house to follow, open house also on Jan. 30 from 9-11:30 a.m., call 908-668-9002 or visit [www.koinoniaacademy.org](http://www.koinoniaacademy.org).

## January 27

**Immaculate Conception Parish**, Norwood, "Keeping the Fire Alive: Navigating Challenges in the Spiritual Life," DVD lecture series to prepare for Lent, six sessions continue on Feb. 3, Feb. 10, Feb. 17, Feb. 24 and March 2, 7 p.m., call 201-768-1600 or visit [www.iccnorwood.org](http://www.iccnorwood.org).

## January 28

**St. Teresa of Avila Parish**, Summit, Parents' Toolbox Series, "Social Media: The Dangers and Benefits for our Kids," with speaker Andrew Walsh, 10-11 a.m., 6:30-7:30 p.m., 908-277-3700 or email [FF@sttere-saavila.org](mailto:FF@sttere-saavila.org).

## January 30

**St. Thomas Apostle Parish**, Bloomfield, ministry of spiritual direction information session, 10-11:15 a.m. or 7-8:15 p.m., call 973-338-9538 or visit [www.stachurchbloomfield.com/web](http://www.stachurchbloomfield.com/web).

## February 3

**Divine Mercy Parish**, Rahway, "Romans: The Gospel of Salvation," eight-session Bible study, presented by Dr. Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, Mondays 7:15-9:15 p.m., \$25, preregister at 908-463-0449 or email [susie@divinemercyrahway.church](mailto:susie@divinemercyrahway.church).

## February 5

**Community of God's Love**, Rutherford, Women's Faith Sharing Group, 1:30-3 p.m., call 201-935-0344 or email [roller81@hotmail.com](mailto:roller81@hotmail.com).

## February 6

**St. Mary Parish**, Closter, "All About the Mass," 7 p.m., call 201-768-7565 or email [ministry@stmarycloster.org](mailto:ministry@stmarycloster.org).

## Digitized Catholic Advocate usage increases markedly over past year

By Sebastian Derry

In 2018, Seton Hall University Libraries collaborated with the Catholic Research Resources Alliance to make a significant contribution to the CRR's online Catholic News Archive. Print issues of *The Catholic Advocate*, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark, held in the Archives and Special Collections Center, were digitized and made freely available online through the Catholic News Archive for public access. The selected issues document the era of Second Vatican Council, commonly known as Vatican II (1958-1964), enabling researchers to examine this period and its impact on the Newark Catholic community.

*The Catholic Advocate* soon became the most popular resource available on the Catholic News Archive portal, driving 18 percent of traffic to the site. Approximately 12,000 users consulted *The Catholic Advocate* in 2018, the first year it was available online.

In 2019, University Libraries digitized and made available two more years of *The Catholic Advocate*, for a total of nine years.

The text has been processed through Optical Character Recognition software (OCR), enabling keyword searching of the entire archive. Even the captions on the photographs are captured, enabling genealogists to find photographs of their relatives through a simple search of the person's name. This powerful tool allows researchers, as well as the general public, to discover more detail than ever before about the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Newark during the 1960s.

At Seton Hall University, Dr. Thomas Rzesnik, associate professor of History, has students use newspapers in his Catholic History and American History courses. Alan Delozier, university archivist, created a video introducing students to the value of old newspapers.

Efforts like these ensure that *The Catholic Advocate* will remain one of the most popular and heavily consulted resources in the Catholic News Archives.

To view the digital issues of *The Catholic Advocate*, visit [www.rcan.org/advocate](http://www.rcan.org/advocate).

Sebastian Derry is the assistant dean for Public Services at Seton Hall University Libraries.

### Scholarship Fund to host Black History Month event

Through Jan. 31, the Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children is accepting submissions of paintings, photography or mixed-media visual projects for "An Afternoon of Black Music and Art." The event will be held Saturday, Feb. 8, at 4 p.m. at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark. The afternoon celebrates the cultural richness and diversity of local black communities. The event begins with a short, casual art reception followed by a series of musical performances at 5 p.m. that highlight jazz, soul and spiritual music. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP and send any art submissions to Miguel Flores at [miguel.flores@rcan.org](mailto:miguel.flores@rcan.org) or 973-497-4184.



## OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

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

### — PASTOR —

Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Chapel has been appointed pastor of St. Andrew Parish, Westwood, effective Feb. 1.

### — ADMINISTRATORS —

Reverend Giordano Belanich has been appointed temporary administrator of Holy Redeemer Parish, West New York, effective Jan. 2.

Reverend Ryan Eric Dela Peña, C.R.M., has been appointed administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Lodi, effective Jan. 1.

Very Reverend Michael J. Kreder, V.F., has been appointed temporary

administrator of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Lyndhurst, effective Jan. 2.

Reverend Patrick J. Seo has been appointed temporary administrator of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Park Ridge, effective Feb. 1.

### — RETIREMENT —

Very Reverend Robert G. Laferrera, V.F., has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1.

Reverend Louis Pambello has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1.

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

**Sunday, Jan. 26**  
3 p.m.  
Vietnamese Apostolate Mass  
St. Mary Parish, Jersey City

**Saturday, Feb. 1**  
11 a.m.  
Consecrated Life Mass  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

**Sunday, Feb. 2**  
Noon  
Black History Month Mass  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark



@CardinalJWTObin

**Sunday, Feb. 9**  
Noon  
100th Anniversary Mass  
St. Genevieve Parish, Elizabeth



# War with Iran—not a Catholic option

By Tony Magliano

“Two wrongs don’t make a right.” Just think how much better each one of us and the world would be if we held fast to this morally correct common-sense proverb. But unfortunately, common sense and morality are often not considered when we feel we have been wronged.

Instead, and often tragically so, the unholy act of retaliation is a frequent response. And even when considering retaliation from just a logical perspective, it doesn’t make sense. Historically, as well as currently, it is clearly observed that retaliation, instead of deterring further aggression,

nearly always perpetuates it, creating an ongoing cycle of violence.

Retaliation is especially illogical and immoral when doing so could lead to war. President Donald Trump’s decision to assassinate Iranian Major General Qassem Soleimani is a case in point—notwithstanding Soleimani’s murderous reputation.

As reported in *The Atlantic*, Elissa Slotkin, a Democratic representative and former CIA analyst focused on Shia militias, said in a statement that she’d seen friends and colleagues killed or hurt by Iranian weapons under Soleimani’s guidance when she served in Iraq. She said she was involved in discussions during both the Bush

and Obama administrations about how to respond to his violence. Neither opted for assassination.

“What always kept both Democratic and Republican presidents from targeting Soleimani himself was the simple question: Was the strike worth the likely retaliation, and the potential to pull us into protracted conflict?” she said. “The two administrations I worked for both determined that the ultimate ends didn’t justify the means. The Trump administration has made a different calculation.”

In addition to considering the added harm retaliation would bring, Slotkin’s pointing out “that the ultimate ends didn’t justify the means” is a step in the direction of the ironclad Catholic moral principle that insists that even a good end does not justify an evil means. That is, the means used to accomplish a good end must also be good. No exceptions! And in light of the Gospel, violence is always an evil means.

In his new year’s address to the Diplomatic Corps accredited by the Holy See, Pope Francis expressed deep concern regarding tensions between Iran and the United States that risk “setting the groundwork for a vaster conflict that all of us would want to avert.” He appealed that escalation of the conflict be avoided and to “keep alive the flame of dialogue and self-restraint.”

In his 2003 address to the Diplomatic Corps, St. John Paul II emphatically proclaimed that war “is always a defeat for humanity.”



This month, while we celebrate Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., it is especially appropriate to reflect on his thoughts regarding such matters: “The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it.”

“Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. ... Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Two wrongs don’t make a right. It takes strong moral courage to break the violent cycle of giving back hurt for hurt. For it takes love to make a right.

*Tony Magliano is an internationally syndicated social justice and peace columnist.*



CNS photo  
Pope Francis spoke with Iran’s ambassador to the Holy See, Seyed Taha Hashemi, on Jan. 9.

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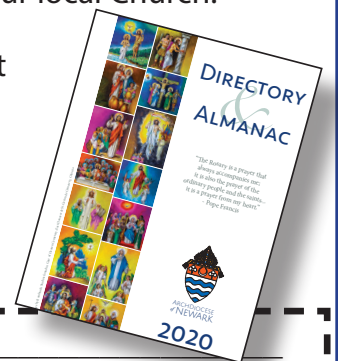
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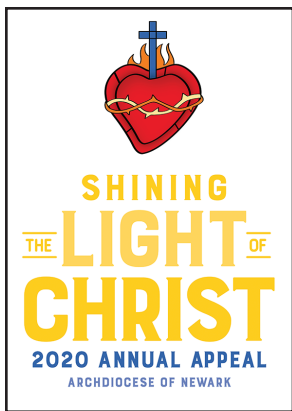
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This past weekend, parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark began introducing this year's Annual Appeal. Below is a message from Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The theme of this year's Annual Appeal is "Shining the Light of Christ"—how appropriate this message is! As I visit our parishes and schools, and as I continue to meet with you, the faithful people of God, I'm privileged to see how our archdiocese witnesses to Christ's light and love in so many powerful ways.

Through your generous support, our archdiocese is able to form the next generation of leaders, minister to the poor and suffering, welcome those on the margins and provide urgently needed resources so that our parishes can flourish.

This is truly sharing the light of Christ throughout northern New Jersey.

I want to reiterate my commitment—and the commitment of this archdiocese—to transparency and accountability. Your gift to the Annual Appeal is and always will be used for the reasons intended—to serve the mission of the Church and nothing more.

Many of you may have received a personal letter from me inviting you to make a gift to the Annual Appeal. I want to take this moment to thank those who have responded so generously.

There are many ways to make a gift to the Annual Appeal, including our website [www.rcan.org/sharing](http://www.rcan.org/sharing). There you can also see the areas your gift will support and learn about our programs and ministries.

I hope you will prayerfully consider making a gift to the Annual Appeal.

May the Lord bless you and your families; and may Mary, our Mother, help each of us to radiate Christ's love and mercy to all we encounter and serve.

Sincerely in Christ the Redeemer,

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

## Immaculate Conception parishioners to celebrate Masses at Maryrest during renovations

MAHWAH—Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark has offered parishioners at Immaculate Conception Parish a space to worship while the church undergoes interior renovations. The chapel mausoleum at Maryrest Cemetery in Mahwah will be the site of weekend and holy day Masses while the construction takes place over the next eight to nine months.

As a result of this new arrangement, Immaculate Conception parishioners can continue to celebrate weekend Masses without interruption until the major construction project is completed. Parishioners will have the added benefit of visiting loved ones interred at Maryrest Cemetery and Mausoleum.

The arrangement was approved by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., and allows parishioners to continue celebrating weekend Masses less than one mile away from their church.

"With the initiative *Forward in Faith Together, Our Road Ahead* already in motion, we recognize this alliance between us and Immaculate Conception Parish as an opportunity to offer our sacred space of worship to our fellow broth-

ers and sisters in need," said Andrew P. Schafer, executive director of Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark.

In addition to the weekend Masses, Maryrest chapel mausoleum celebrates monthly Masses of Remembrance for the family of loved ones interred at the site.



Photo courtesy of Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark



Photos courtesy of Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., blessed the newly renovated chapel at the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace in Englewood Cliffs on Dec. 21. St. Michael Villa, the eastern regional center and home to many of the retired sisters, was seriously damaged by fire three years ago. The cardinal also visited with each of the sisters who was personally impacted by the fire.



# Bloomfield parish hosts Mass for Our Country

By Esmeralda Cameron  
Public Relations Manager

During the prayer of the faithful, parishes around the globe pray for world leaders and elected officials. With so much conflict in the world, a growing devotion to keep our nation in prayer is needed. To help pray for peace, the Office for Evangelization is continuing to sponsor a monthly Mass for Our Country at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bloomfield.

Father Paul Cannariato, pastor of Assumption Parish in Emerson, celebrated the first Mass of the new year on Jan.

2 along with Deacon Raj Srinivasa of St. Aloysius in Caldwell. During his homily, Father Cannariato said: "We are called just as the apostles were through the power of the Holy Spirit to be bold and courageous in our proclamation of the Gospel. This is our call to action as followers of Christ."

According to Acting Vicar for Pastoral Life and Office for Evangelization Coordinator Father John Gordon, the Mass for Our Country is celebrated every first Thursday of the month because July 4, 1776, the day that represents the birth of our country, was on a Thursday.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to come together and pray for God's blessings

and mercy for our country," Father Gordon said. "Since the Mass for Our Country devotion started a year ago, it has continued to become of growing interest among parishioners who want to make a difference and know there is power in their prayers."

Father Gordon said he wanted to sponsor a monthly Mass after he was inspired by Father Jerzy Popieluszko, a young priest who offered a monthly "Mass for the Fatherland" after communist authorities in Poland imposed martial law in December 1981.

"St. Paul in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 exhorts everyone to pray, intercede and give thanks to God for all in authority so that the Holy Spirit can work in them and affect harmony and peace in our lives and in our nation," Deacon Srinivasa said.

The 7:30 p.m. Mass for Our Country is preceded by a patriotic rosary prayer at 7 p.m. Every Mass begins with the singing of "American the Beautiful" and ends with "God Bless America."

For Vito Mazza, a fourth degree Knight of Columbus and parishioner of St. John the Evangelist in Leonia, it was a blessing to lead the rosary prayer before the first Mass of 2020.

"The patriotic rosary is something quite special. Each time we say a different prayer, we pray for a different branch of our government, starting at the top with the president to the Senate and the House of Representatives then to the states," he



Advocate photo-Esmeralda Cameron  
St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners Jim and Joan Lind.

explained.

St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners Jim and Joan Lind have supported each Mass for Our Country since its inception in January 2019.

"I think it is very important to pray for our nation because we are facing a lot of difficulties today in our world. Praying the rosary for our nation is especially important because we seem to be at a turning point with some of the social problems we are facing as a country," Jim Lind said.

Mass for Our Country will continue for the next five months on the following dates: Feb. 6, March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4.



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# Catholic Schools Week

January 26<sup>th</sup> - February 1<sup>st</sup>



# St. Thomas the Apostle student performs on 'Today'

By Melissa McNally  
Editor

On Christmas morning, Anthony and Kimberley Salandy tuned into "Today with Hoda & Jenna" to see a familiar face on the screen—their 13-year-old son, Garan.

A seventh-grader at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Bloomfield, Garan is a member of the Young People's Chorus of

New York City. He performed Christmas songs during the nationally syndicated morning show. "Being on set was breathtaking," he recalled.

The appearance was pre-recorded before the holiday. The choir also performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade alongside "Frozen" star Idina Menzel.

"It's been such a great experience for Garan," his mother, Kimberley, explained. "Garan really loves performing in the Young People's Chorus. He likes the idea of a musical community."

Founded by Francisco J. Núñez in 1988, the Young People's Chorus provides music education to more than one thousand children each year from a diverse spectrum of cultural and economic backgrounds. The organization offers a College Bound Program, ensuring 100 percent of its graduates attend college. Garan is a member of the Cantare ensemble that performs 20-30 concerts each season.

Garan, along with his older brothers, took piano lesson from Stella Oh, who recommended Garan audition for the Young People's Chorus in the summer of 2018. Oh is now the music teacher at St. Thomas the Apostle.

"I was really nervous to audition," Garan admitted. His parents and Oh accompanied him to the New York City try-outs where he sang "Amazing Grace." A few weeks later, Garan received the good news that he was accepted.



Garan Salandy



Submitted photos

Garan, lower right, with the Young People's Chorus of New York City and musician Jason Mraz at NBC studio.

"I don't even think he realized how good of a singer he was," Oh explained. "His audition was excellent. I knew he made it in straight away."

Kimberley said she was anxious when Garan first traveled with the choral ensemble. "He went to a festival in Toronto without us and I was so nervous. But the Young People's Chorus takes great care of the kids. They're not just out to find the next young Broadway star, they go into schools and promote music programs. It's a great organization," Kimberley said.

Garan attends choir rehearsal two days a week at Lincoln Center. "I usually do my homework after I get back from practice," he said.

Kimberley stressed that her son's schoolwork remains first priority. "Academics is the most important thing to us," she said. "It is about time management and maintaining his grades."

St. Thomas Principal Michael Petrillo agreed that Garan seems to be balancing both quite well. "He's a wonderful student—an all-around great kid," he said.

## Holy Angels freshman is concertmaster of symphony

DEMAREST—Music is an essential part of life for violinist Faith Youn of Closter, the new concertmaster of the New York City-based Mannes Prep

Symphony. The concertmaster is the leader of the first violin section in an orchestra.

Although Youn performs around the world, the unassuming Academy of the Holy Angels freshman described her selection as concertmaster as "the best surprise." She noted that this was the first year Mannes held a blind seating audition.

"I've been part of Mannes Prep for three years, this year being my fourth," Youn explained. "In my past three years at Mannes Prep, I was a concertmaster twice for the concert orchestra, the younger ensemble mainly for middle school students. Being a concertmaster at Mannes Prep has been a rewarding experience. It has not only made me into a better musician but also helped develop my leadership skills in music and at school."

At Mannes Prep, she was given the opportunity to teach at Love Violin, an organization that teaches violin to underprivileged children. "Teaching at Love Violin not only further developed my leadership skills but also helped me

share my passion for music with others," she explained.

At Holy Angels, Youn studies with Instrumental Music Director Mariann Anecchino. Youn plays violin for the Holy Angels orchestra and is a member of the academy's Select Strings ensemble. She recently performed at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Donor Recognition Luncheon in Wilton, Conn., as part of a trio of academy freshmen.

During the summer of 2019, Youn participated in the Hawaii Youth Symphony's Pacific Music Institute Summer Program. This two-week event allowed Youn to meet talented local students and musicians from Asia and the U.S. mainland.

"I was also surrounded by renowned professional musicians who came from phenomenal backgrounds," Youn said. "I also participated in the Narnia Festival, a summer music program in Italy. These programs not only challenged my playing skills but also exposed me to a whole new set of diligent young musicians with different cultures brought together by our shared love for music."



Submitted photos





# Conference ignites fire in young Catholics

By Kelly Marsicano  
Associate Publisher



**Lifelong Faith  
Formation and  
Education**

A group of students from Seton Hall University spent part of their Christmas break with nearly 9,000 other Catholics. They attended SLS20: You Were Made for Mission, a biennial event presented by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) held in Phoenix Dec. 30-Jan. 3.

"I got to end the year and start the year with Jesus," said Alicia John, a Seton Hall freshman who attended the event for the first time. "It was really amazing."

The five-day conference featured daily Mass, speakers, tracks for students, post-college attendees and campus ministers, as well as confession, Adoration, fellowship and entertainment. Special guests included Cardinal Gerhard Müller of Germany and Archbishop Christoph Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, who challenged attendees to be courageous and share their faith.

"Your peers are looking for the fulfillment of their desires," said Archbishop Pierre during his homily. "Often, they seek them in the things of the world, but these never satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. It is your task as disciples and missionaries to show them the

Way, meditating the encounter with Jesus — the Way, Truth and Life. It is not easy, particularly as the world becomes more hostile to the life of Christian faith. Do not lose courage: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome the light."

More than 4,500 college students attended the collegiate track, which discussed topics relevant to young adults and how they can go deeper in their faith and form missionary disciples.

"It was such a beautiful experience to be among these Catholics who are on fire for their faith. I never experienced that on such a grand scale before. It made me want to do more in my faith," said John. She went on to explain how a topic on loving the person next to you inspired her to take a drastic measure. "I actually deleted my social media and try to be in the present and get to know others."

Seton Hall junior Brian McShane also had a change of heart. "I never really

experienced the Christian joy that people talk about it. But it's a real thing," he said. "I'm more aware of how to emulate that in my life now and spread it with other people."

McShane said he plans to work on improving his prayer life and is interested in starting a Bible study group.

Campus ministry professionals also had the opportunity to be renewed for mission and network with their peers.

"It was so important for me as a minister to be there. Beyond the opportunities for professional formation and networking, I was able to foster and deepen relationships with many students through fellowship, prayer and sharing," said Stephanie Sonnick, a campus minister at Seton Hall.

Sonnick added that it's important for college students to experience some-

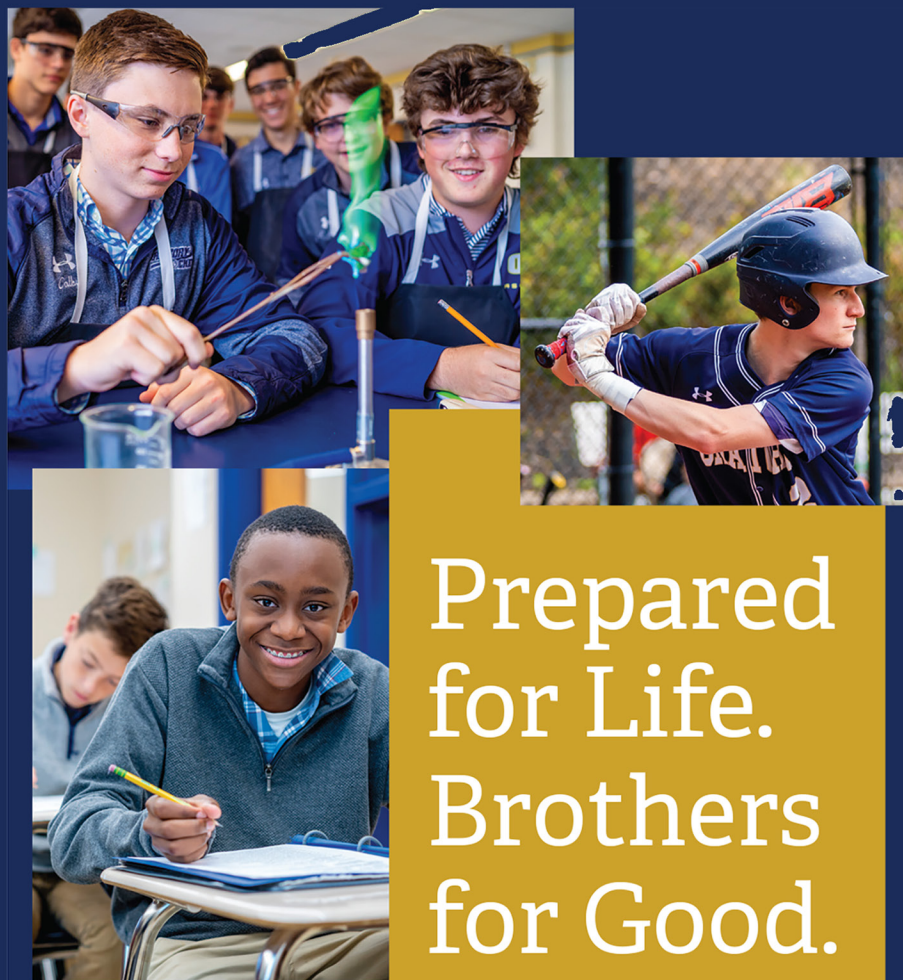
thing like SLS20 as a way to feed their soul. "It equips them with formation, tools and support for bringing Christ's message forth to their peers. This is the mission Jesus calls us all to fulfill," she said.

"I learned what discipleship is and how simple it is," John reflected. "I'm excited for the future and to delve deeper into my faith. The next step is to bring those in my life closer to Christ."

FOCUS, which was founded in 1998, invites college students into a growing relationship with Christ and His Church, with the mission to inspire and equip them for a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization, discipleship and friendships in which they lead others to do the same. FOCUS serves 164 college campuses across the U.S. and Europe, including three campuses in the Archdiocese of Newark.



Photo courtesy of FOCUS



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# Assistant superintendent earns technology certification

By Christine Lombardo

Throughout her years in education, Ann Oro, assistant superintendent for Union County and Educational Technology in archdiocesan Catholic schools, has witnessed many changes. She had a successful career as a corporate trainer and helpdesk professional before transferring her teaching skills from the offices of corporate America to the classrooms of St. Michael School in Cranford.

All of Oro's experience culminated last

year when she earned certification from The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). Since opening the certification process to participants in 2018, just 250 candidates in the country have earned certification, with close to 2,000 in process at the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

ISTE bills itself as "the epicenter of tech," and with good cause. The non-profit organization serves more than 100,000 educators interested in the use of technology in education and is the source



evaluators for review.

Oro said not only has ISTE enhanced her own learning but also given her a clear view of the bigger picture of how tech can support student learning. She feels "honored" that the organization recognized her as a valuable resource to student learning and teacher growth.

Oro served as a faculty member at St. Michael School for 12 years. As a teacher and later the technology director at the grammar school, Oro's duties were varied: she taught computers to all grades and math to middle schoolers, supported technology integration in the pre-K program using a co-teaching model, observed and conferenced with teachers to support their growth, and leveraged her interest in digital photography to enhance the school's social media presence.

She joined the Schools Office of the archdiocese in 2014, where she served as the director of K-12 Instructional Technology for five years before becoming the assistant superintendent for Union County and Educational Technology in July 2019.

Outside of her professional career, Oro has always stayed abreast of trends in technology and explored the latest innovations in digital education. She said interest in the field not only served to make her a more conscientious and effective educator but also enriched the lives of both the students and teachers she serves.

*Christine Lombardo is the director of school enrollment, communications and marketing of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Newark.*

of the standards that guide both educators and students in its use. ISTE standards seek to provide a framework for rethinking teaching and creating innovative learning environments.

Recently, ISTE has sought to identify educational leaders, specifically through a certification process open to practicing professionals. The competency-based teacher certification requires candidates to complete a portfolio evidencing their skills in 25 areas, ranging from ethical use of technology to integrating the use and analysis of data to solve discipline-specific problems. The pathway to certification is a three-step process beginning with a two-day training session, followed by an online component lasting five to eight weeks. Upon completion of the online phase, candidates have six months to compile their portfolios to be submitted to

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Submitted photos

Caldwell University Department of Natural Sciences professors Dr. Marjorie Squires, above left, and Dr. Darryl Aucoin, above right, spoke to students at the Academy of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Tenafly on Dec. 19 about the science depicted in The St. John's Bible, the first handwritten illuminated Bible in 500 years. Caldwell has been hosting the Heritage edition of the Gospels and Acts volume of the Bible for the past year. Patricia Levins, photo at left, a parishioner at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Caldwell's director of Corporate, Foundation and Government Relations, organized the school visit and shared the Bible with the elementary school students.

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# Lacordaire Academy celebrates centennial and Catholic Schools Week

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Lacordaire Academy will celebrate Catholic Schools Week with an array of planned activities that emphasize the school's Dominican heritage while commemorating its 100th anniversary.

Popular events for lower school students include assemblies where first-graders present the lives of the saints and the second grade performs living biographies of historical figures. The students' families are also invited to classrooms to discuss their jobs or skills, while the Dominican Sisters will visit to discuss their vocation.

During the week of activities, middle school student council members will be teachers for a day to a class of younger students. The lower and middle school students will also compete against each other in a Big Brother/Sister Board Game Bonanza.

Students in the upper school will also engage in a variety of activities during Catholic Schools Week. Freshmen and sophomores will participate in mini-courses, such as molecular gastronomy taught by Science Chair Dr. Jen Zinman, quilting with Sister Marie Mueller, O.P., and printmaking with Visual Arts Chair Lauren Kaiser. Juniors arrange weeklong internships that reflect their

academic or future professional interests, while seniors engage in "Project Justice," a program that encourages students to give back to their school and to the community by volunteering in specific areas.

Catholic Schools Week ends with a Mass celebrated by the whole community, followed by the annual lower/middle school talent show.

Lacordaire Academy began its centennial year last October with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Manuel A. Cruz. The event was attended by a crowd of 500, including more than 40 Dominican Sisters, many of whom had taught or served as administrators at the school.



Submitted photos

Bishop Manuel A. Cruz kicked off the centennial year of Lacordaire Academy on Oct. 24 with a Mass on the school's front lawn.

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# Seton Hall Prep teacher earns Chinese teaching award

WEST ORANGE—Michael Hegedus, founder of the Chinese language curriculum at Seton Hall Preparatory School, received the 2019 Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools (CLASS) Outstanding Chinese Teacher Award last month.

Hegedus earned this award by submitting a 15-minute instructional vid-

eo, demonstrating excellence in teaching Chinese language and culture to his students. In a press release, the organization stated that “(Hegedus) engaged his students and successfully utilized a variety of instructional strategies to help all learners be successful. The selection committee was most impressed by Hegedus’ excellent professional skills to facilitate a lively classroom. Most importantly, his students truly seemed engaged and motivated to learn. He is an outstanding role model for many new Chinese language teachers, and we wish him continued success in his teaching.”

Hegedus has been an integral part of the Seton Hall Prep community since joining in 2012.

“Because of Mr. Hegedus’ enthusiasm, our international students collaborate with our Chinese learners to produce elaborate New Year’s festivals, cooking events, eating-out socials, ping pong competitions, martial arts fun, museum trips and extensive cultural exchanges,” said Foreign Language Department Chair Margaret Mainardi. “Our thriving Chinese program has affected the life of the school.”



Photo courtesy of Seton Hall Prep

Left to right, Foreign Language Department Chairperson Margaret Mainardi, Michael Hegedus and CLASS board member Lucy Lee.



Submitted photo

Transfiguration Academy in Bergenfield welcomed past students for an alumni Mass and brunch on Jan. 5. About 70 people from various graduating years attended the event. The program consisted of a blessing, presentations and a raffle drawing. It also honored the memory of alumna Charli Roberts from the class of 2013, who was best known for her charisma and Christ-like character. Sister Madeline Hanson, S.S.N.D., (seated, front row) was also honored. She served as a principal, director and teacher for many years in the school community. The event also helped raise \$800 for the school’s scholarship fund.



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# Union Catholic club celebrates national launch



Photo courtesy of Union Catholic

SCOTCH PLAINS—Union Catholic Regional High School's Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC) helped celebrate the organization's new status as a national nonprofit during its national launch Jan. 12 at Shackamaxon Country Club.

Since its inception at a Scotch Plains high school in 2001, SMAC now has chapters in 16 schools. In that time, stu-

dents have collectively raised more than \$2 million, which has been donated to local hospitals, national cancer research and awareness organizations.

Union Catholic members, past and present, attended the national status launch, which featured special guests, speakers, volunteers and other club chapters within the local community.

The chapter at Union Catholic was

formed in 2005 by a group of sophomores after one of their mothers was diagnosed with cancer. The club has since focused on cancer education and prevention while running fundraisers and events to support local, national and global organizations. The service group has been steadily growing and is currently Union Catholic's largest club with more than 125 members.

School counselor Mike Conte has served as the club's moderator for the past seven years.

"It is a labor of love for me to run SMAC," Conte said. "It brings me so much joy to watch the dedication that these students possess and still carry with them years after graduating, and to have nine alumni at this event was unreal. Being the moderator means so much to me because it allows me to give back to others in so many ways."

Conte explained that education and prevention are important in the fight against cancer. "Focusing our support on local organizations is also important to us because we want to help those close to home. The relationships we have formed with the organizations we support is really special," he said.

On April 7, the club will host the annual Quarters for Cancer Dinner, its largest fundraiser of the year. At this event, local restaurants and families donate food that is sold for 25 cents per serving to raise money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Additionally, Union Catholic's SMAC created the Donate A Plate initiative in which meals are packaged for Family Promise in Elizabeth using these generous food donations.

For more information, visit [www.supportsmac.org](http://www.supportsmac.org).



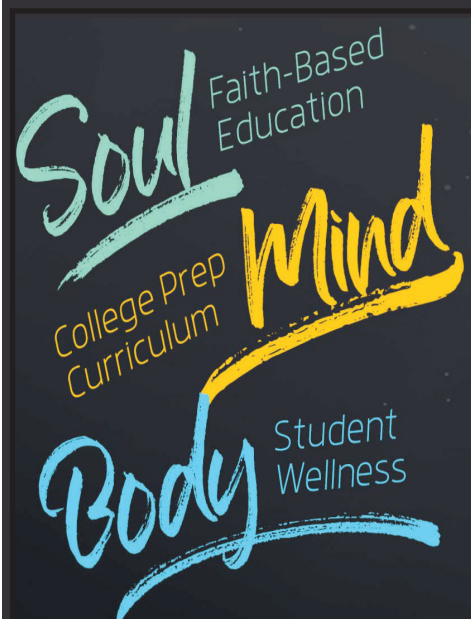
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# Felician University to honor former Secretary of Homeland Security



Submitted photo

RUTHERFORD—Felician University has named former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson as the recipient of its 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award.

Johnson will accept the award on Felician's Rutherford campus in the Education Commons building on Jan. 28.

“We are thrilled to name Jeh Johnson as this year’s recipient of our MLK Legacy Award,” said Felician University President Dr. Anne Prisco. “As a lawyer and public servant, Johnson dedicated his life to issues of justice as seen through a lens of doing good.”

The MLK Jr. Legacy Award was created by Felician University to honor Dr. King by recognizing individuals who strive to fulfill his dream of equality and justice.

Felician identified Johnson as an individual whose life’s work reflects and promotes the university’s Franciscan core values—especially passion for issues related to social justice, civil rights and economic equality, compassion, justice and peace, and finding goodness in all God’s creation.

Johnson served as United States Secretary of Homeland Security from 2013 to 2017. A lawyer from Montclair, Johnson also served as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Defense from 2009 to 2012. Currently, he is a partner at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Martin Corporation, and is a member of the board of directors at Lockheed Martin.

Johnson served as United States Secretary of Homeland Security from 2013 to 2017. A lawyer from Montclair, Johnson also served as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Defense from 2009 to 2012. Currently, he is a partner at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Martin Corporation, and is a member of the board of directors at Lockheed Martin.



Submitted photo

The junior high school students at Notre Dame Academy in Palisades Park recently lead an initiative to make their school more environmentally aware. A group of more than 20 students called The Green Team has dedicated their time and talents to making sure all Notre Dame classrooms are eco-friendly. One of their tasks include helping the school shift to more environmentally safe cleaning products and using biodegradable items throughout the school. The Green Team hopes to reduce the school’s carbon footprint and raise awareness of how the students’ actions impact the planet.



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## Oak Knoll now offers second grade sacraments

SUMMIT—For Catholics, the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion continue their faith journey and lifelong relationship with Jesus, which originally begins with baptism.

New this year to Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child second-graders is the Lower School's First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion program in partnership with the neighboring St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Summit.

Children no longer need to separately take an additional course outside of school hours for sacrament preparation.

Currently, First Reconciliation preparation is underway and First Communion prep classes will begin this spring at Oak Knoll. The classes are taught by second-grade teacher Alicia Grimes and integrated into the children's regularly scheduled religion classes. In these classes, the "Be My Disciples" curriculum is followed



Photo courtesy of Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child



Submitted photo

Four Immaculate Heart Academy seniors were recently honored for demonstrating characteristics of the central pillars of the National Honor Society—scholarship, leadership, service and character. From left to right: Grace Mendolia received the award for scholarship; Julianna Carrozza received the service award; Ava Scuibba was awarded for her leadership; and Kerri Woolley received the character award.

covering Jesus, the Son of God. Students learn about Jesus' life and how He died in order to save us from sin.

"At Oak Knoll, we are a community of faith," said Dr. Michele Dahl, the Lower School campus ministry facilitator and religion coordinator. "For many, the Oak Knoll community is like an extended family. Reception of the sacrament together is a wonderful opportunity and the children

in second grade enjoy many religiously-related activities throughout the school year. Preparing for and receiving the sacrament together seems to be a quite natural flow, inspired by the Holy Spirit."

Second-grade students will receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation on Feb. 19 in Grace Hall Chapel at Oak Knoll. Students will receive First Holy Communion May 16.

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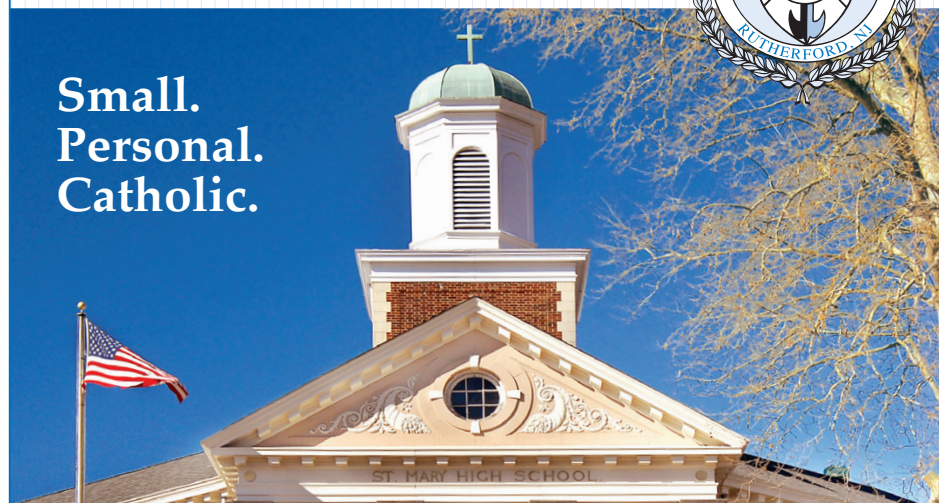
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# St. Benedict's Prep launches new jazz program

NEWARK—Speaking at his induction into St. Benedict's Preparatory School's Hall of Fame in October 2018, renowned jazz pianist Garry Dial wondered what it would take to have a music program as successful and well known as the Gray Bee soccer team. As someone whose musical career started in Conlin Auditorium, he wondered how such a program could get off the ground. "Why," he asked, "wasn't music as great as athletics here?"

When St. Benedict's was looking for a new head of the music department 12 years ago, jazz musician Jeremy Fletcher, Dial's doctoral student at Manhattan School of Music, seemed a perfect fit. When Dial brought up the idea of a nationally recognized jazz program at St. Benedict's, Fletcher was all in. William Doan, a recent Benedict's donor to the scholarship fund who was introduced to the school through a broadcast on "60 Minutes," was also interested in starting a music program.

Last summer, with Doan's encouragement, Fletcher and Dial developed a business plan for Jazz@SBP. Doan provided half of the annual budget for the first year. Another significant donor, coupled with other donors to the music program, raised the other half. Doan has committed to continue his support into the future.

Doan's generosity and enthusiasm, along with Dial's knowledge and connections in the jazz world and Fletcher's teaching and performing experience have gotten Jazz@SBP off to a strong start. A new teacher, pianist Josh Mauldin, is teaching general music, piano lessons for the middle division and chorus for the prep division, freeing Fletcher to also give small group private instrument lessons to elementary students. The program, thanks to the donations, will provide scholarships to talented music students who want to attend St. Benedict's and study jazz.

The program is a work in progress now and will also have private lessons and weekly lessons with outside professionals. The Jazz@SBP students will practice five days a week for two hours after school. They will take a core group of classes, with four or five different electives, including jazz history, jazz theory, jazz arranging, improvisation, piano skills and computer music skills. Fletcher said he expects the program to "morph in unexpected ways until it is something that is an institutional point of pride."

Fletcher and Dial have been networking with their many contacts in the jazz world to publicize and gain support for their effort. Opportunities to work with Montclair's Jazz House Kids program are



Submitted photo

The Felician School for Exceptional Children in Lodi recently had Simi the therapy dog visit with elementary students in the school's library. Felician's program is designed for students with special needs, ages 3-21, and includes both classroom and community-based instruction, with emphasis on both academic and vocational learning. The school's goal is to prepare students to become as independent as possible in family and community life. For more information, visit [www.fsec.org](http://www.fsec.org).

being explored and Fletcher has recently attended the Jazz Education Network's Annual conference in New Orleans. He is also a member of the New Jersey Association

for Jazz Education.

"I am not going to be happy until we are in the finals of a national jazz competition," Doan said.



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This year's Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children Annual High School Basketball Festival was record-breaking—raising more than \$75,000. The Jan. 5 event held at Kean University in Union featured five matchups between some of the top high school basketball teams in New Jersey and New York, including Oak Knoll, Union Catholic, Hudson Catholic, Seton Hall Prep, Immaculate Conception and St. Benedict's Prep. The event also featured a special appearance by former NY Knick John Starks. All of the games were streamed live on Facebook and can be viewed at [www.facebook.com/scholarshipfundforinnercitychildren](http://www.facebook.com/scholarshipfundforinnercitychildren). The Scholarship Fund provides partial tuition assistance to children living in underserved communities so they are able to receive a high quality, values-based education at private and parochial K-12 schools within the Archdiocese of Newark.



Photos courtesy of Emmanuel Ogbonnaya



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Don Bosco Preparatory High School in Ramsey recently hosted a volunteer team from Jersey Cares, a nonprofit organization that recruits and engages volunteers to address community-identified needs. Students gathered in the gym and helped create more than 90 financial literacy kits and teacher appreciation kits for Mount Vernon Elementary School in Newark. They also created more than 100 birthday bag kits for La Casa de Don Pedro, also in Newark, and 18 blankets for the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home in Edison.



Photos courtesy of Don Bosco Prep

## Sacred Heart School celebrates Catholic Schools Week

LYNDHURST—Sacred Heart School will kick off its Catholic Schools Week celebration with a Family Mass on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 10:30 a.m. with an open house to follow at 11:30 a.m.

On Monday, the school will help service the community by hosting a “Souper Bowl” collection of canned soup and goods. The middle school students will participate in a STEM Fair the following day from 6-7:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart will display red, white and blue artwork on Wednesday and invite first responders to view the students’ patriotic creativity. On Jan. 30, the school will celebrate vocations by making cards for parish priests out of recycled materials.

On the final day of Catholic Schools Week, Sacred Heart faculty and staff will compete against eighth-graders in a volleyball game before a staff appreciation lunch.



Submitted photos

Koinonia Academy recently hosted a “Praise and Worship Tuesday” for students at the Plainfield school. Led by fourth-grade teacher Theresa Guido, the event included songs and encouraging words. The school will host two open houses in celebration of Catholic Schools Week—Sunday, Jan. 26, at 10 a.m. and Thursday, Jan. 30, at 9 a.m. For more information, visit [www.koinoniaacademy.org](http://www.koinoniaacademy.org).





# Cristo Rey offers success for urban students



Grace Owusu

Submitted photos

NEWARK—Grace Owusu has never shied away from hard work. A senior at Cristo Rey Newark High School, Owusu juggles a challenging course load, including AP classes, with a corporate work study job that helps to pay her Catholic school tuition.

At Cristo Rey Newark, every student works one day a week, earning a stipend that is applied toward tuition. They also gain on-the-job skills while exploring future careers. “Cristo Rey has opened my eyes to so many possibilities,” Owusu said, an aspiring orthopedic surgeon who works at Students 2 Science, an authentic state-of-

the-art laboratory experience that introduces a wide variety of 21st century STEM career opportunities. “I’ve always been interested in medicine. My job has introduced me to the field of medical research.”

Schools affiliated with the national Cristo Rey Network of Schools exclusively serve low-income students, so earning tuition assistance through work study is critical.

Junior Luis Jaramillo said his parents work hard to provide for their four children. One day when his family was leaving church, the school next door—Cristo Rey Newark—was having an open house. “I always wanted to go to Catholic school to follow my faith,” Jaramillo said. “But how could my parents afford tuition for four kids? Cristo Rey Newark was the answer. God definitely had a hand in leading me here.”

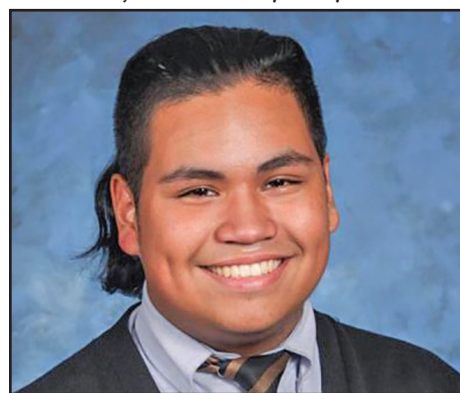
Jaramillo has thrived in the Catholic school environment. Last summer, he attended a leadership conference in Philadelphia with students from other Cristo Rey Network schools around the country.

Fellow junior Phil-Jay Whyte came to

Cristo Rey Newark last fall after moving from Jamaica with his single mom and sister. At the school, he found an environment that values the intrinsic potential of each student. That was reinforced by a trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City, his first visit to a museum. “Learning about the Holocaust opened my eyes to a lot—great sadness and suffering, but also a stronger appreciation for diversity,” Whyte said. “Cristo Rey Newark has taught me that race, ethnicity and religion don’t matter. We’re all valuable. We all matter.”

As Owusu prepares to graduate this spring, she said she is ready to face the challenges of college and medical school. When she entered high school, her mom told her, “I don’t want living in Newark to define my daughter.” Owusu said it hasn’t, but she may return to serve her hometown. “Who knows? Maybe someday I’ll practice medicine right here in Newark,” she said.

For more information about Cristo Rey Newark High School, visit [www.cristoreynewark.org](http://www.cristoreynewark.org).



Luis Jaramillo



Phil-Jay Whyte



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Open House: 11-2PM

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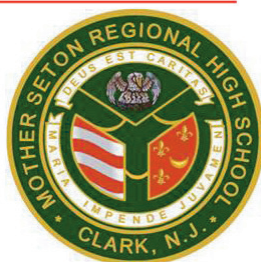
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## St. Peter's alumnae bring Girl Scouts to Greenville

JERSEY CITY—One year ago, there were no Girl Scout troops in Greenville, a densely populated, high need community a few miles south of the St. Peter's University campus. That's not unusual for underserved urban communities, where everything from the traditional troop model that relies on parent volunteers to membership fees prevent girls from participating in a program that has shaped millions of American women's lives.

Today, the picture is quite different in Greenville. More than 130 girls from seven local schools have enrolled in the Girl Scouts. Funding for dues and uniforms has been secured, along with troop leaders, and a model for Girl Scout outreach has emerged that has the potential to be replicated in other urban communities.

The catalyst for all this progress is a trio of St. Peter's graduate students who made "Girl Scouts in Greenville: It Takes a Village" their capstone project to complete their Master of Public Administration degrees.

"Start small. Think big," is how Dr. Philip Plotch, associate professor and director of the program, urged students to approach the capstone project. "The idea is to work on a local problem," he explained. "Students can't solve homelessness in the United States, but they may be able to impact homelessness in Journal Square. If you solve local problems, you create a model for others to emulate."

Devan Tierney, who graduated in December, knew she wanted to bolster opportunities for girl empowerment. At the time of the capstone project, she was development and communications coordinator at WomenRising Inc., a nonprofit in Jersey City that assists women and their families to achieve self-sufficiency. "The Girl Scouts have an amazing mission and they need to be in Jersey City," said Tierney, who was joined on the project by classmates Henriette Diene and Talah Hughes.

Once the team researched and identified the challenges in creating and sustaining Girl Scout troops, they began to work the problem from different angles. A key turning point came when the team met Dr. Elnardo Webster, project director of St. Peter's 21st Century CCLC Institute of Excellence, an afterschool initiative in collaboration with President Barack Obama Elementary School (P.S. 34) in Jersey City. Dr. Webster provided valuable guidance and committed funding for 25 girls and 21st Century staff members to function as troop leaders.

Diene, who lives in the neighborhood, said she now often bumps into Greenville's newest Girl Scouts. "This is a sustainable plan we've created," she said. The experience also taught Diene skills she hopes to use in grassroots organizing and community development. "I found out that I don't shy away from challenge and I don't take 'no' for an answer."

Hughes, who lives in Beacon, N.Y., said one of the project's greatest outcomes was the relationship it created between Dr. Webster and the Girl Scouts Emerging Markets Team, an initiative to grow scouting in communities where the organization is underrepresented. The partnership has the potential to expand the volunteer pool in Jersey City exponentially and bring 300 to 400 more Girl Scouts into the leadership program.

Tierney said growing Girl Scout troops in Greenville is now under the purview of the Emerging Markets Team. "We hope the work that was started progresses into the school year and future," she said. "It really does take a village."

Their professor is suitably impressed. "This was an amazing accomplishment on the part of these students," said Plotch. "They are not willing to give up. And their idealism helped them do something that others couldn't get done."



Photo courtesy of St. Peter's University



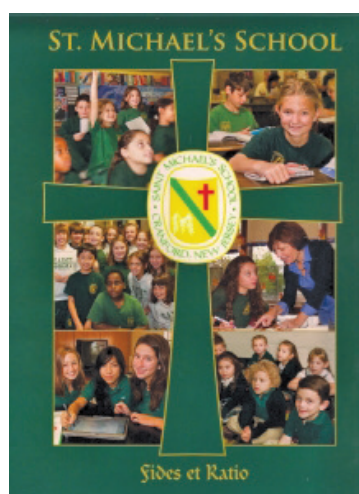
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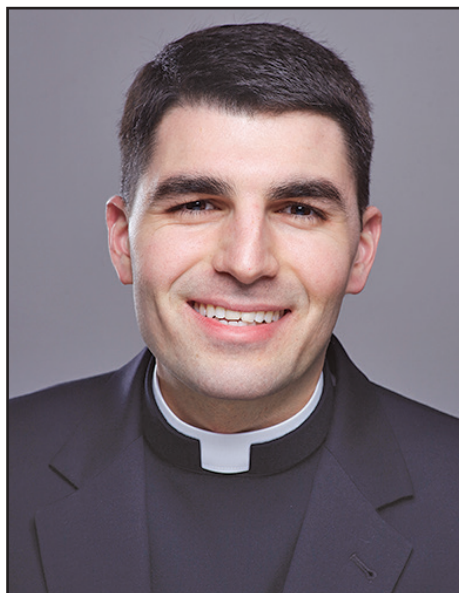




# Canon law: An introduction

By Father Carmine Rizzi

Canon law is the Catholic Church's legal system, which is distinct from civil law. The term canon comes from a Greek word meaning a rule or norm or standard of conduct. Canon law, then, is that collection of norms that governs the community of the Church.



Canon law has its roots in the Scripture and in the teachings of the early councils. Over time, the teachings were collected together, and added to, to produce a body of law that governed all aspects of the Church's life. Today, the main sources of canon law are the 1983 Code of Canon Law, for Catholics of the Latin Church (Roman Catholics); the 1990 Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches for members of the 23 *sui iuris* Eastern Churches, which are in full communion with the Bishop of Rome; and the 1988 apostolic constitution entitled *Pastor Bonus* (The Good Shepherd), which governs the work of the Roman Curia. A bishop's conference—in our case the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops—can legislate for the country they represent. A diocesan bishop is also able to legislate for his diocese.

Canon law also includes the norms that govern a papal election, the norms for the canonization of saints and

the special laws that govern mission territories. All the above-mentioned legislation, in part, forms the body of canon law.

When most people encounter canon law, it is connected to the marriage nullity process—more commonly, but incorrectly, called the annulment process. But the legislation that covers marriage is only a small part of canon law.

The current 1983 Code of Canon Law is divided into seven books or sections. The first book outlines the general norms that govern the other six books of the code. The second book is dedicated to the people of God. It covers the rights and duties of Catholics, associations of the faithful, seminaries, the structure of dioceses and parishes, and the various organs that help a bishop and pastor care for the faithful entrusted to them. It also includes those who are in religious institutes, secular institutes and societies of apostolic life and those who are canonical hermits and consecrated virgins.

The third book covers Catholic schools and universities, and those who

teach the faith, including missionaries and catechists. The fourth book is dedicated to the seven sacraments, churches, oratories, chapels, relics, funerals, cemeteries and days of fasting and penance. The fifth book is on the temporal goods of the Church, which includes the administration of property and finances. The sixth book is dedicated to delicts and penalties, which is often referred to as criminal law, including punishments for crimes. The seventh, and last book, is reserved for the various types of Church courts, the personnel of the courts and the procedure to be followed in ecclesiastical trials. The last book also outlines the process to appeal decisions made by the diocesan bishop, called hierarchical recourse.

Canon law can seem complex, but it exists in the Church to give a juridical structure to a theological reality and to protect the rights and obligations of all the faithful.

Father Carmine Rizzi was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Newark in 2013. He completed his Licentiate of Canon Law degree from The Catholic University of America in 2018, and currently serves as the Defender of the Bond for the Metropolitan Tribunal.

# Rediscovering our first love

By Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P.

When writing, I generally try to reach as broad an audience as possible, but, as we begin this new year, I'd like to address myself to those who feel they are growing old.

"Aren't we all growing old?" you might wonder. Well, yes and no!

Although Pope Francis often expresses his esteem and appreciation for the elderly, he also speaks of "growing old"

on young people. They are always complaining. They cannot share wisdom. They can only look back fruitlessly on earlier times."

At the same time, Pope Francis affirms the biblical admonition to "accept the authority of those who are older." (1 Pt 5:5) "The Bible never ceases to insist that profound respect be shown to the elderly, since they have a wealth of experience," he writes. "In the silence of their heart, they have a store of experiences that can teach us not to make mistakes or be taken in by false promises."

"Jesus tells us that the wise are able to bring forth from their store things both new and old (Mt 13:52)," Francis continues. Herein lies the key to aging without growing old—to remain flexible, to accumulate wisdom and to know how to bring forth from one's store both old and new.

I think this wisdom and flexibility are crucial today if we hope to reverse the vocation crisis and the tide of young people leaving the Church. Sociologist Sister Mary Johnson, S.N.D. de N., writes: "Staying mentally flexible enough to communicate across any cultural boundary—whether of ethnicity, class or generation—is hard work. As a result, most people do not bother to do it very often. We tend to choose our friends from those like us .... The older we get, therefore, the more 20-somethings seem foreign to us, and

we to them, unless we make concerted attempts to bridge the gap."

Twenty-somethings are showing us just how foreign we are to them. Recent surveys indicate that 50 percent of young people who were brought up Catholic now self-identify as "nones," meaning they do not espouse any religion. As we set off on this new year, let's ask ourselves what we can do to stem this tragic exodus!

In *Christus Vivit*, the document Pope Francis wrote following the 2018 Synod on Youth, he advises us to return to the sources of our Catholic faith. "Jesus is risen, and He wants to make us sharers in the new life of the resurrection. He is the true youthfulness of a world grown old, the youthfulness of a universe waiting 'in travail' (Rom 8:22) to be clothed with His light and to live His life. With Him at our side, we can drink from the true wellspring that keeps alive all our dreams, our projects, our great ideals, while impelling us to proclaim what makes life truly worthwhile."

The Holy Father said when he began his ministry as pope, God broadened his horizons and granted him a renewed youthfulness. "The same can happen to a couple married for many years, or to a monk in his monastery," he writes. "An institution as ancient as the Church can experience renewal and a return to youth at different points in her age-old history. Indeed, at the most dramatic moments of her history, she feels called to return with all her heart to her first love."



What is this "first love"?

Pope Francis tells us: "More of His friendship, more fervor in prayer, more hunger for His Word, more longing to receive Christ in the Eucharist, more desire to live by His Gospel, more inner strength, more peace and spiritual joy."

He challenges us to "let go of" whatever is holding us back, and to be open to receive new gifts from God. "True youth means having a heart capable of loving," he exclaims.

In this new year, let's shake off whatever is weighing us down and limiting our horizons so that we can reach out with open arms and hearts to welcome the younger generations into the Church and to show them how much God loves them and is waiting for them.

Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

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as something to avoid at all costs. He refers to a certain kind of aging: "growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure," of being "encased in the past," and letting one's horizons shrink.

In his book on aging, "Sharing the Wisdom of Time," the pope laments older people who have become cynical. "They become unwilling to share their experience," he writes. "They look down



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Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the

**Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.**



# OBITUARIES

## Sister Theresa Mary Martin, C.S.S.F.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 21 at Immaculate Conception Chapel in Lodi for Sister Theresa Mary Martin, C.S.S.F., 87, who died Dec. 16.

Formerly Theresa Martin, Sister Theresa Mary entered the postulancy of the Felician Sisters in 1951, received the Felician habit a year later and professed final vows in 1959.

Her educational ministry included teaching at St. Ann School, Jersey City; St. Mary School, Closter; St. Adalbert School, Elizabeth; and St. Anthony High School, Jersey City. She also served as a teacher and principal in schools outside the diocese and in Delaware.

Sister Theresa Mary served as dean for Student Affairs at Felician University in Lodi before serving as president of the university from 1984-2012.



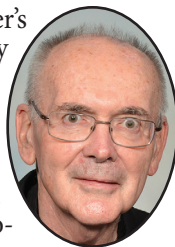
## Father Ward P. Moore

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 23 at St. Thomas More Parish in Fairfield for Father Ward P. Moore, 75, who died Dec. 18.

Raised in Ridgfield, Father Moore

graduated from St. Peter's University in Jersey City and Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington. He was ordained May 27, 1972.

Father Moore served as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish, West Orange; Our Lady of Sorrows, South Orange; St. Andrew Parish, Westwood; and Madonna Parish, Fort Lee. He served as pastor of St. Brigid Parish, North Bergen; Holy Trinity Parish, Hackensack; St. Andrew Parish, Westwood; and St. Thomas More Parish, Fairfield. He also served as chaplain of the Fairfield Knights of Columbus Council 6380.



## Father Stanley S. Kostrzomb

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 30 at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Lyndhurst for Father Stanley S. Kostrzomb, 73, who died Dec. 22.

Father Kostrzomb was ordained on May 28, 1977. Since 2003, he served as pastor at St. Michael the Archangel. He was also the chaplain of their Knights of Columbus Council 2396.

Previously, Father Kostrzomb served as parochial vicar at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Maywood; Mount St. Andrew Villa, Paramus; St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Linden; and St. Casimir Par-



ish, Newark.

He was the administrator at St. Hedwig Parish, Elizabeth; St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Linden; and St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Jersey City. Father Kostrzomb was also a chaplain at Holy Name Medical Center in Teaneck.

## Father Thomas V. O'Connor, S.J.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 28 at Murray-Weigel Hall Chapel in the Bronx for Father Thomas V. O'Connor, S.J., 87, who died Dec. 23.

Father O'Connor entered the Society of Jesus at St. Andrew-on-Hudson in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in 1950, was ordained on June 20, 1963, and pronounced his final vows on Aug. 15, 1966.

He taught chemistry and mathematics at St. Peter's Preparatory School in Jersey City for 45 years.

In 2011, Father O'Connor moved to the Bronx to live at Loyola Hall on the Fordham University campus, where he continued to serve in pastoral ministry.



## Sister Theresa Bonanza, I.H.M.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 3 at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton, Pa., for Sister Theresa Bonanza, I.H.M., 85, who died Dec. 28.

Sister Theresa entered the Sisters, Ser-

vants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1952, made her temporary profession of vows on Aug. 3, 1955, and made her final profession three years later.

Sister Theresa served as a parish minister at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Verona from 1981-1984. She also served as a teacher at schools throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York and South Carolina.



## Sister Arlene Oswald, O.P.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 10 at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, N.Y., for Sister Arlene Oswald, O.P., 81, who died on Jan. 4.

Sister Arlene entered the novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of Hope in September 1956, made her first profession in June 1958 and final profession in August 1961.

Sister Arlene taught at St. Paul School in Jersey City from 1957-1966. After teaching in schools for 13 years, Sister Arlene began her ministry as a director of religious education at parishes in New York and New Jersey. She served as a pastoral associate and director of religious education at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Nutley from 1996-2010.



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