

# THE CATHOLIC ADVOCATE

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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## New auxiliary bishops named



Advocate photo-Kelly Marsicano

L-R: Bishop-elect Elias Lorenzo, O.S.B.; Bishop-elect Michael Saporito; Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.; Bishop-elect Gregory Studerus, E.V.; and Auxiliary Bishop Manuel Cruz. Turn to page 14 for the full story.

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# Pope Francis urges us to see the face of Christ in our brothers and sisters



gion see that we recognize in them the face of our Lord. We must be the face of Christ incarnate and, at the same, we must recognize His face in our sisters and brothers—in the Amazon and “in each part of the world.”

This powerful teaching has important implications for our ministry to the people we serve here in northern New Jersey. In the Jan. 31 issue of this newsletter, I offered some

reflections on “unity in diversity,” and I shared with readers some significant statistical information about what might be called “the face of our archdiocese.” We are truly a diverse community of faith—56.8 percent white, 27.6 percent Hispanic and/or Latino, 19.5 percent Black or African American and 10.9 percent Asian. Do we recognize the face of Christ in each other? Are we sufficiently incarnational in our institutions, structures and pastoral practices?

In *Querida Amazonia*, Pope Francis dreams of a Church that reflects the face of Jesus, whose compassionate love for us takes as many different forms as there are individual men, women and children made in God’s image and likeness. The Holy Father shares with us his four dreams for the Amazon region. As I noted in my statement in response to this post-synod apostolic exhortation,

which can be viewed at [www.rcan.org](http://www.rcan.org), the pope’s vision for this particular region of the world corresponds to the experience of missionaries in every area of the globe. It also resonates with the opportunities and challenges we face right here in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties.

As missionary disciples here in the Archdiocese of Newark, whether we are clergy, consecrated religious or lay faithful, we must 1) love the people we serve, 2) respect their traditions, customs and life experiences, 3) help build up local commu-

nities and reject all efforts to exploit our people or their resources, and 4) be the face of Jesus incarnate in their midst. This is the call to be the face of Jesus and, at the same time, to recognize Him in the faces of the people we serve.

There is no room for clericalism, elitism or a patronizing attitude in our ministry among the diverse people and cultures and histories of this local Church. We are all members of the one body of Christ, and, as I’ve said before, our differences should enrich us, not divide us.

I urge all members of our archdiocesan family to read *Querida Amazonia* and to ask how its powerful message applies to the mission and ministries of our archdiocese, our parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations. Do we recognize the face of Christ in everyone we serve—whether here at home or far away?

## A warm welcome to our three new auxiliary bishops

I am delighted that Pope Francis has named three new auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Newark. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Bishops-elect Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B., Michael A. Saporito and Gregory J. Studerus, E.V., as they begin their new ministries here in northern New Jersey.

Heartfelt thanks are due to Pope Francis, who has shown his special concern for the life and the mission of the Archdiocese of Newark. In selecting Msgr. Studerus, Abbot Lorenzo and Father Saporito for service as bishops, the Holy Father gives new impetus to this local Church as we continue to walk forward in faith.

I am delighted to share my responsibilities with these three dedicated missionary disciples.

Auxiliary bishops support the archbishop in the pastoral care of the archdiocese. Together with Bishop Manuel Cruz, each of the new auxiliary bishops will have responsibility for the life and mission of the Church in one of the four counties that comprise the archdiocese.

I invite all members of the archdiocesan family to join me in thanking the new bishops-elect for their generous response to the Holy Father’s call. May the prayers and intercession of Mary, Mother of God, sustain them.

## My prayer for you

*With all my heart, I pray that the face of Christ will be seen in the faces of all members of our distinctive community of faith. I also pray that we will be united, not divided, by the diverse ethnic, racial, cultural and economic perspectives that we bring to the table of the Lord each week.*

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Advocate photos-Jai Agnish

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., marked the beginning of Lent with Mass and the distribution of ashes at St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in downtown Newark on Feb. 26. The cardinal explained at the noontime Mass that Lent is an especially good time to be reconciled and to look toward God and others, and is a new beginning. "The Church begins to walk together for 40 days, when we pay special attention to the Word of God, and we want to be especially generous to the needs of God's children, especially the poor," he said.

## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK 2020 LENTEN REGULATIONS

# LENT

1. The days of both fast and abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.  
On a day of fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.  
Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.  
On a day of abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.
2. The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence "substantially," or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
3. The Fridays of the year outside of Lent are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
4. The time for fulfilling the paschal precept (Easter duty\*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2020, to the solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 7, 2020.

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



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## Archdiocese responds to coronavirus outbreak

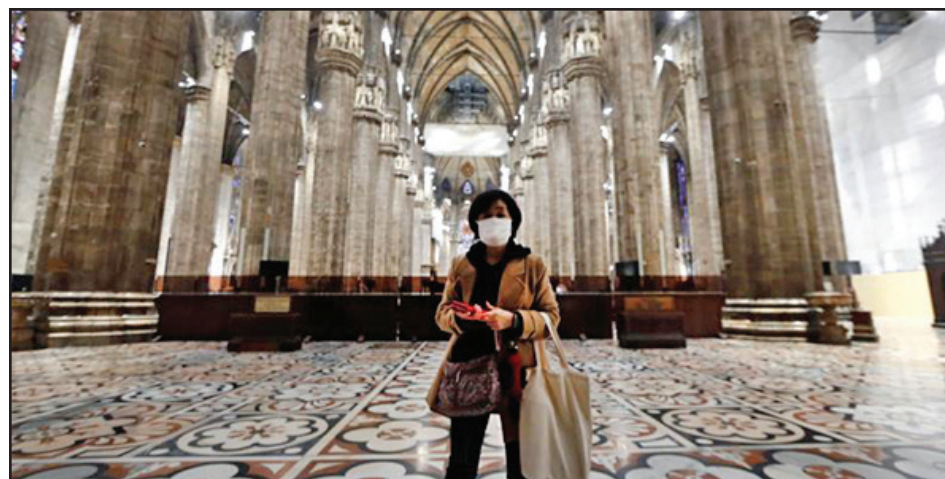
The Archdiocese of Newark continues to monitor questions that are arising about the potential spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states that the diocesan bishop “must promote, regulate and be vigilant over the liturgical life of his diocese.” In light of the coronavirus, the uncertainty of how widespread and impactful it is and/or could be and as a precaution, Cardinal Tobin has directed the following:

- Priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion are urged to practice good hygiene, washing their hands before Mass begins and/or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer solution before and after distributing holy Communion—as is practiced in many of our parishes and institutions already.
- The archdiocese has always advised the faithful that sickness is a valid reason not to attend Mass or other Church gatherings. As such, any individual who is sick or has flu-like symptoms is urged to stay home. The holy sacrifice of the Mass is broadcast on several television channels, and the sick can make a “spiritual communion” until they return to good health.
- The sign of peace should be exchanged without physical contact.
- Distribution of the precious blood of Christ from the chalice to parishioners is to be suspended. Furthermore, no member of the faithful is obliged to receive the body of Christ on the tongue.

The general message from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is that all should be prepared, but not panicked. The archdiocese will continue to monitor advisories from Catholic and other organizations regarding precautions on the coronavirus and share any appropriate information with the faithful and the parishes.

On March 2, the Schools Office sent a letter to parents and guardians about preventing the spread of the virus.

“All Schools in the Archdiocese of Newark have been reminded of the importance of following standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting. This includes daily sanitizing of surfaces and objects that are touched often. Schools are in the process of developing plans for the continuation of learning in the event that a prolonged closure is required. Your school’s principal will inform you about specific plans for your school,” wrote Acting Superintendent of Schools Barbara Dolan.



CNS photo

A tourist wearing a protective mask visits Milan’s famed cathedral, commonly referred to as the “Duomo,” as it reopened to the public March 2 for the first time since the coronavirus outbreak.

On Feb. 18, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Health Association of the United States issued a joint statement in response to the outbreak:

“As communities and public health officials respond to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in China and closely monitor its presence and progression in other parts of the world, we join in solidarity and prayer for those impacted or working to treat those infected by the disease. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Health Association of the United States hope that governments will work together in partnership to improve all nations’ capacity to prevent, detect and respond to this virus.

“The Catholic Church in the United States stands in solidarity with those affected by the coronavirus and their families, health workers who are valiantly trying to diagnose and treat patients, and those under quarantine awaiting results of their screening for the virus. We offer our prayers for healing, and support those organizations, both domestic and international, working to provide medical supplies and assistance to address this serious risk to public health.”

For the full statement, visit [www.usccb.org/news/2020/20-32.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/news/2020/20-32.cfm).

To stay informed as information becomes available, visit [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19) or [nj.gov/health](http://nj.gov/health).

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# Parishes participate in Healing Our Church

By Jai Agnish

Communications Manager

Early feedback regarding the Healing Our Church/*Sanando Nuestra Iglesia* small-group sessions offered by RENEW International has been positive, and Church leaders hope more parishes will sign on. The sessions were designed to help Catholic laity process the crises of clergy sexual abuse and the cover-up by Church leaders. About 45 parishes have registered.



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"It was very, very beneficial," said Father Anthony Randazzo, pastor of Holy Trinity in Westfield, a pilot parish where 50 people participated. "They came to understand the issue better. They expressed their feelings openly and did not hesitate or feel differential. They let people know how they felt about the horrendous things that have gone on."

RENEW International is a recognized leader for Catholic small-group resources, and has partnered with its home Archdiocese of Newark. The six-session process was also piloted at St. Bartholomew in Scotch Plains last spring. It was then rolled out to some parishes in the fall, and others are scheduled to participate during Lent. Five Spanish-speaking groups have been formed.

Sister Terry Rickard, O.P., president of RENEW International, commented, "The sexual abuse crisis has had a devastating effect on us all—victims, the lay faithful and the clergy. We are gratified Healing Our Church has positively impacted many parishes in our home Archdiocese of Newark. I hope that in the upcoming months, more pastors will engage in this healing process to help their parishioners work through the crisis, move forward and empower them to claim their role in the reform and renewal of our Church.

RENEW will continue to work tirelessly to do its part to make Cardinal Tobin's vision for the archdiocese, *Forward in Faith Together*, a reality."

Father Randazzo said he likes to think of the new small-group process in terms of healing "as" Church.

"I think healing is needed everywhere in the Church," he continued. "The primary ministry of Jesus centered on healing. Jesus was known as teacher and healer. We need wholeness of body, mind and spirit."

Healing Our Church is part of the broad *Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead* pastoral vision unveiled recently by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. It seeks to establish a foundation for healing and renewed missionary discipleship in the archdiocese.

Cardinal Tobin discussed Healing Our Church and RENEW International with a dozen lay representatives from around the archdiocese during a recent Pastoral Council meeting.

He said it not only addresses a crisis but addresses a particular way of experiencing the crisis. Some parish communities have told him they are aware of what's going on, he said, but they don't experience it that way.

"If the pastor is saying, 'Well, we're not doing Healing Our Church,' I would say, 'Why not? I want to know what you're doing, because it is a crisis. This is a Church-wide crisis,'" the cardinal said.

Cardinal Tobin has recorded several video messages for participants of Healing Our Church that are available on the RENEW International website, [renewintl.org](http://renewintl.org), under the Healing Our Church section.

Some parishes alternatively are having discussions around Bishop Robert Barron's "Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis," Father Timothy Graff, director of Social Concerns with the Archdiocese of Newark, pointed out at the council meeting.

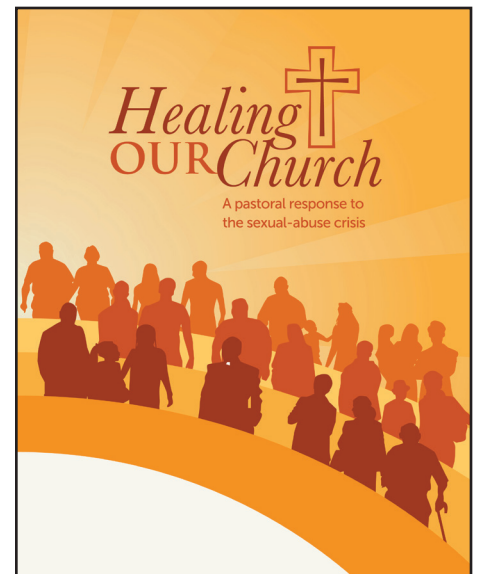
"It's going to be different for different parishes," said Father Graff.

The Church of the Assumption in Emerson participated in the Healing Our Church process in the fall. The group there consisted of seven people from the parish and two people from a neighboring church in Westwood. Father Paul Cannariato, the pastor of Assumption, said the sessions went well and the group created a strong bond.

"The program is a wonderful instrument to begin the process of healing," he said. "One of the realizations they came to is that each one of them has to be a minister of healing. When they become aware of somebody who is in need of healing, accompany them, walk with them on the journey and be supportive of them."

Groups are asked to pass along recommendations at the end of the sessions. One of the ideas that came out of Assumption was to implement a special healing Mass during the Lenten season.

"Overall, it was a positive experience for the parish," Father Cannariato said. "And I think it contributed to the individual healing of the people who attended it. It gave them a way forward. As a group, they came to the realization that they are



called as Christ's disciples to do whatever is necessary to help the victims, and that they are empowered by the Holy Spirit to hold the Church accountable."

Healing Our Church begins the healing process by encouraging participants to share their feelings about the crises, embrace their role as members of Christ's body and discern and commit to meaningful actions. The six sessions are: Facing the Truth, Healing Our Wounds, Rebuilding Our Church, Why do I Remain a Catholic?, We Believe and A Way Forward.

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## Benedictine Academy to close after 105 years

ELIZABETH—The Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth announced that Benedictine Academy, a private college preparatory high school for young women, will close in June, effective at the end of the current academic year.

"Over the last few years, we have been monitoring enrollment at Benedictine Academy and have seen a steady decline each year. The low student enrollment for the past few years has result-

ed in a deficit at the end of each fiscal year. It is now evident that we cannot continue to function effectively and efficiently while we continue to steadily erode our limited resources," said Sister Mary Feehan, O.S.B., prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth.

She further noted, "Benedictine Academy has been educating young women in the City of Elizabeth for 105 years, and the Benedictine Sisters have reluctantly made

this decision."

Benedictine Academy will continue to operate as usual through the remainder of the academic year. The school's administration, faculty and guidance counselor will be available to provide assistance and support to students and their families as it makes the necessary arrangements for them to successfully transfer to other high schools.



Photo courtesy of Benedictine Academy





Advocate photos-Melissa McNally



St. Genevieve Parish in Elizabeth marked a century of service to the community in a Feb. 9 celebration. Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., celebrated the Mass with Bishop Dominic A. Marconi and the pastor, Father George D. Gillen. Bagpipes kicked off the procession at the beginning of Mass, followed by parishioners holding banners of their respective ministries. "Looking at the entrance procession, I couldn't help but be struck by the life of this parish and the many ways it's expressed," Cardinal Tobin said during his homily. "I thought of some words of Pope Francis, who said that the parish isn't an outdated institution because it possesses great flexibility. It can assume different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community." The cardinal commended St. Genevieve's willingness to embrace all people in such an ethnically diverse city. "In the Catholic Church, the parish isn't the only way we accomplish the mission. If the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it means it recognizes the changes around it and doesn't pull in the oars or shut the windows, least of all lock the doors. It goes out of itself to reach the people," he said.

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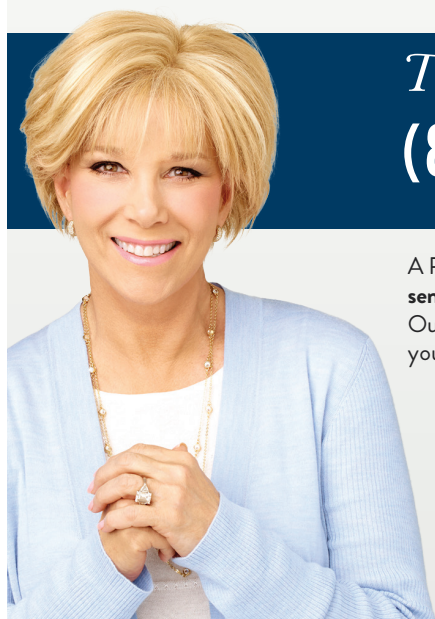
Advocate photos-Jai Agnish

A 135th anniversary commemoration Mass was held at Holy Rosary Parish in Jersey City on Feb. 23 in which 13 parishioners were honored and the parish's heritage as the first Italian church in the state was acknowledged. Father Jerzy Zaslonka, the pastor for the past eight years, celebrated Mass along with several co-celebrants, including Msgr. Donald Guenther, who gave the homily. The celebration marked the first of several fundraising efforts to benefit the renovation of the parish center. Father Zaslonka said Holy Rosary is thriving with 500 families and a rich ethnic mix now. "My heart is rejoicing seeing the longtime parishioners with beautiful Italian traditions welcoming in our community newcomers, both young and old, couples with children and single people, who are literally coming from all around the world and finding their spiritual home in Holy Rosary," Father Zaslonka said. "We try to preach about the Good News, be truthful to the Gospel and bring people closer to God."

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# THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK AND IMMIGRATION

## Filipino immigration

By Msgr. Robert J. Wister

### FOUR WAVES OF FILIPINO MIGRATION

**T**he history of Filipino immigration is quite different from that of other nationalities because of the colonial relationship between the United States and the Philippines.

Historians generally divide Filipino migration into four “waves.” The first wave of Filipino migration was during the period of the Spanish Empire when the Philippines were first part of New Spain, later part of the Spanish East Indies. It initially consisted of Filipino sailors from Spanish ships plying the Manila to Acapulco route.

On Oct. 18, 1587, the first Filipinos landed onto what is now the continental United States in Morro Bay, California. They arrived aboard the Nuestra Señora de Buena Esperanza, which had sailed from Macao, as part of the Manila galleon trade. It is interesting to note that Filipinos arrived in California several decades before the Pilgrims arrived in Massachusetts. Others arrived and settled in Louisiana long before American independence in 1776.

The second wave began when the United States annexed the Philippines after the Spanish-American War of 1898. Only anecdotal evidence exists of Filipino presence in the United States during



the early 20th century. In 1920, they numbered about 5,600. During the early years of the American colonial regime, the law considered Filipinos to be United States “nationals.” Therefore, although they were not citizens, they were not subject to the restrictions on Asian immigration enacted by the Immigration Act of 1917 and the immigration quota legislation of 1924. Initially, they had the right to enter America, whereas “aliens” did not.

While the 1930 census records over 45,000 Filipinos in the United States, the census found only 286 in New Jersey, up from only 30 ten years earlier. The Philippine Independence Act in 1934 was a mixed blessing for Filipinos. This law promised independence to the Philip-

Msgr. Robert J. Wister recently published a series of essays about the history of immigration in the Archdiocese of Newark on Seton Hall University’s blog. The Catholic Advocate will be reprinting excerpts of his work in upcoming issues. For the complete text, visit <http://blogs.shu.edu/archdiocese-immigration>.



CNS photo

Worshippers hold up statues of Santo Niño de Cebú, who is depicted as the Infant Child Jesus, during a special Mass honoring the popular Filipino devotion.

ines, but restricted new Filipino immigrants to a ridiculously low quota of 50 per year.

A third wave of immigration began af-

ter World War II, when, in accord with various military agreements between the United States and the newly-independent Republic of the Philippines, Filipinos who had served in the United States Navy and brides of American service personnel were allowed to enter the United States as immigrants. The Luce-Celler Act of 1946 gave the Philippines a quota of 100 persons per year, still an unreasonable number. However, records show that 32,201 Filipinos migrated between 1953 and 1965.

The fourth and present wave of immigration began in 1965 with the passing of the Immigration and Nationality Act. It ended national quotas and provided an unlimited number of visas for family reunification.

In 1960, the census counted 1,451 Filipinos in New Jersey. In 1970, five years after the passage of the immigration reform, the number was 5,623.

### FILIPINOS IN HEALTH CARE

During the third wave of immigration, many Filipinas took advantage of the severe shortage of American nurses. Hospitals, including the hospitals in Jersey City and other parts of the Archdiocese of Newark, actively recruited Filipina nurses. The Information and Education Exchange Act, passed in 1948, gave foreign nurses an opportunity for



Advocate file photo

Simbang Gabi celebration at St. Anthony Parish, Belleville.





Santacruzan procession at St. Aloysius Parish, Jersey City.

further study and practical experience in American hospitals before returning home. However, many hospitals found the English-speaking Filipinas an ideal remedy for the nursing shortfall and retained their services indefinitely. Soon, the islands were “exporting” doctors as well, and Filipino students hoping to mi-

grate to America entered medical school in increasing numbers.

From 1966 until 1991, at least 35,000 Filipino nurses migrated to the United States.

During this period, many Filipinos settled in Jersey City, convenient to nearby hospitals. Jersey City is home to the



St. Anthony Parish, Belleville

Advocate file photo



Photos courtesy of St. Aloysius

Sinulog Festival at St. Aloysius Parish.

largest Filipino population in New Jersey, with over 16,000 Filipinos in 2010. Seven percent of Jersey City’s population is Filipino.

Some settled in the downtown area where Grove Street eventually became Manila Boulevard. The majority settled on the west side of the city and immediately joined the local parishes. The rapidly growing Filipino community joined Our Lady of Mercy, Our Lady of Victories and St. Aloysius. They also are a major part of St. Aedan’s: The St. Peter’s University Church and other parishes throughout the city.

Over the years, many Filipino Catholics settled in or eventually moved to the suburbs. The prevalence of so many Filipinos following careers in the health care area drew them to hospitals throughout the state. In Bergen County, Bergenfield, Paramus, Hackensack, New Milford, Dumont, Fair Lawn and Teaneck have significant Filipino populations.

## FILIPINO CLERGY AND TRADITIONS

Local diocesan clergy assumed their pastoral care. Since most Filipinos spoke English, the diocesan priests did not have to master another language. Eventually, priests came from the Philippines, initially serving as adjunct clergy and eventually some were incardinated into the archdiocese. Young immigrant Filipinos began to enter the seminary, and Filipino American priests now form an important part of the archdiocesan clergy, serving in parishes with large

Filipino populations and in parishes of other nationalities. For a time, the archdiocese recruited seminarians in the Philippines.

The Filipino tradition of dedication to the Church and participation in church activities, combined with their English language skills, facilitated their rapid integration into the parishes. Very quickly, Filipino devotions became part of parish life—the *Simbang Gabi* novena before Christmas; devotion to the Blessed Virgin under many titles, such as Our Lady of Peñafrancia; and devotion to the Santo Niño de Cebú. Many Filipinos also continued their participation in the charismatic movement, charismatic communities and the Legion of Mary.

While about 8 in 10 Filipinos, 81 percent, are Catholic, a somewhat smaller share of Filipino Americans, 65 percent, identify as Catholic.

According to Pew studies, many Filipinos in the United States join evangelical churches or simply report no religion at all. This indicates that the secular American culture and the proselytizing of various sects have had an impact.

Filipino American loyalty to family in the Philippines is very strong. In 2017, Filipinos living abroad sent nearly \$33 billion in remittances to the Philippines via formal channels, according to World Bank data. Remittances more than doubled in the past decade and represented about 11 percent of the country’s gross domestic product in 2016.

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

Coming up in the April 8 issue of *The Catholic Advocate*, Msgr. Wister will explore South Asian immigration in the Archdiocese of Newark.



# Bishop Charles J. McDonnell, auxiliary bishop emeritus of Newark, dies at 91

Upon hearing the news of Bishop Charles James McDonnell's passing on Feb. 13, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., said, "Today, this local Church of Newark mourns a truly remarkable individual—someone who not only answered God's call to serve His Church but also answered the call to serve his country."



A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on Feb. 20. Following Mass, Bishop McDonnell was entombed in the crypt of the cathedral.

Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski, former bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, served as the celebrant and homilist.

"He was a humble, true man of God," Bishop Bootkoski recalled. "He had a deep love of God's people."



Bishop McDonnell was ordained to the priesthood in 1954 and served 11 years as parochial vicar at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Cedar Grove. During the last three of those years, he served as chaplain in the New Jersey Air National Guard, and, in 1965, he was commissioned as a United States Army chaplain.

The late bishop's motto on his coat of arms, "Lord Jesus, Send Me," guided his ministry, Bishop Bootkoski said. Bishop McDonnell participated in the Civil

Rights Movement and even marched with Dr. Martin Luther King in 1965. "When he saw the young people in his parish being sent to Vietnam, he enlisted," Bishop Bootkoski said. "He was always there, always kind."

In 1983, during his service as an Army chaplain, then Father McDonnell was named monsignor by Pope John Paul II. In August 1986, President Ronald Reagan nominated him to the U.S. Senate for promotion to brigadier general. In September, the Senate appointed him deputy chief of chaplains, where he remained until he retired from active duty with the U.S. Army in 1989.

Upon retirement from active duty, Msgr. McDonnell served as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Ridgewood until he was appointed vicar general and moderator of the Curia for the archdiocese in 1991. He was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in South Orange in 1993. On March 15, 1994, Msgr. McDonnell was appointed auxiliary bishop of Newark and titular bishop of Pocofelto by Pope John Paul II, and was ordained on May 12, 1994. He served as regional bishop for Essex County for one year until he was appointed pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Hackensack, and became regional bishop for Bergen County until his retirement in 2004, remaining pastor of Holy Trinity until 2009. He was named state chaplain for the Knights of Columbus in



Advocate archive photos

2004 and served the organization faithfully for many years.

Bishop McDonnell's awards and decorations with the Armed Forces include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster), Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters), Air Medal (with "1" device), Army Commendation Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal (with four campaign stars), U.S. Army Reserve Medal (with hourglass), Army Service Medal and the Parachutist Badge.



Bishop McDonnell, right of St. John Paul II, met with the pope while he was deputy chief of chaplains for the U.S. Army in 1987.









Submitted photo



Advocate photos-Melissa McNally



# Celebrated speaker reaches faithful at Catholic Men's Conference

By Melissa McNally  
Editor

**G**et to know Jesus and have a relationship with Him. That was the message given to the several hundred men who attended the annual Catholic Men's Conference at Seton Hall University on Feb. 29. Titled "Man of God ... I Am My Brother's Keeper," the event began with a keynote address by retired Auxiliary Bishop John W. Flesey. The conference also included vendors, Eucharistic Adoration, confession, music and fellowship. Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., celebrated the closing Mass.

The Spanish-language track included speakers Andres Arango, a representative of CHARIS, an organization of charismatic Catholics; and Father Jeivi Hercules, a parochial vicar at St. Patrick and Assumption/All Saints Parish in Jersey City.

The English-language track featured Catholic youth and young adult speaker Paul J. Kim. He is the founder of the Triumph Men's Conference, has released two albums and presents to an average of 40,000 people a year at events around the world.

Growing up in a devout Catholic household in California, Kim shared how his background as the child of South Korean immigrants shaped his faith. He discussed that, like many Catholics, he became disaffected with his faith as a teenager.

"My vision of God became that I need to get my act together, I need to fix my problems, I must get straight A's in my moral and spiritual life before I can face the Lord and even come to Him. And what a lie, what a sad and unfortunate lie that I bought into. From that point on, my relationship with God was about punitive measures than about love," Kim explained.

He attended a Catholic conference at the Franciscan University of Steubenville while he was in high school that he said changed his life.

"There are so many reasons why people no longer attend Church. Out of all these reasons and excuses, if you boil them down, they really come down to one simple fact: These people never knew who Jesus was. They know things about Jesus, but they do not know Jesus," he explained.

Kim discussed that it is crucial to have a personal relationship with Jesus and realize that He accepts all walks of life, wherever they are in their journey. Jesus made His mission abundantly clear, he said, to not only serve the righteous but the sinners and those who were imperfect.

"We get it confused when we think that religion, particularly our Catholic faith, is for a select group of people who have come to know God and who are the chosen few. But God has come to invite all. That is the reality," Kim said. "We complicate things when we think we have to go before the Lord in utter perfection before He receives us and accepts us."

While at the conference as a teenager, Kim said he prayed an honest prayer, asking for guidance. At first, he admitted thinking, "Why would I talk to a God who is perfect?" He then described experiencing a vision of God knocking on the door.

"My response was to open up the door. I opened it up just enough, but God and the Holy Spirit were able to come in," Kim said. "I felt God's presence, it was tangible. It was real."

After reigniting his faith, Kim attended St. Francis University and discerned becoming a Franciscan friar, even briefly living with the community in Newark. He then studied to be a marriage and family therapist. After earning his degree and starting his internship, he decided once again to follow another path. Today, he is married with three children.

"We are men, but we always be sons, we always be children of God," he said. "Everything you've been looking for and searching for frantically is found with Christ."

At the end of his first keynote address, he guided the attendees in a meditation, asking them to envision an encounter with Christ. He encouraged the men to be vulnerable and say their own honest prayer.

"The good news is that we are not alone," Kim noted. "We do ourselves and the world and our families a disservice when we think we have to have it all together because we are men. No, it takes a man of character and strength to say, 'I don't have it together.' It is not weakness to acknowledge that you have areas of growth in your life that need to happen, it's weakness to acknowledge it and do nothing about it."

"Paul Kim spoke a lot of truth," said Pierre Louis, a parishioner at Holy Spirit in East Orange. "He spoke about the normal experience of regular Catholics. He mentioned some things that I also go through."

Louis has attended several Men's conferences, and views the event as a great experience. "Every time I come here, I feel rejuvenated. I like the information we receive and the comradery among us. It makes me feel good."

Chuck Cababe from St. Michael Parish in Union has been coming to the conference for the past 11 years. "I thought Kim was very personable and very powerful. Bishop Flesey was very insightful as far as reaching out to others," he said.

Cababe's brother Chris has attended the past four years, and is a parishioner at St. James in Basking Ridge. He describes experiencing "challenges with (his) faith" after dealing with medical issues. "I needed that boost in my life to get back into focus," he said.

Deacon Michael Pontoriero from St. Thomas More Parish in Fairfield said Kim's address was one of the best he's ever heard at the conference. "Paul Kim reached people where they were. He made them close their eyes and he took them on a journey," he said. "One of the things that touched me the most was when he said it's not what we do or how much we make but it is who we are, children of God, that is most important."

In his second talk, Kim discussed the idea of "toxic masculinity" in mainstream culture. "The reason the culture reacts a certain way to masculinity is because, so often, women and other men have been let down by the men in their lives."

Kim emphasized that it is the "obligation, duty and responsibility" of faithful

men "to take up that call to be the change we want to see in our families."

The quintessential question of what it means to be a man can be found in our faith, Kim argued. "The world and the media and the culture try to constantly reduce our identity and create confusion about who we are," he said. "We are programmed

to think that manhood is supposed to look, feel and act a certain way."

Kim explained that Jesus Christ is what it means to be a man. "Our identity is in Christ."

Look for coverage of the Women's Day of Reflection in the April 8 issue of The Catholic Advocate.

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# Three new 'co-workers in the vineyard'

Upon introducing three newly named auxiliary bishops Feb. 27 at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., expressed his gratitude to Pope Francis for giving the archdiocese fellow "co-workers in the vineyard."

Pope Francis appointed Abbot Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B., Father Michael A. Saporito and Rev. Msgr. Gregory J. Studerus, E.V., as auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Newark. The new appointments will join Bishop Manuel Cruz, who has served as auxiliary bishop since 2008. The bishops-elect were introduced at the chancery in front of an audience of brother priests, religious, their families and archdiocesan employees.

"It's a great new chapter for the great Archdiocese of Newark, and I'm very grateful to Pope Francis for having given us these partners in ministry," Cardinal Tobin said. "Pope Francis has shown his special concern for the life and the mission of the Archdiocese of Newark. In selecting Msgr. Studerus, Abbot Lorenzo and Father Saporito for service as bishops, the Holy Father gives new impetus to this local Church as we continue to walk forward in faith. I am delighted to share my responsibilities with these three dedicated missionary disciples."

The cardinal described auxiliary bishops as "principal partners" of the archbishop. "I think we are going to be able to establish a very fruitful partnership in leading our Church forward," he stated.

Cardinal Tobin explained that he started consultations in December 2017 to find the best candidates for the role of auxiliary bishop. After receiving responses from fellow priests, the cardinal sent a list of names to Archbishop Christo-



Advocate photos-Kelly Marsicano

phe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. (For more on this process, see sidebar on page 16.)

The cardinal explained that the process for choosing a bishop is "an effort to get a wider discernment for the qualities and capabilities of the candidate for episcopal service." Once the nuncio col-

lated all the information for the Archdiocese of Newark, he made his own recommendations to the Congregation for Bishops. After the congregation met Feb. 13, the prefect, Cardinal Marc Ouellet from Quebec, brought the list of names to Pope Francis for approval. After the appointments were approved by the Holy Father, the papal nuncio called the bishops-elect.

Going forward, Cardinal Tobin said he hopes for an ongoing process of "pastoral conversion" within the Archdiocese of Newark. Coined by Pope Francis, the term includes "our hearts, but (also) our strategies and our structures. The way we do things has to always be constantly brought into line with the mission that's been entrusted to us," the cardinal said.

Each of these bishops will have a responsibility for one of the four counties in the archdiocese. They will not be assigned as pastors "so that they will be free to know the people of their county in a particular way," Cardinal Tobin stated.

The episcopal ordination is slated for Tuesday, May 5, at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. The papal nuncio is expected to attend. There will also be a prayer service the night before the installation.

Cardinal Tobin said he believes that with their new roles, his fellow bishops will have the opportunity to love the Church even more. "(The bishops) will have my friendship, they have my sup-

port and they have my confidence," he said.



**BISHOP-ELECT  
ELIAS R. LORENZO, O.S.B.**

The son of the late William Elias and Mae Theresa Lorenzo, Bishop-elect Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B., was born Oct. 6, 1960, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He attended St. Agatha Parish Elementary School (Sunset Park) and Cathedral Prep (Fort Green) before pursuing a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Don Bosco College Seminary in Newton.

He entered St. Mary's Abbey in Mor-





ristown in 1983, making his first monastic profession on March 21, 1985. He was ordained a priest on June 24, 1989. Bishop-elect Lorenzo holds a master's degree in liturgical theology from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., a master's degree in counseling psychology from Seton Hall University and a licentiate in canon law from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Bishop-elect Lorenzo has more than 30 years of experience in secondary school education and administration at Delbarton School in Morristown, serving as director of campus ministry, teacher and chairman of the religious studies department, member of the board of trustees, and vice president for development. In his role as educator, he also was engaged with Operation Smile International and served on its advisory board for 10 years, traveling on multiple missions with Delbarton students to Bolivia, China, Honduras, India, Kenya, Nicaragua and the Philippines.

In the monastery, Bishop-elect Lorenzo served as director of liturgy, prior of the abbey and rector of church. During this same time, he served as a member and chairman of the Paterson Diocesan Liturgical Commission for 12 years. Following his service as prior, he was appointed vicar for religious in the Diocese of Metuchen. Thereafter, he worked as canonical counsel for Praesidium, Inc. in the development of national safe environment standards and protocols. He currently serves on Praesidium's advisory board.

For the global Benedictine Confederation, Bishop-elect Lorenzo served at Sant'Anselmo, the international Benedictine university in Rome, as prior of the college. In addition, he worked as procurator general for the Benedictine Order in Rome. He is a founding member of the International Commission for Benedictine Education, a global association of 180 secondary schools in 36 countries, and to date has served as its president. In this role, he has visited Benedictine schools throughout the United States, western Europe, South America, Latin America, Africa, Australia and the Philippines.

In 2016, he was elected abbot president of American Cassinese Congregation, an association of Benedictine monasteries. Erected by Pope Pius IX in 1855 under the patronage of the Holy Guardian Angels, this monastic congregation includes 25 monasteries in the United States, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico and Taiwan with 650 monks.

As abbot president, Bishop-elect Lorenzo is a member of the Union of Superiors General, which meets biannually in Rome, and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, which meets biannually in various regions of the country and at a national assembly each year.

Upon his appointment as bishop-elect of the Archdiocese of Newark, Abbot Lorenzo cited St. Benedict's rule for monks: "When a monk is presented with a new task, even if he thinks that task is impos-

sible, trusting in God's help, he must, in love, obey."

He noted that his order has served within New Jersey since 1838. "It seems Pope Francis thinks you need one more monk," he joked.

"Therefore, in filial devotion and obedience to His Holiness, Pope Francis, the vicar of Christ, I have accepted this call to service. I am also encouraged to have so many good teachers and mentors in the cardinal, bishops, priests, consecrated women and men, and dedicated lay faithful of this great archdiocese," Bishop-elect Lorenzo continued.

He thanked his family and monastic community "who have nurtured and encouraged" him and asked them to keep him in prayer. "With the help of so many of you, my brothers and sisters, we set out to cultivate this local vineyard in the joy of the Gospel," he said.



**BISHOP-ELECT  
MICHAEL A. SAPORITO**

The son of the late Arsenio and Anna Saporito, Bishop-elect Michael A. Sapo-



rito was born on May 3, 1962, in Newark and raised in Bloomfield. He is the third of four children—a sister who is deceased and his two brothers and their families, who reside in New Jersey.

Bishop-elect Saporito attended St. Thomas the Apostle Elementary School in Bloomfield and, in 1980, graduated from Paul VI Regional High School in Clifton. Graduating from Rutgers University Newark in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in accounting, he was employed in public accounting for three years after graduation. He entered Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University in September 1987, and was ordained a priest on May 30, 1992.

Bishop-elect Saporito has served in parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark

throughout his years in ministry. He has served as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in West Orange, St. Peter the Apostle in River Edge, Our Lady of the Visitation in Paramus and St. Elizabeth in Wyckoff.

In May 2004, he was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Maplewood, where he served for almost seven years before being named pastor of St. Helen's in Westfield in February 2011.

In the course of his ministry, Bishop-elect Saporito has served in numerous capacities, including as an assistant vocation director and a member of both the Priest Personnel Board and the Presbyteral Council. He was the dean of the deanery covering Maplewood, South Orange and Irvington.

In recent years, Bishop-elect Saporito





has been most devoted to the New Evangelization, offering programs of faith development and awakening people to a deeper faith in Jesus Christ, while working to foster parish renewal and intentional discipleship. He has served on the Evangelization Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark and as a board member for Christlife, an evangelization apostolate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

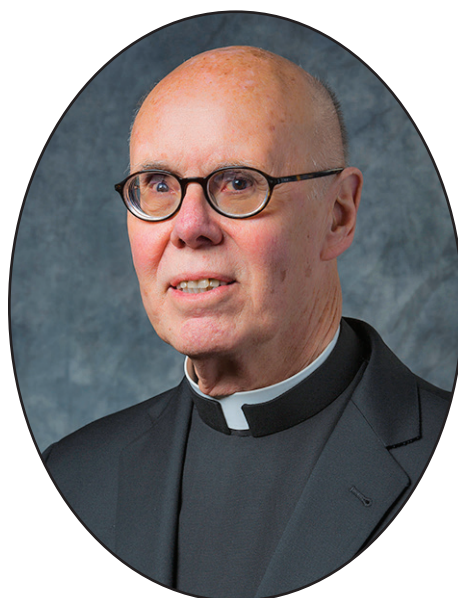
In his address at the Archdiocesan Center following his appointment, Bishop-elect Saporito expressed his surprise at being chosen. "I never saw this one coming," he admitted. "I am extremely grateful to Almighty God for the call to the priesthood, which I love, and now to this role as a bishop."

After expressing gratitude to Pope Francis, he explained that he was excited to work with Cardinal Tobin in executing his vision for the Archdiocese of Newark. "I look forward to helping make your pastoral plan for this archdiocese, the only one I have ever called home, a reality. I pledge to you that I will work hard to support that mission to move us forward in faith," Bishop-elect Saporito said.

The newly appointed bishop said he was "especially indebted" to the communities of the parishes he has served over the years. "I said at my own 25th anniversary several years ago that, while seminary taught me a lot, you have shown me much and helped to form me so that the best could be drawn out of me. You all have written a piece of my story and supported me, even when I was not at my best, for which I will always be grateful," he said.

Bishop-elect Saporito added that he is open to accepting the challenges as bishop and hopes to serve "with the heart of a pastor, to listen, learn, support and

spread the Good News of Jesus Christ."



**BISHOP-ELECT  
GREGORY J. STUDERUS, E.V.**

The son of the late John A. Studerus and Ann Rita Davis, Bishop-elect Gregory J. Studerus, E.V., was born on March 31, 1948, in Orange. He was raised in West Orange and has spent nearly four decades as an archdiocesan priest serving in Hudson County.

Bishop-elect Studerus attended elementary and high school at Our Lady of the Valley in Orange before pursuing a bachelor's degree in art education from Montclair State University. He served in the National Guard while pursuing a career as an artist, teacher and owner of an art gallery and workshop. After receiving his Master of Divinity degree, he was ordained a priest on May 31, 1980, and assigned as parochial vicar to St. Aloysius Parish in Jersey City.

While at St. Aloysius, Bishop-elect Studerus organized youth programs and had opportunities to study Spanish in Mexico and the Dominican Republic. This allowed for a lifelong ministry in the archdiocese to the Spanish-speaking population that continues to this day. From 1990 to 1997, he served as pastor of St. Bridget Parish in Jersey City. During this time, he served on the Presbyteral Council and was named dean of the Jersey City Downtown deanery, a position he would hold again from 2002 to 2005. In 1997, he was the founding pastor of Parish of Resurrection, which included the former parishes of St. Boniface, St. Bridget, St. Mary, St. Michael and St. Peter.

Since 2005, Bishop-elect Studerus has served as pastor of St. Joseph of the

Palisades in West New York, the largest Hispanic parish of the archdiocese and among the largest overall. In 2005, he was named Chaplain to His Holiness by Pope Benedict XVI. From 2013 to 2016, he served as dean of North Hudson Deanery 8, and, in 2015, he was appointed episcopal vicar of Hudson County.

Speaking about his new appointment, Bishop-elect Studerus said, "It is another opportunity to work with my brothers in the priesthood, with men and women in religious life and, most importantly, with lay men and women who, in my priesthood, have been my inspiration and my consolation in faith."

He thanked Cardinal Tobin for his confidence that he can be "a support to him and his leadership" and his family for their "encouraging love."



## How bishops are appointed

Information provided by USCCB

The ultimate decision in appointing bishops rests with the pope, and he is free to select anyone he chooses. But how does he know whom to select?

The process for selecting candidates for the episcopacy normally begins at the diocesan level and works its way through a series of consultations until it reaches Rome. It is a process bound by strict confidentiality and involves several important players—the most influential being the apostolic nuncio, the Congregation for Bishops and the pope. It can be a time-consuming process, often taking eight months or more to complete. While there are distinctions between the first appointment of a priest as a bishop and a bishop's later transfer to another diocese or his promotion to archbishop, the basic outlines of the process remain the same.

### STAGE 1:

#### BISHOPS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Every bishop may submit to the archbishop of his province the names of priests he thinks would make good bishops. Prior to the regular province meeting (usually annually), the archbishop distributes to all the bishops of the province the names and curricula vitae of priests that have been submitted to him. Following a discussion among the bishops at the province meeting, a vote is taken on which names to recommend. The number of names on this provincial list may vary. The vote tally, together with the minutes of the meeting, is then forwarded by the archbishop to the apostolic nuncio in Washington. The list is also submitted to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

### STAGE 2:

#### THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

By overseeing the final list of names forwarded to Rome, the apostolic nuncio plays a decisive role in the selection process. He not only gathers facts and information about potential candidates but also interprets that information for the congregation. Great weight is given to the nun-

cio's recommendations, but it is important to remember that his "gatekeeper" role, however, does not mean that his recommendations are always followed.

For auxiliary bishops, the archdiocesan bishop must justify to the apostolic nuncio his need for an auxiliary bishop. This is easier if he is requesting a replacement for a retired or deceased auxiliary. The diocesan bishop prepares the terna, or list of three candidates, for his requested auxiliary and forwards it to the apostolic nuncio. The nuncio then conducts his own investigation of the priests on the diocesan bishop's terna, sending the names to Rome with a report and his own recommendations. On average, this part of the process may take two to six months.

### STAGE 3:

#### CONGREGATION FOR BISHOPS

Once all the documentation from the nuncio is complete and in order, and the prefect approves, the process moves forward. If the appointment involves a bishop who is being promoted or transferred, the matter may be handled by the prefect and the staff. If, however, the appointment is of a priest to the episcopacy, the full congregation is ordinarily involved.

A cardinal relator is chosen to summarize the documentation and make a report to the full congregation, which generally meets twice a month on Thursdays. After hearing the cardinal relator's report, the congregation discusses the appointment and then votes. The congregation may follow the recommendation of the nuncio, chose another of the candidates on the terna, or even ask that another terna be prepared.

### STAGE 4:

#### THE POPE DECIDES

At a private audience with the pope, usually on a Saturday, the prefect of the Congregation for Bishops presents the recommendations of the congregation to the Holy Father. A few days later, the pope informs the congregation of his decision. The congregation then notifies the nuncio, who in turn contacts the candidate and asks if he will accept. If the answer is "yes," the Vatican is notified and a date is set for the announcement.

It often takes six to eight months, and sometimes longer, from the time a diocese becomes vacant until a new bishop is appointed.



# The Newark Parade

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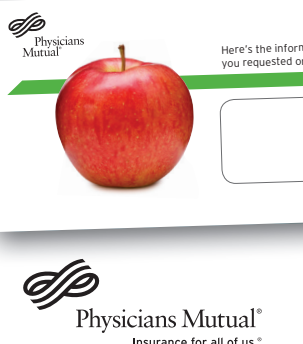
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## Welcoming the stranger through the Immigration Assistance Program at Catholic Charities

By Kiera LoBreglio

Pope Francis has said, "Let us share without fear the journey of the migrant and the refugee." When we perform the corporal works of mercy—specifically welcoming the stranger in the form of migrants and refugees—we are welcoming Christ in them, and helping to restore their full dignity as humans.

### Why people migrate

Many immigrants and refugees are fleeing inhumane conditions in their own countries and often fear for their lives. They are fleeing because their home countries are plagued by violence, corruption and economic and political instability. Doctors Without Borders released a report showing over two-thirds of migrants fleeing Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador had experienced the murder, disappearance or kidnapping of a relative before their departure. Yes, the journey is treacherous. Yes, the legal process is challenging, with many recent rule and policy changes. And yet still they come because they are desperate to provide a better life for their families.

### Putting faith into action

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark has been serving immigrants and refugees for more than 40 years, beginning with refugee resettlement assistance before expanding to a wider range of immigration services. Today, the Immigration Assistance Program (IAP) is one of the largest nonprofit immigration agencies in New Jersey, serving over 3,000 clients in 2019.

Catholic Charities provides crucial services to a vulnerable and often voiceless population. The robust legal programming provides representation for asylum seekers, unaccompanied immigrant children, victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, and longtime New Jersey residents facing deportation; assistance to indigent immigrant detainees; the safe reunification of migrant children with family in the United States; legal orientation for sponsors of immigrant children released from government custody; and community education and outreach on important developments in immigration law and policy.

Recently, Catholic Charities expanded its services to the immigrant and refugee community to provide housing. In partnership with several parishes in the archdiocese, Catholic Charities currently provides housing to five families, including seven children. These families have endured many hardships that led them to journey from Syria, Guatemala, Colombia and Honduras to the United States, and Catholic Charities is dedicated to welcom-



Submitted photo

An IAP staff member leads an orientation session.

ing them into our community.

### Success story

Patricia (name changed to protect her privacy) fled Honduras when she was 23 years old after enduring years of extreme physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her stepfather. Not knowing what to expect on her journey, she placed her young son in the care of her sister and headed to the United States. Patricia eventually made her way to the door of the Immigration Assistance Program in Newark, where she found legal representation and hope for the future. Program attorneys helped Patricia find counseling services and pursued her asylum claim before the Newark Immigration Court, where the judge granted her humanitarian asylum due to the severe persecution she had suffered. IAP is now helping Patricia bring her son to the United States.

### How you can get involved—donating, volunteering, learning

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., has said, "Catholic Charities witnesses that God's mercy is not a theory, it is a concrete action." Catholic Charities welcomes support from people who feel called to put their own faith into action. The Immigration Assistance Program strives to provide legal services for free or at a reasonable cost, less than an individual would have to pay to a private attorney, and donations help to keep costs as low as possible. The program also welcomes legal and non-legal volunteers to assist with a range of cases and projects.

The Immigration Assistance Program is located at 976 Broad St. in Newark. Hours are Monday through Friday, by appointment only. On Tuesdays from 9-11:00 a.m. and Thursdays from 3-5 p.m., IAP welcomes walk-ins for initial consultations. For more information about the program, call 973-733-3516 or visit [ccannj.com/refugee\\_immigration.php](http://ccannj.com/refugee_immigration.php), and follow IAP on Instagram @catholiccharitiesnewarkiap.

Kiera LoBreglio is the managing attorney at the Catholic Charities Immigration Assistance Program.

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# One body in Christ—together



Submitted photo

Norman "David" Atkinson with Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

By Anne Masters

People do not have "special needs," we all have "human needs." Everyone wants to belong, to feel like we are needed, can make a difference, are cared for and would be missed if absent. However, too often individuals with disabilities are treated as if they are different from other people because of their disability, perhaps because they move more slowly or talk slowly, or they don't talk at all and communicate in other ways. They may be told they need to be in a separate program with other people "just like them." This is wrong and contrary to what our Catholic faith teaches us. It says that everyone is special, and everyone deserves the things necessary to live a fully human life. This includes the opportunity to learn, participate in social activities and community life, work, make choices and decisions, be respected and welcomed, have a place to live, make friends and be a friend and take chances. We belong in the Church because we are baptized, not because of any special talents or abilities.

- 1 in 3 families are impacted by disability.
- Almost 20 percent of all people have some type of disability. (Carter, 2007)
- 19 percent of families who have a loved one with autism feel their faith community is important in their family's life vs. 36 percent of families with "typically developing" children. (Easter Seals 2008)
- 32 percent of families in a study reported leaving their congregation because of how their sons or daughters with a disability are not included. (Carter, et al, 2013)
- 38 percent of families in another study reported considering switching congregations because of personal experiences related to their child with a disability.

The Office for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities of the Archdiocese of Newark exists to affirm the baptism of individuals with disabilities and to affirm the promise the Church makes at baptism to support them on their faith journey. It also supports parents and families on their faith journey. It does this by working with parish leaders and oth-

er archdiocesan offices, in support of the mission of the Archdiocese of Newark, so that individuals with disabilities can participate and serve the mission of the archdiocese in ordinary ways.

Norman "David" Atkinson was born in the 1940s, and doctors told his parents they should send him to an institution because he would never talk or live a life worth living. Why? Because David has cerebral palsy. The doctors only saw what they thought David couldn't do, not what he could do. But they were wrong. David talks, he walks, he has a great smile, loves to be with people and has an amazing gift with numbers.

Like all of us, David wanted to learn new things, have a job and earn a living when he grew up and contribute to his community. Like many people in this area, David commuted to New York City for his job, working full time as a mail handler. When his parish, St. John the Evangelist in Bergenfield, advertised in the parish bulletin for a door minister, David thought, "I can do that," and he did. He developed his role as door minister into hospitality, and greeted generations of parents and children for 45 years. When the archdiocese advertised its Legacy Circle and invited people to join, David thought, "I can do that," and he did. When the parish announced parent groups for parents of individuals with disabilities, David thought, "I need to tell them my story and encourage them to believe in possibilities," and he did. David's Catholic faith has always been important to him, and he continues to be a valued member of St. John the Evangelist.

To learn more about the Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, visit [www.rcan.org/disabilities](http://www.rcan.org/disabilities) or contact Anne Masters at [anne.masters@rcan.org](mailto:anne.masters@rcan.org) or 973-497-4309.

Programs and ministries like this are supported through generous donations to the Annual Appeal. If you would like to support this mission, visit [www.rcan.org/sharing](http://www.rcan.org/sharing). To make a restricted gift to the Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, you may indicate that in the comments section of the donation form.

Anne Masters is the director of the Office for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities.

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# Union Catholic principal to receive lifetime achievement award

By Jim Lambert

Sister Percylee Hart, R.S.M., the principal of Union Catholic High School for the past 40 years, has been chosen to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Union County Commission on the Status of Women.

Sister Percylee will be honored at the 28th annual Women of Excellence Gala Awards Dinner at the Gran Centurions in Clark on March 27.

Sara Todisco, the chair for the Union County Commission on the Status of Women and the Mayor of Garwood, praised Sister Percylee.

"Your efforts continue to have a positive impact on our community, and you have been chosen to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award as a result of your valued expertise and hard work," Todisco wrote in a letter to the principal.

"I'm very grateful and humbled by this honor," Sister Percylee admitted.

Sister Percylee's determination upon becoming principal allowed for the successful merger of the Union Catholic Girls and Boys Schools. She has been the catalyst for every major advance that the

*"My call is to grow and stretch the limits of our students and (help them) be all that God calls them to be."*

Scotch Plains school has made since 1980.

Sister Percylee said she is very proud of the growth Union Catholic has made during her long tenure as the leader of the school, and credits a great support system for all of its continued success.

"The reason that the impact and longevity is there is because of all the people in the Union Catholic community—the students, teachers, administrators, staff, parents, alums and the Sisters of Mercy, who allow me to be here. That's what

makes it all work," said Sister Percylee. "I'm very happy for Union Catholic because this is something that everyone here has made possible."

Sister Percylee reflected that it gives her tremendous satisfaction to see how far women have come during her four-plus decades at the high school.

"I've been blessed with the opportunity to serve over so many years, which has enabled me to provide the modeling of leadership for young women to go forward in areas that weren't open to women before," she said.

Sister Percylee has worked to create an environment at Union Catholic that ensures her students are good people.

"Students receive their foundation in education through their high school experience, and they are also formed to be good citizens through our core values of responsibility, respect, community, honesty and compassion. The fusion of education and moral foundation at Union Catholic allows our students to take their place as good citizens and leaders throughout Union County and beyond," she explained. "My call is to grow and stretch the limits of our students and (help them) be all that God calls them to be. When I step back and think about it, this journey has been so rewarding."

Prior to Union Catholic, Sister Percylee was the principal of Red Bank Catholic High School from 1970-1980. She serves as a member of the advisory committee and the controversies committee of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), and is currently a member of the St. Bartholomew Academy advisory board.



Photo courtesy of Jim Lambert

Sister Percylee was also president of the Newark Archdiocese Regional Principals Association, is a former chairman of the board at her alma mater, Georgian Court University, and she served as the president of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Sister Percylee holds a master's degree in public administration from Seton Hall University and a master's in science from the University of Pennsylvania, and is a member of the National Catholic Education Association and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Jim Lambert is the information director at Union Catholic High School.

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# Next president of Caldwell University named

CALDWELL—The board of trustees of Caldwell University has chosen Dr. Matthew Whelan as the next president of the Catholic Dominican institution.

A native of New Jersey, Whelan will become the ninth president of Caldwell and the first male lay president in the history of the university, effective July 1.

Dr. Whelan currently serves as vice president for university enrollment strategy and relationship development at Stony Brook University. Since 2006, he has held key leadership roles at Stony Brook in undergraduate and graduate admissions, financial aid, registrar, enrollment management, student services, fundraising, facilities and strategic planning for several campuses. He previously served as the vice president for strategic initiatives at Stony Brook.

Laurita Warner, chair of Caldwell University's board of trustees, said that following a national search, the board is pleased to welcome Dr. Whelan. "I speak for all the trustees, who are excited and invigorated by the skills, experience and passion Matt will bring to Caldwell University," she said. "We value his commitment to our Catholic Dominican tradition and are confident in his ability to innovate and further our upward trajec-

tory of success at Caldwell."

"I'm delighted to be joining the team at Caldwell University," Dr. Whelan said. "As a first generation, Pell eligible college student who attended Catholic schools, early on I developed a love for small Catholic colleges and their commitment to reaching out to deserving students, especially the underrepresented in higher education, and teaching others to serve and give back."

Dr. Whelan has expansive experience leading administrative and faculty teams at Catholic and public higher education institutions, including St. John's University, Hofstra University, William Paterson University and Mercyhurst University.

He has held a number of positions on national higher education boards and associations, presented nationally and internationally on issues impacting higher education, coached a women's soccer team to a NCAA Division II Final Four appearance and taught graduate students in higher education administration. He holds a master's from William Paterson University and a doctorate in educational leadership from Dowling College in Shirley, N.Y.

Born and raised in Denville, in a family of eight children, Dr. Whelan attend-

*"I developed a love for small Catholic colleges and their commitment to reaching out to deserving students, especially the underrepresented in higher education, and teaching others to serve and give back."*



Photo by Pushparaj Aitwal

ing forward to returning to Caldwell and immersing ourselves in the life of the university, the work of the Sisters of St. Dominic and the greater Caldwell community," he said.

Dr. Whelan will succeed Dr. Nancy Blattner, who has served at Caldwell University since July 2009. Dr. Blattner is returning to her home state of Missouri to assume the presidency at Fontbonne University.

Caldwell was founded in 1939 by the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell. Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh became the institution's first president, followed by Mother Joseph Dunn, O.P., who first envisioned the college. Since that time, women have held the presidency.

ed St. Mary's School and Morris Catholic High School in Denville and Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pa.

Dr. Whelan is familiar with the Caldwell area. When he and his wife, Kathy, were first married, they had an apartment in Caldwell while Kathy taught fourth grade at Washington Elementary School in West Caldwell. "We are look-



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# Workshops bring 'Forward in Faith Together' to life within parishes

By Jai Agnish

Communications Manager

Archdiocesan staff have finalized the new pastoral planning guide to help parishes implement the *"Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead"* pastoral vision and will begin training workshops this month. Parish pastors, administrators, staff, lay leaders and members of finance and planning councils are encouraged to register.

The planning guide calls upon each parish to consider critical questions about its ministry, mission and goals, and is structured much like a workbook, with sections for planners to map out, in writing, their specific objectives, action steps and responsible point-persons.

It was developed by Sister Donna L. Ciangio, O.P., chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark, and the New Energies Office in collaboration with the Catechetical and other archdiocesan offices, parish staff members and pastors. It includes Scripture, prayer and faith sharing guides, a sample meeting agenda, discussion questions and goal setting templates to aid in pastoral planning.

"We understand that an ambitious, far-reaching pastoral vision can be overwhelming, and that some pastors and laity



Archdiocesan  
Pastoral Planning

may be struggling with how to make *"Forward in Faith Together"* a driving force within daily parish life," said Sister Donna. "This planning guide is intended to make the pastoral vision real and tangible for pastors, staffs, parish and finance planning councils and key lay leaders, giving them the tools and resources necessary to succeed. Upcoming workshops will provide further information and training on how to use this resource."

The workbook will be distributed to each parish and is one of the key efforts to support the vision of *"Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead"* in parishes.

The first two workshops are planned for March 14 at Holy Spirit Parish in Union and Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Jersey City. These will be followed by a workshop in Paramus on March 21 at Annunciation Parish. Additional workshops are scheduled for St. Philomena in Livingston on April 25, and in Spanish and English at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark on June 13.

In 2019, under the direction of Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., the archdiocese launched *"Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead."* This pastoral vision

charts a positive path forward for the archdiocese and its ministries.

One of the vision's six pillars, "Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning," challenges parishes to develop a strategic pastoral plan for the future of their ministries.

"It's easy to ask a parish to develop a plan, but the actual development of a comprehensive pastoral plan is neither easy, nor quick," Sister Donna said. "It takes time to pray together and reflect on needs, choose priorities, set goals and a timeline and stick to it, evaluating along the way to see what is working and what needs to be tweaked to make the plan a reality."

The guide is divided into four components:

1. **Overview** — A thorough outline of the pastoral vision and why it's important, and how the planning resource is meant to be used.

2. **The six pillars** — An overview of the six pillars of the pastoral vision and their role in shaping the future of the archdiocese and the Church. Each section provides questions to assist parishes in better understanding how they carry out the mission of Christ in their communities, and what plans they will make to continue these ministries effectively.

3. **Creating your pastoral (strategic) plan** — A step-by-step guide to help pas-

toral planners solicit parishioner input, share ideas, develop goals and create an actionable pastoral plan.

4. **Appendix** — Additional resources, including a sample meeting agenda and meeting prayers to stimulate thoughtful reflection and participation in planning meetings.

Parishes will not necessarily focus on all six pillars at once, but key leaders are encouraged to focus on core areas within their parish that require the most attention. Further areas can be covered within a two- to three-year period.

Sister Donna, Father Timothy Graff, Gladys Pozza and Deacon Asterio Velasco will be presenting at the workshops. For more information and to register for a workshop, visit [www.rcan.org/pastoral-council](http://www.rcan.org/pastoral-council).



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## March 14

**Knights of Columbus Council #5427**, Washington Township, St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance, 7-11 p.m., includes dinner, open bar and the Patsy McLoughlin Irish Dancers, \$55, call Jim at 201-666-3425 or Paul at 201-263-9229.

**Archdiocese of Newark**, parish pastoral council training workshop, to assist parishes in designing strategies to implement *"Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead,"* presented by Sister Donna L. Ciancio, O.P., at Holy Spirit Parish, Union, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., register online at [www.rcan.org/pastoralcouncil](http://www.rcan.org/pastoralcouncil).

## March 15

**Loyola Jesuit Center**, Morristown, Day of Prayer: Ignatian Discernment, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., \$40, led by Marie Santana, register at [www.loyola.org](http://www.loyola.org) or call 973-539-0740.

## March 18

**Holy Spirit Parish**, Union, bereavement support group, will meet for eight weeks, 7:30-8:30 p.m., call 908-687-3327.

**Seton Hall University**, South Orange, Grace and Healing—Understanding the Role of the Church for those Afflicted by the Opioid Crisis, 12-1:30 p.m., presented by Keaton Douglas, RSVP by March 13 to [me-linda.papaccio@shu.edu](mailto:me-linda.papaccio@shu.edu).

## March 19

**Peace Care St. Joseph's**, Jersey City, St. Joseph's Day Super 50/50 Raffle, \$100 per ticket, grand prize is up to \$10,500, winning numbers will be drawn on March 19, to enter visit [www.peacecarenj.org](http://www.peacecarenj.org) or contact Michele J. Mount at 201-653-8300 ext. 2161 or [mmount@peacecarenj.org](mailto:mmount@peacecarenj.org).

## March 20

**Loyola Jesuit Center**, Morristown, Day of Prayer: Hope, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., \$40, led by Judy Schiavo, register at [www.loyola.org](http://www.loyola.org) or call 973-539-0740.

## March 21

**Archdiocese of Newark**, parish pastoral council training workshop, at Annunciation Parish, Paramus, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., register online at [www.rcan.org/pastoralcouncil](http://www.rcan.org/pastoralcouncil).

**Serra International Club**, Bergen County Altar Server's Mass, at St. Luke Parish in Ho-Ho-Kus, noon, RSVP by March 13, call Joe Pagano at 201-954-1990 or email [jpaga-no18@mac.com](mailto:jpaga-no18@mac.com).

**Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth**, Convent Station, Lenten Retreat for Women, "Vincentian Virtues: Living and Loving with a Vincent Heart," presented by Rosemary Carroll, beginning with 8 a.m. Mass through 2:30 p.m. closing prayer, RSVP by

March 18, contact Louise Pechello at 973-290-5470 or email [lpachello@scnj.org](mailto:lpachello@scnj.org).

## March 22

**St. Philip the Apostle Columbi-ettes**, Clifton, Mary Ellen Valentin International Dinner & Tricky Tray, 1 p.m., \$25/\$10 for children ages 5-10, RSVP by March 14, call Diane at 973-897-9378 or Barbara Ann at 973-916-1957.

## March 22

**Knights of Columbus Council #3428**, North Arlington, 13th annual International Day of the Unborn Observance, Mass at noon at Queen of Peace Parish, followed by a March for Life along Ridge Road and refreshments at the club hall, call Grand Knight Bill Mackey at 201-988-0183.

## March 24

**Caldwell University**, "Critique and Discernment of the Heart," presented by Anthony Steinbock, 4:30 p.m., call 973-618-3931.

## March 26

**Seton Hall University**, South Orange, Immaculate Conception Seminary, the Catholic Studies Program and the Department of Religion

will co-sponsor "Faith and Health-care," a lecture and discussion with Sarah Reddin, director of Ministry Formation-Mission Integration for Ascension Health, at the seminary's Chapel of Christ the Good Shepherd, 3:30-5 p.m., contact Dr. Julie Burkey at [julie.burkey@shu.edu](mailto:julie.burkey@shu.edu).

## March 27

**St. Anne School**, Fair Lawn, Legacy Night, celebrating 70th anniversary of the school, all alumni invited, Mass at 6 p.m., followed by festivities at the school, \$10, email [sasleg-acynight@gmail.com](mailto:sasleg-acynight@gmail.com).

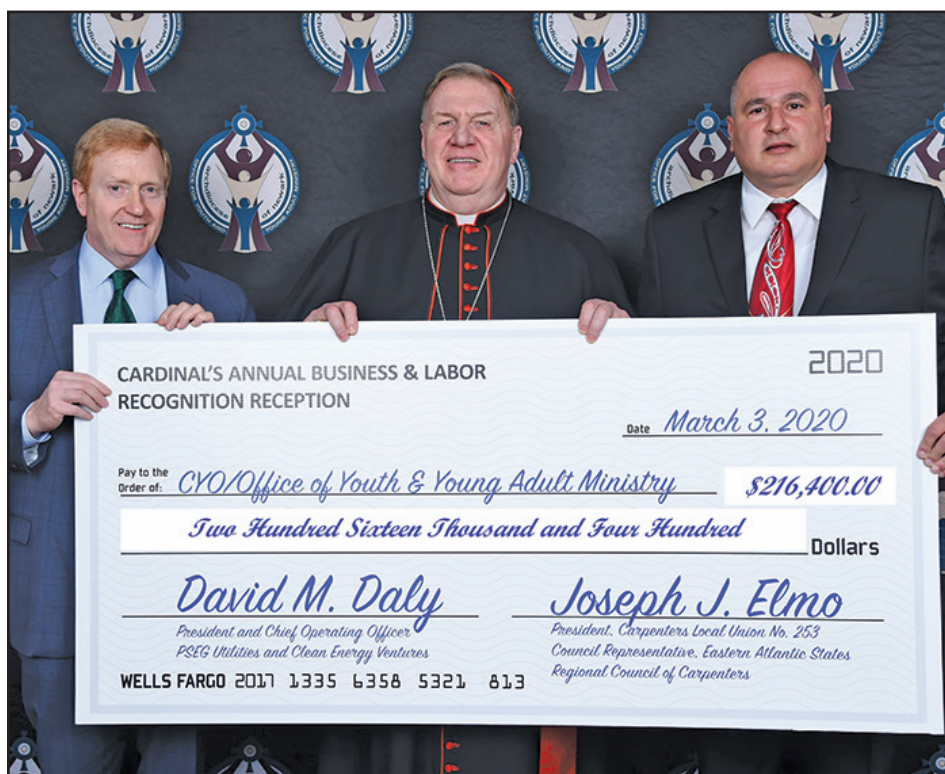
## March 28

**Serra International Club**, Essex County Altar Server's Mass, at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in South Orange, noon, RSVP by March 20, call Joe Pagano at 201-954-1990 or email [jpaga-no18@mac.com](mailto:jpaga-no18@mac.com).

**Knights of Columbus Council #2861**, Lodi, Fish Fry, 6-8 p.m., \$20 in advance (no tickets will be sold at the door), call Brad Vaughn at 201-376-3071.

## March 29

**The Senior Residence at St. Peter the Apostle**, River Edge, open house, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., call 201-225-0707.



Submitted photo

The Cardinal's 27th Annual Business & Labor Recognition Reception was held March 3 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange. The honorees were David M. Daly (left), president and chief operating officer of PSEG Utilities and Clean Energy Ventures, and Joseph J. Elmo (right), president of Carpenters Local Union No. 253 and council representative for the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters. This year, the event raised over \$200,000 to benefit the archdiocese's Catholic Youth Organization and St. John Paul II Youth Retreat Center in Kearny, which serves more than 35,000 young people.

## THE CATHOLIC ADVOCATE

His Holiness Pope Francis has named **Abbot Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B.**, **Reverend Michael A. Saporito**, and **Reverend Monsignor Gregory J. Studerus, E.V.**, as new auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Newark.

In anticipation of the installation of the three bishops-elect announced recently by the Archdiocese of Newark, *The Catholic Advocate* newspaper will run a **Special Report on Wednesday, April 29, 2020.**

This edition will feature bios, comments from colleagues and historical and family photos on each bishop-elect.

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# Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade steps off March 13



Submitted photo

From left to right: Deputy Grand Marshal Eileen McGinley Hannaford; Grand Marshal Michael D. Byrne; and General Chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Jack Doll

NEWARK—The 85th annual Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade will step off Friday, March 13, at 1 p.m. The parade's grand marshal will be Michael D. Byrne, past general chairman of the parade committee. Eileen McGinley Hannaford will serve as deputy grand marshal. This year's festivities are dedicated to the late Francis "Frank" J. Coyne, a native of Ireland and longtime resident of West Caldwell.

"Newark was the epicenter of Irish-American life in New Jersey, as a high concentration settled here after passing through Ellis Island. As they continued to move throughout the state, parades were established in other towns—all of them an offshoot of Newark," said Jack Doll, general chairman of St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Inc. "We are proud of our rich parade history and invite Irish Americans from across New Jersey to celebrate this important tradition."

Byrne, a lifelong Montclair resident, previously served as general chairman of the parade for nine years. During his tenure, he established the annual Newark

St. Patrick's Day high school band competition and its art and essay contests for students of the Archdiocese of Newark. Byrne is the founder of Pilgrim Strategies, a political consulting group, and is the president of the 100 Club of Montclair.

McGinley Hannaford is the president and executive chairman of the Kevin J. Hannaford Sr. Foundation, Inc. After her husband died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, she established the nonprofit, charitable organization, which helps bereaved children pursue educational opportunities through financial gifts. McGinley Hannaford is an active member of the advisory board of directors for Tuesday's Children, the American Irish Historical Society and an extraordinary minister of holy Communion at St. James Parish in Basking Ridge.

Grandstand ceremonies will begin at noon followed by the start of the parade, which begins at the Prudential Center and ends in front of the Newark Museum and Washington Park. For more information, visit [www.newarkparade.com](http://www.newarkparade.com).



## OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

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

### — PASTOR —

Rev. Msgr. Ronald J. Rozniak, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, has been granted an extension to his pastorate, ending June 30, 2021.

### — ADMINISTRATORS —

Very Reverend Dieuseul Adain, V.F., has been appointed temporary administrator of Immaculate Heart of Mary/St. Patrick Parish, Elizabeth, effective Feb. 25.

Reverend Scott Attanasio has been appointed administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Bogota, effective March 14.

Reverend Brian Needles has been appointed pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, effective Feb. 1.

### — PAROCHIAL VICARS —

Reverend Charles Gerard Coury, C.S.S.R., has been appointed parochial vicar of St. James Parish, Newark, effective Jan. 17.

Reverend Jose P. Muralles has been appointed parochial vicar of Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington, effective March 14.

### — CHAPLAINS —

Reverend Bryan Adamcik has been appointed chaplain of the Bergen Chapter Knights of Columbus, effective Feb. 10.

Reverend Joseph Udeze, C.M.F., has been appointed chaplain at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, Paramus, effective Feb. 6.

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

### Sunday, March 15

10 a.m.  
St. Patrick's Day Parade Mass  
St. Mary Parish, Dumont

1 p.m.  
Bergen County's 39th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade  
Flag raising and grand marshal address  
Roy W. Brown Middle School, Bergenfield

### Sunday, April 5

12:30 p.m.  
Palm Sunday Mass  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark



@CardinalJWTObin

### Monday, April 6

8 p.m.  
Chrism Mass  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

### Thursday, April 9

11 a.m.  
Annual Re-entry Conference  
St. Peter's University, Jersey City



Photos by Aidan Cullen

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., will serve as the grand marshal for Bergen County's 39th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15. The cardinal will be the main celebrant and homilist for Mass at St. Mary Parish in Dumont at 10 a.m. Prior to the start of the parade is a flag raising at Roy W. Brown Middle School in Bergenfield at 1 p.m., where Cardinal Tobin will deliver his grand marshal address. The parade will then march up Washington Avenue at 2 p.m. Parade honorees were sworn in Feb. 29 at the St. Patrick's Day Parade Installation Dance at The Graycliff in Moonachie. For more details, visit [www.bergencountyirish.org](http://www.bergencountyirish.org).





## OBITUARIES



### Brother Joseph Tortorici, S.D.B.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 13 in Tampa, Fla., for Brother Joseph Tortorici, S.D.B., 83, who died Feb. 10.

Born in New York City, Brother Joseph enrolled as a Salesian candidate in Newton on Oct. 1, 1955. He was admitted to the novitiate a year later. He made his first profession of vows on Sept. 8, 1957, and made final vows in 1963.

He served the seminarians and formation staff at Newton from 1955 to 1976, and was a teacher in Boston and Louisiana. From 1985 to 1994, he was assigned to St. Anthony Parish in Elizabeth, where he served as a receptionist and played the organ for church services.

When Brother Joseph's health began to fail in 2014, he moved to St. Philip the Apostle Residence in Tampa.



### Father Fabio Brenes-Chaves

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 5 at Immaculate Heart of Mary/St. Patrick Parish in Elizabeth for Father Fabio Brenes-Chaves, 62, who died Feb. 27.

Father Brenes-Chaves was ordained on Feb. 22, 1985, in San Jose, Costa Rica, and was incardinated in 1995.

He served as pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary/St. Patrick Parish since 2003. Father Brenes-Chaves also served as parochial vicar at Resurrection, Jersey City; Holy Name, Garfield; Immaculate Conception Parish, Elizabeth; and St. Rose of Lima, Newark.



Photo courtesy of Marlo Williamson/The Catholic Spirit

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., and Bishop James F. Checchio of the Diocese of Metuchen joined civic and community leaders at a groundbreaking ceremony for the St. Paul the Apostle Senior Residence Feb. 25 in Fords. The 42,788-square-foot facility will provide 42 affordable housing units for residents ages 62 and over and is expected to open in the fall, said emcee John Westervelt, president of Domus Corporation and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark. The three-story facility will be built on the site of a now-demolished annex building formerly owned by Our Lady of Peace Parish. The residence is a project between the Domus Corporation and Metuchen Community Services Corporation, an agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Metuchen. From left to right: Cardinal Tobin, John Westervelt, President of Metuchen Community Services Corporation Gary Hoagland and Bishop Checchio.

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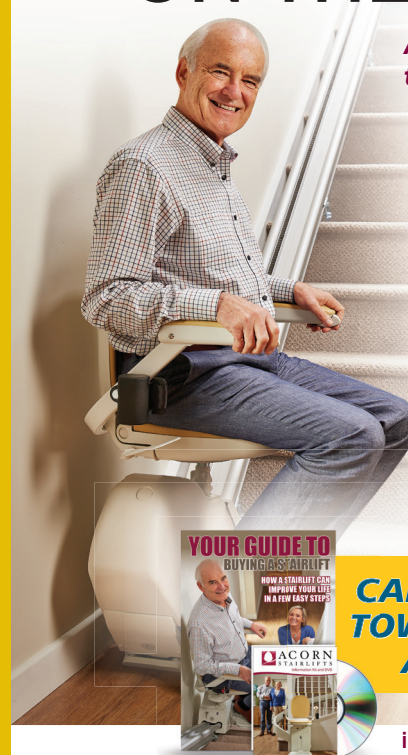
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## REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree in Religious Study
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## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS:

- To review the job description and apply, please visit:  
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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.**



# The canonical form of marriage

By Father Carmine Rizzi

A marriage may be declared invalid for one of three reasons: due to an impediment, due to a defect in the consent (which was considered in the February column of this newspaper), or due to a lack of form, which will now be considered.

Canon law recognizes the *ius connubii*—the right to enter a marriage—unless one is prohibited by an impediment. It is a natural right of all, the baptized and the non-baptized. One historically exercised the right to marriage by the exchange of consent between a man and woman. No other parties needed to be present. The problem that quickly followed was how to prove the exchange of consent when there were no witnesses. The Council of Trent, in its 1563 decree called *Tametsi*, imposed the requirement of “canonical form” on all Catholics who enter marriage. Canonical form consists of five parties: the



minister—usually a priest or deacon—delegated by the Church, the man and woman who are marrying and two witnesses.

The requirement to observe canonical form is present in the current 1983 Code of Canon Law, and it stipulates that when at least one Catholic of the Latin Church (Roman Catholic) is marrying, they are

bound to observe canonical form. The requirement of canonical form, consequently, does not apply to non-Catholics. When two Catholics marry or when a Catholic marries a non-Catholic, they are bound under penalty of the invalidity of their marriage to exchange their consent in front of one delegated by the Church and two witnesses. The only exception is when a Catholic marries a non-Catholic of an Eastern Church (member of the Orthodox Church), and the marriage is witnessed by an Or-

thodox priest and the couple receives the priestly blessing. In such a case, the non-observance of canonical form does not render a marriage invalid.

Since the requirement to observe canonical form is a matter of ecclesiastical law and not of divine law, it can be dispensed. It sometimes happens that a Catholic who marries a non-Catholic chooses to exchange their consent witnessed by a non-Catholic minister. For a just reason, a dispensation can be granted from observing canonical form. In the case where a dispensation from canonical form is given, the marriage is considered valid according to canon law.

It sometimes occurs that two Catholics or a Catholic and a non-Catholic choose to marry on a boat, a beach or at a restaurant and look for a priest who would be willing to do the wedding—the phenomena of the “rent a priest.” Unless the priest is in good standing with his diocese, has been delegated to witness the exchange of consent by the diocese where the wedding is taking place and has received a dispensation to

witness the exchange of consent outside of a church, the marriage is invalid due to a lack of delegation. Despite the presence of a priest and the two witnesses, the marriage is invalid due to a defect of canonical form, that is, because of a lack of delegation.

When a marriage consists of at least one Catholic and canonical form is not observed and no dispensation from canonical form has been given, a marriage is invalid due to a lack of form. Such marriages do not go through the full judicial process, but through an abbreviated administrative process to be declared invalid. These are colloquially called “lack of form cases,” which an ecclesiastical tribunal has jurisdiction to judge.

Though the original motivation for canonical form is no longer an issue—except for jurisdictions that recognize common law marriage—marriage is still regulated by canon law when it involves at least one Catholic.

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.

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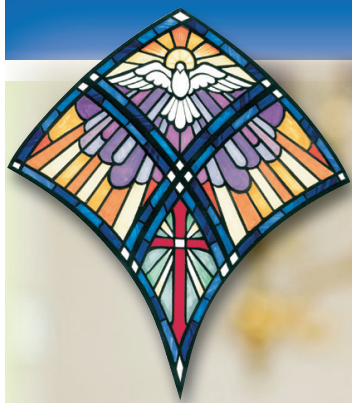


Submitted photos

The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) hosted “An Afternoon of Black Music and Art” Feb. 8 at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark to celebrate the cultural richness and diversity of local black communities. The event began with a casual art reception of black visual artists, such as paintings and photography, and was followed by a series of musical performances highlighting jazz, soul, Caribbean and spiritual music. Dr. Marcheta Evans, president of Bloomfield College and the first African American and woman president of the school, served as a keynote speaker.



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